



**A Conference for Fisheries Knowledge Provision
to Local Fishers and Private Sectors in the Andaman Sea Coast
(REBYC-II CTI; GCP/RAS/269/GFF)**

**26-28 May 2016
Phuket Merlin Hotel**

Report by

Dr. Mala Supongpan and Mr. Chalermchart Aroonrojprapai

Summary

As the project “Strategies for trawl fisheries by-catch management” (REBYC-II CTI; GCP/RAS/269/GFF) was concluding, it was found necessary that more primary stakeholder consultations need to be organised to disseminate results of the project and the knowledge about the status of small scale fisheries. The new laws concerning to small scale fishers, especially Royal Fisheries Ordinance 2559 (2015) which is concerned to small scale fisheries and fishers, was also to be disseminated. It is also important that the fisheries management measures in Thailand are also in tune with global guidelines and demands. So for the benefit of the fishers and other stakeholders from the Andaman Sea side of Thailand this is the first conference organized on 26-28 May 2016 at Phuket Merlin Hotel. The summary of the knowledge disseminated is given below. Total 89 participants representing commercial and overseas fisher leaders, local fishers, experts, government officials from various sectors, and secretariat staff participated.

On the Gulf of Thailand the first site of the project was in Prachuab Kiri Khan and Chumphon provinces where the enlarged mesh size codend for trawl fisheries was tried out and implemented. The second site was in Trat Province, where the management measures for closed area and closed season were established to protect fish larvae and spawners. In Trat Province, DOF had conducted survey for fish larvae and spawner distribution in Ao Trat. In Prachup Kiri Khan – Chumphon provinces, CMDEC had conducted survey of trawl fisheries baseline, present trawl fisheries status, experiment to enlarge cod-end mesh for trawlers as well as socio-economic study of fishers along the sea coast of Prachaup Kiri Khan – Chumphon provinces. The reference points for stock assessment have been defined, by using MSY and MEY (Maximum Sustainable Yield and Maximum Economic Yield). Law and regulation have been revised to manage the fisheries resources sustainably and address socio-economic welfare. As a next step for fisheries in Thailand, the government should develop the fisheries through effective co-management, stakeholder participation at all levels with the local and central government as well as of other relevant agencies. Control or limit fishing efforts, fishing zone establishment, increase fish habitats

by increasing Artificial Reefs project, resource enhancement, sea farming, VMS and MCS system should be implemented with the cooperation of the local stakeholders or fishers.

Regarding the status of fisheries, it could be concluded that the internal problems were a) decreasing trend of the resources and environment deterioration, b) less fishing ground and limited catches, c) too many fishing boats, gear and diversification, d) poor integration and management among agencies e.g. boat license is under Harbor Department and fishing boat and gear license is under the Department of Fisheries, e) conflict on fishing ground between large scale and small scale fisheries. The external requirements were a) combating IUU fishing is serious issue for Thailand also to address the EU requirement, b) norms of IOTC for tuna catch quota, WCPFC, ILO for labor issues etc.

The Royal Fisheries Ordinance B.E.2558 (2015) has focused on specifications for small scale fishers. The zonations for fishing, gear specifications and prohibited gears in different sections were described. The importance of the national committee, provincial committee and local small scale fisheries committee were described. The ordinance follows the guidelines under the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and also puts all efforts to combat IUU fishing. Marine Fisheries Plan (2015-2019) has focus on marine fisheries both commercial and small scale fisheries in Thai waters including in the EEZs of neighboring countries and in the High Sea.

1. Background to REBYC-II CTI Project

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Department of Fisheries (DOF), Thailand have signed the Letter of Agreement (LOA) for the execution of the GEF supported project "Strategies for trawl fisheries by-catch management" (REBYC-II CTI; GCP/RAS/269/GFF). The Department of Fisheries, Marine Fisheries Research and Development Division implements the project at two sites. Prachuab Kiri Khan and Chumphon is the first site where the enlarged mesh size codend for trawl fisheries is being implemented. The Central Gulf Marine Fisheries Research and Development Center (CMDEC) located in Chumphon takes the lead in research on trawl fisheries and enlarged codend mesh size experiments. The second site is in Trat Province, where the management measures for closed area and closed season are being established to protect fish larvae and spawners. The Eastern Marine Fisheries Research and Development (EMDEC) located in Rayong Province takes the lead for research works.

Since, then the activities in the two project sites have been finished e.g. the CMDEC has finished their experiments on the enlarged mesh size codend of 4.0 cm for otter board and pair trawlers, and proposed to use 4.0 cm mesh for codend of otter board and pair trawlers. The Eastern Marine Fisheries Research and Development is responsible for the area and season closure in Ao Trat, Trat Province. Both project sites have held several local consultation meetings to consult with local fishers and private sectors to conduct experiments and surveys for fish larvae. Primary stakeholders and private sector had agreed for the project to be done. Results of the research and surveys were also shown to the local stakeholders, private sector and also have been presented to the High Senior Officials in the Advisory Committee Meeting and Conservation Committee Meeting several times.

The final output was the announcement of Command Center for Combating Illegal Fishing of the Government to use 5.0 cm of codend mesh for otter board trawlers and pair trawlers. Afterwards, the Command Center for Combating Illegal Fishing of the Government has changed the mesh size measure to be 4.0 cm. The Area and Season Closure has been proposed through the Advisory Committee and

Conservation Committee of the project. Furthermore, the DOF has sent back area and season closure management to the provincial committee to issue the measure. The Provincial Committee agreed to have resource management measures and then earmark 5 nm area from shore to prohibit use of all kind of fishing gears, which is the project site in Ao Trat. The closed area and season management measure will be approved by the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry soon.

In this connection, the Marine Fisheries Research and Development Division under the DOF wanted to share and promote the results of the project (REBYC-II CTI; GCP/RAS/269/GFF) in both project sites, raise public knowledge about present fisheries situation, new Fisheries Acts and practical implementation corresponding to global situation. The DOF wanted to address the local fishers and other stakeholders from both sides of the Thai territory, Gulf of Thailand which consists of 16 provinces along the coast of the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea which consists of 6 provinces along the Andaman Sea Coast to provide wider knowledge.

In this context the present meeting addressed the provincial fishers and private sectors along the Andaman Sea Coast who are from 6 provinces as follows: Ranong, Phang-Nga, Trang, Krabi, Satul and Phuket.

Total participants were 89 comprising of commercial and oversea fisher leaders 17, local fishers 44, experts 6 and government officials from various sectors 17 (Phuket provincial office 7, marine fisheries 9, aquaculture 1) and secretariat staff 5.

Specific Objectives of the REBYC-II CTI Project in Thailand under the 3rd LOA

1. Provide knowledge for local fishers and private sector about the results of the projects (REBYC-II CTI; GCP /RAS/269/GFF). Mesh size enlargement for trawlers and area and season closure outputs,
2. Raise public knowledge about the present marine fisheries status,
3. Provide knowledge to local fishers and private sector about the new Fisheries Act,
4. Practical implementation of Thai fisheries management corresponding to global situation.

2. Expected Outputs:

- 1). Fishers in the Andaman Sea coast know about the results of the project (REBYC-II CTI; GCP/RAS/269/GFF),
- 2). Fishers in the Andaman Sea coast know about the present marine fisheries status,
- 3). Local fishers know about the new Fisheries Act, laws and legal instruments related to small scale fisheries,
- 4). Practical implementation of Thai fisheries management corresponding to New Fisheries Law.

3. Summary of the Conference for Fisheries Knowledge Provision to Local Fishers and Private Sectors in the Andaman Sea Coast

The Vice Governor (Dr. Prajiad Aksornthammakul) of the Phuket Province presided the meeting on 27 May 2016, at Phuket Merlin Hotel. He talked about Thai Fisheries and aquaculture topics and also on the

concern of by-catch from trawl fisheries. He hoped the meeting will be successful and meet the objectives.

3.1). Background of the project

Mr. Suchart Sangchan, the National Project Coordinator presented the background of the project, and explained the 4 components which are:

The Policy, legal and institutional frameworks component

The Resource management and fishing operations component

The Information management and communication component

The Awareness and knowledge component.

Thailand has implemented research works covering all components under the two pilot sites in Trat and in Prachup Kiri Khan - Chumphon provinces. Research works were planned and implemented in consultation and advice of the Advisory Committee, Natural Resource Conservation Committee of the project, stakeholder consultations, public hearing meetings, fishers and NGOs through the project activities.

In Trat Province, DOF has conducted survey for fish larvae and spawner distribution in Ao Trat. The surveys included fisheries baseline and present fisheries status, socio-economic of fishers around Ao Trat.

In Prachup Kiri Khan – Chumphon provinces, CMDEC has conducted survey on trawl fisheries baseline and presented the trawl fisheries status, carried out experiment to enlarge codend mesh for trawlers, and conducted socio-economic study of fishers along the sea coast of Prachaup Kiri Khan – Chumphon provinces.

Objectives of the project are to reduce juvenile and small sized economic species from otter board and pair trawls as well to reduce other by-catch such as marine turtles and mammals, and to protect sea grass etc. The management for trawl fisheries and by-catch reduction were the major targets. Management followed Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management principles, which cover human resource development, healthy habitats, socioeconomic of fishers and addressing environment degradation. Area and Season closure were also implemented to conserve and preserve small sized economic fish, spawners and ecosystem at large.

3.2) The results from the project

Mr. Piyachoke Sinanun (Senior researcher in EMDEC, Rayong) presented the fisheries management in Trat as follows.

The work in the project site at Trat was the responsibility of the Eastern Marine Fisheries Research and Development Center (EMDEC). At the first phase of the REBYC-I, EMDEC has installed devices to reduce by-catch. It was not successful as fishers were not accepting it at that time. In phase II, EMDEC has implemented the studies on fisheries status, fish larvae survey and socio-economic status of fishers. The target is to propose Area and Season Closure Management in Ao Trat. Mr. Piyachoke has presented the research works of EMDEC which were done in collaboration with the project (REBYC-II CTI; GCP/RAS/269/GFF) as follows:

Records from research vessel monitoring surveys, from years 1979 to 2015 showed that the catch rate decreased from 41.0 kg/hr to 13.4 kg/hr. It has happened by capturing trash fish which consisted of true

trash fish 40%; juvenile and small sized economic species about 60% (in Rayong). In Trat, size of most fish captured was smaller than the size at first maturity. Many fishing gears used were threatening dugong, sea turtle, dolphin, and sea grass. In this area, the government has controlled the trawl fisheries, push-netters, and dredge by extending conservation area from 3 km to 5.4 km and installing artificial reef as well. Fish housing and artificial grass building for fish shelters were also promoted. Local fishers had volunteered to inform on illegal fishing. Trat was selected for management area because of resource abundance, being touring spot and rich in mangrove areas, nursing grounds for many economic species and the fishers have positive thinking to conserve their resources.

3.3. The present marine fisheries status presented by Mr. Pairochana Saikieng, DOF consultant

In Southeast Asian countries, there are about 50% of trawlers and the rest are composed of purse seiners and gillnetters. It is concluded that there are two major problems within and outside of the country:

The problem from inside of the country:

- a) The fishery resource has continuously decreased,
- b) More percentage of trash fish caught by trawlers which comprises of small sized economic fish as well,
- b) Environment degradation, destruction of fishing ground,
- c) Excessive fishing efforts and too many numbers of fishing boats,
- d) Multi gear and multispecies problem, conflicts occurring on the same fishing ground.

The problem from outside of the country:

- a) International arrangements have come into force, e.g. IUU fishing, management measures from RFMOs, IOTC, WCPFC, ILO 188, etc.,
- b) Thailand has improved several measures in collaboration with international arrangements,

Thailand has categorized the fishing boats into 2 size categories as a small scale fishing boat having its capacity less than 10 gross tons and those that has a capacity of more than 10 gross tons classified as commercial fishing boats. The reference points for stock assessment have been defined, by using MSY and MEY (Maximum Sustainable Yield and Maximum Economic Yield). Law and regulations have been revised to manage the fisheries resources for sustainability and address socio-economic welfare. Thailand also established the National Fisheries Committee and Provincial Fisheries Committee to implement the marine fisheries management for sustainability.

As a next step for fisheries in Thailand, the government should develop the fisheries through effective co-management, stakeholder participation at all levels with the local and central government as well as of other relevant agencies. Control or limit fishing efforts, fishing zone establishment, increase fish habitats by increasing Artificial Reefs project, resource enhancement, sea farming, VMS and MCS system should be implemented with the cooperation of the local stakeholders or fishers.

3.4. New Fisheries Act 2015 was presented by Mr. Bancha Sookkaew, the Fisheries Official of Chonburi Province. The presentation can be summarized as follows:

In the year 1995, FAO has issued the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Fisheries, including aquaculture, provide a vital source of food, employment, recreation, trade and economic well-being for people throughout the world, both for present and future generations and should therefore be

conducted in a responsible manner. This Code sets out principles and international standards of fishing behavior for responsible practices with a view to ensuring the effective conservation, management and development of living aquatic resources, with due respect for the ecosystem and biodiversity. The Code recognizes the nutritional, economic, social, environmental and cultural importance of fisheries, and the interests of all those concerned with the fishery sector. The Code takes into account the biological characteristics of the resources and their environment and the interests of consumers and other users. States and all those involved in fisheries are encouraged to apply the Code and give effect to it. More than 170 countries in the world have adopted the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The country should combat the IUU fishing in its own country for responsible fisheries.

The European Union (EU), consisting of 28 countries, has agreed to combat IUU fishing and to ensure that every country trading fish with the EU implement it in 2010. IUU fishing is a global problem that threatens ocean ecosystems and sustainable fisheries. IUU products often come from fisheries lacking the strong and effective conservation. IUU fishing most often violates conservation and management measures, such as quotas or by-catch limits, established under international agreements. By adversely impacting fisheries, marine ecosystems, food security and coastal communities around the world, IUU fishing undermines domestic and international conservation and management efforts.

- 1) The Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU) in Thailand means:
Fish and fishery products intended to sell in European countries should have a catch certificate to certify the product does not originate from IUU fishing and can be traced back to the origin,
- 2) On 21 April 2015, Thailand got yellow card from EU, saying that Thailand has not yet cooperated to address the IUU issues. Since then Thailand has effectively improved national laws and regulations and taken several measures in the Royal Ordinance.
- 3) The Present Royal Ordinance provides the establishment of the Fisheries Committee at 2 levels, first level is Local Fisheries Community Committee and the second level is Provincial Fisheries Committee. The DOF has to promote the local committee to participate in law and regulation, project planning and management decision at local level, promote fisher group to register legally. DOF should provide knowledge to fishers and local community in conservation, rehabilitation, management and wisely use their resources.

At the provincial level, the committee consists of not more than 13 persons, by official position. The Provincial governor is a president of the Committee. Representatives from Natural Resource Ministry, Harbor Ministry, Law and Legal Ministry, Commerce Ministry, Head of Amphor, Ao Bo To leader, Agricultural president, Navy are members. The provincial fishery official acts as a secretary of the committee. The committee has two years period for implementation. The tasks of the committee are to:

- a) Gather ideas and propose to promote career, manage and conserve, rehabilitate resources and use the resource for their local people,
 - b) Propose fishery management plan to the National Fisheries Committee for sustainable fisheries (section 19 (1)),
 - c) Propose measures to reduce problems or improve management measures to the Minister, or the National Fisheries Committee or to the Director General of the Department of Fisheries.
- 4). The government issued the management measures section 56, 71, 77 in the Government Gazette to specify conservation and preservation areas (56), not to be used fishing gear by type,

method, area, size of boat as stipulated in the management measures (71). In case of emergency, the Provincial Fisheries Committee can apply to set any area for conservation and preservation (56), and apply to announce the Provincial Notification as said in the section 71.

Detail for section 56 and 71 (1, 2, 3), if there is an incidental capture of fish found, the Provincial Notification should be considered and approved by Minister within 60 days. Section 56 is dealing with area conservation, Section 71 (1) dealing with gear type, method of fishing, fishing ground, size of boat. Section 71(2) is dealing with incidental fish caught, and Section 71 (3) dealing with stationary gear.

Section 28, at the bottom line, if the Minister could not consider and approve within 60 days, the Provincial Notification can be enforced until an approval or denial from Minister. Normally, the steps to issue the Provincial Notification are initiated from the Provincial Fisheries Committee Meeting which agrees and arrives at consensus to issue the Provincial Notification. Then it is reported to the Governor with a request to sign the Notification and further sent to the Minister to approve and record in the Government Gazette. The enforcement comes into effect on the recorded date. Further the Governor reports the result to the Department of Fisheries to implement.

The New Fisheries Act of 2015 also defines the coastal area zone from shoreline extending to the sea 3 nm (5.4 km), allowable for fishing by fishing by boats of capacity less than 10 gross tons except for scientific research works, which is allowed from 1.5 nm to 12 nm and it should be approved by the Minister. For those fishing boats less than 15 gross tons, having license before from DOF, can continue to fish in the zone.

The offshore fishing zone is defined as the zone extending from coastal zone to EEZ zone. The allowable fishing boat is bigger than 10 gross tons or the engine capacity is more than 280 hp. Limitation for fishing season and fishing ground are based on scientific evidences.

Questions and Answers from the meeting (Q and A)

Mr. Virat Donthong, member of Phang-Nga Fisheries Committee:

Q: 1). Registration for fish trap is not possible due to the boat being registered as carrier boat and has continued to register annually. In 2016, the boat could not be registered and I request the registration by DOF. There is no reply to the request.

2). Can we request to register for two fishing gear licenses for the commercial boats of capacity less than 20 gross tons; no boat has capacity more than 20 gross tons and there is limited season to fish in the province?

Mr. Bancha Sookkaew, presenter, answered the question:

A: 1). No need to register for trap, it need only permission by filling up the permission Form 6 of DOF. The carrier boat cannot be registered as fishing boat. On your request to DOF, please follow up with the provincial official.

2). As per the section 36, by request of the Director General of the Department of Fisheries, only one fishing gear license can be registered for a boat. Now registration period is closed and have to wait for next two years.

Mr. Sani Navywong, Expert of Phang-Nga province

Q. How can we deal with the “out of record” of fishing boats with 30 hp. Fishers have to fish for their lives?

Mr. Bancha Sookkaew, presenter, answered the question

A. DOF had done the last surveys due to the yellow card given by EU. Cases of “out of record” fishing boats fall into different categories: gone abroad, absent, and not willing to register. Now there are altogether an estimated 8,000 boats “out of record”. These fishing boats cannot fish unless it is sorted out by the Harbor Department.

3.5). Marine Fisheries Plan (2015-2019) presented by MS. Praulai Notmoorn, Expert on Marine Fisheries of DOF.

The marine fisheries plan will cover marine fisheries, both commercial and small scale fisheries, in Thai waters including in the EEZs of neighboring countries and in the High Sea.

The plan will cover the fisheries both in the Gulf of Thailand and in the Andaman Sea which are different in habitats and environment. It includes groups of fish e.g. pelagic fish, demersal fish, tuna (under RFMO), Threatened species and rare or protected species.

The survey record in 2015, indicated that there were 20,000 registered boats, about 70 % were small scale fishing boats and the rest (30%) were commercial fishing boats.

The concept of the plan is to manage the fisheries sustainably, to balance between the fisher livelihood and the well-being of the ecosystem, institutional arrangements to facilitate and promote resource sustainability by suitable management which can be practiced effectively. Government collaborates and participatory approach from stakeholders at all level would be promoted. Precautionary approach can be implemented in case of uncertain events.

The present problems are effects of over fishing, illegal fishing (IUU), capture of small sized economic fish, conflict between commercial and small scale fisheries, habitat deterioration, and data sharing is not efficient for fisheries management and enforcement.

It should implement urgently to reduce fishing capacity and fishing effort, with timeline in 3 years. Especially, in the Gulf of Thailand, reduce fishing effort for trawlers by 40%, purse seine by 30% and in the Andaman Sea reduce trawlers by 10 % and purse seine by 20%.

Sea rehabilitation by promoting the artificial reef and resource enhancement projects could be beneficial to the resources. Increase artificial reef installation at least 10 sites in a year could be speeded up. Promote to increase number of fisher groups, practical implementation for combating IUU fishing using VMS and or MCS. Plan to reduce by-catch from small sized economic fish in trash fish which has remained 50% of the total catch by trawlers within 5 years. This can be done by enlarging the codend mesh of trawlers to be 4.0 cm. Promote to manage the local area and season closure to conserve and preserve fish larvae, small fish and spawners, and limiting some fishing gear to fish in the area.

For fishers who experience some negative effects from the IUU issues, DOF has two options to help fishers that are:

- 1). Alternative career
- 2). Buy-back program

The Marine Fisheries Management Plan will be implemented from 2015 to 2019 and the plan will be reviewed every 2 years. The reference point will also be assessed (MSY).

3.6). Practical implementation for IUU fishing (2015-2019) presented by MS. Praulai Notmoorn, Expert on Marine Fisheries of DOF.

The Department of Fisheries has formulated the NPOA-IUU to control illegal, unreported unregulated fishing in Thailand. The fisheries are divided into two parts, the commercial and small scale fisheries, including fishing activities such as transferring (carrier) boats. The fishing boats are of 4 types,

- a) Thai boats fishing within the neighboring countries with foreign flags.
- b) Thai boats fishing in foreign countries under bilateral agreement.
- c) Foreign fishing boats carrying fish to sell in Thailand and
- d) Small scale fishing boats from foreign countries.

Combating IUU fishing in Thailand is not effective yet due to ineffective monitoring control and enforcement (no effective VMS and MCS), outdated laws and regulations, insufficient communication for intra- and inter-departmental coordination, fishing license is not covering all present fishing gear, no communication on boat position and no smart data collection program.

The objectives of NPOA-IUU are to combat IUU fishing via:

- a) Illegal issue: The Thai fishing boats have to register with the Harbor Department and to have licenses from the Department of Fisheries, including transferring or carrier boats with capacity more than 30 gross ton,
- b) Unregulated issue: The New Fisheries Acts 2015 has been enforced as well as Royal Ordinance has been implemented. This is expected to prevent illegal fishing, and also introduce to use VMS,
- c) Unreported issue: DOF has set fishing log book for fishers to record their catches, fishing ground, species caught and for tracking for traceability of origin. Further DOF has implemented trading commission for transportation from fishing boats to processing plants applicable for export and import of fishery products.

4. Conclusions

The one day meeting conveyed the following information in summary to the stakeholders:

On the Gulf of Thailand the first site of the project was in Prachuab Kiri Khan and Chumphon provinces where the enlarged mesh size codend for trawl fisheries was tried out and implemented. The second site was in Trat province, where the management measures for closed area and closed season were established to protect fish larvae and spawners. In Trat Province, DOF had conducted survey for fish larvae and spawner distribution in Ao Trat. In Prachup Kiri Khan – Chumphon provinces, CMDEC had conducted survey of trawl fisheries baseline, present trawl fisheries status, experiment to enlarge codend mesh for trawlers as well as socio-economic study of fishers along the sea coast of Prachaup Kiri

Khan – Chumphon provinces. The reference points for stock assessment have been defined, by using MSY and MEY (Maximum Sustainable Yield and Maximum Economic Yield). Law and regulations have been revised to manage the fisheries resources for sustainability and address socio-economic welfare. As a next step for fisheries in Thailand, the government should develop the fisheries through effective co-management, stakeholder participation at all levels with the local and central government as well as of other relevant agencies. Control or limit fishing effort, fishing zone establishment, increase fish habitats by increasing Artificial Reefs project, resource enhancement, sea farming, VMS and MCS system should be implemented with the cooperation of the local stakeholders or fishers.

Regarding the Status of fisheries, it could be concluded that the internal problems were a) decreasing trend of the resources and environment deterioration, b) less fishing ground and limited catches, c) too many fishing boats, gears and diversification, d) poor integration and management among agencies e.g. boat license is under Harbor Department and fishing boat and gear license is under the Department of Fisheries, e) conflict on fishing ground between large scale and small scale fisheries. The external requirements were a) combating IUU fishing is serious issue for Thailand also to address the EU requirement, b) norms of IOTC for tuna catch quota, WCPFC, ILO for labor issues etc.

The Royal Fisheries Ordinance B.E.2558 (2015) has focused specifications for small scale fishers. The zonations for fishing, gear specifications and prohibited gears in different sections were described. The importance of the national committee, provincial committee and local small scale fisheries committee were described. The ordinance follows the guidelines under the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and puts all efforts to combat IUU fishing. Marine Fisheries Plan (2015-2019), focuses on marine fisheries both commercial and small scale fisheries in Thai waters including in the EEZs of neighboring countries and in the High Sea.

5. Agenda



**A Conference for Fisheries Knowledge Provision
to Local Fishers and Private Sectors in Gulf of Thailand
(REBYC-II CTI; GCP/RAS/269/GFF)**

Phuket Merlin Hotel, Phuket
26-28 May 2016

26 May 2016

16:00-18:30 hr Registration at hotel

27 May 2016

08:00-09:00 hr Registration

09:00-09:30 hr Opening of the meeting (Vice Governor of Phuket Province)

09:30-09:50 hr Background of the project briefly, fisheries and social economic status in Prachuab Kiri Khan, Chumphon Province

09:50-10:10 hr Enlarge the codend mesh size of trawl fisheries in focus

10:10-10:25 hr Refreshment

10:25-10:45 hr Fisheries and social economic status in Trat Province

10:45-11:15 hr Closed area and closed season in focus in Ao Trat

11:15-12:15 hr Open Discussion

12:15-13:15 hr Lunch

13:15-14:45 hr New Fisheries Act

14:45-15:00 hr Refreshment

15:00-15:45 hr Marine Fisheries Plan (2015-2019)

Practical implementation for Thai fisheries corresponding to global situation

15:45-16:15 hr Open discussion

16:15-16:00 hr Closure of the meeting

(Mr. Suchart Sangchan (National Project Coordinator))

28 May 2016

Travel back home