

Management and Operation of Small-scale Fishing in the Gulf of Thailand

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ABSTARCT

This study aim to provide the baseline data on the characteristics of small-scale fisheries in the Gulf of Thailand by select three study area as the representative of east, center and southern region of the Gulf of Thailand namely: Rayong, Prachuap Kirikhan-Chumphon and Suratthani province. The data collection conducted by face to face interview the fishers from three study area using the questionnaire, the actual number of sample size is 297, 286 and 316 samples respectively, the data analysis were using descriptive statistic. The result of this study show that the small-scale fishers operate fishing in the coastal area using powered fishing boat with length 6-10 meters and spend one trip per day for fishing, the fishers have more than one type of fishing gear and decide to use each fishing gear follow the fishing season of target species. Crab gillnet is the main type of fishing gear operating in the study area, therefore, Blue swimming crab is the main target species economically in three study area which the fisher can catch high volume in the peak season during rainy period even though it has a strong wind and big wave. The economics of fishing operation illustrates that the fisher interviewed receive significant net incomes using each fishing gear, however, most small-scale fishers engage in fisheries combine with agriculture, aquaculture and labor that would be the other sources of income for fishers.

Keywords: Small-scale fishing, Fishing gear