



Report

**Conservation Committee Meeting**

**Management Measures for Area and season closure in Ao Trat**

REBYC-II CTI; GCP/RAS/269/GFF

5<sup>th</sup> February 2016

KU Home, Kasetsart University, Bangkok

Report by

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**Background to REBYC-II CTI Project**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (“FAO”) and the Department of Fisheries, Thailand has signed a 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 Marine Fisheries Research and Development Division is implementing the project for two areas in the Gulf of Thailand. Prachuab Kiri Khan and Chumphon is the first site and the focus of the work is on the enlargement of cod end mesh sizes for trawlers. The Central Gulf Marine Fisheries Research and Development Center (CMDEC), located in Chumphon is taking the lead research role for these experiments. The second site is in Trat province, where management measures for closed areas and closed seasons are being established to protect fish larvae and spawners. The Eastern Marine Fisheries Research and Development Center (EMDEC), located in Rayong province is leading this work

In this connection, the Marine Fisheries Research and Development Division under the DOF organized a Conservation Committee Meeting to consider, comment and recommend the drafted area and season closure management measures in Ao Trat. All the suggestions and comment would be considered by the Marine Fisheries Research and Development Division in formulating more detailed and complete measures. Finally, the finalized measures will be proposed to Trat Governor to issue as law and regulation and to be implemented thereafter.

**Specific Objectives of the REBYC-II CTI Project in Thailand under the 2<sup>nd</sup> LOA.**

1. To draft management measures for Ao Trat to be considered by the Conservation Committee,
2. The completed management measures for Ao Trat to be approved by the Conservation Committee.

**Expected Outputs**

1. The Conservation Committee approved completed management measures in Ao Trat,
2. The completed management measures in Ao sent to TratGovernor to issue as Provincial Notification and further implemented.

### Summary

The participants of the meeting composed of representatives from government sector, private sector, fishers, experts, observers and organizers, all together 26 persons. Venue was at KU Home, Kasetsart University, Bangkok on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

Mr. Suchart Sangchan, Director of Marine Fisheries Research and Development in Andaman Sea Center, presented the results of the work in the meeting and Mr. Pairochana Saikliang, consultant of DOF presided over the meeting.

The presentations on the results of research works conducted by national experts and the staff of Eastern Marine Fisheries and Development Center (EMDEC) was shown as background knowledge for the participants in the meeting. The summary of the research works were on fisheries status in Trat, proposal to address issues from stakeholders in AoTrat, fish larvae identification and distribution, socio economics of the fishers in Trat, threat to rare species and the drafted season and area closure management measures in Ao Trat. The drafted management measures included areas proposed for fisheries management in AoTrat based on the research results. These included no fishing by trawlers, purse seine with purse line, purse seine with gillnet, using gillnet with mesh size less than 4.5 cm, no fishing at the areas 1, 2 and 3 in March, April and May annually. All of these presentations were made in the last meeting in Bangkok (Advisory Committee Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 KU Home, Kasetsart University, Bangkok) and in this meeting as well.

Conclusion from this meeting were as following:

1. Target species to be managed were *Rastrelliger*, swimming crab and shrimp,
2. Area zone was divided into 7 areas, the management will scope on areas 1 to 3,
3. Season will scope from March to May annually,
4. Issues have to be considered in conjunction with 1-3, that were:
  - 4.1 Multi-gear in the proposed area,
  - 4.2 Gear affecting sea turtle, dugong, dolphin etc.,
  - 4.3 Gear that occupies large area.

The last meeting in 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 (Advisory Committee Meeting) was referred to, which agreed to request TratGovernor to issue law and regulation as Provincial Notification. The Provincial Notification included no fishing by trawlers, purse seine with purse line, purse seine with gillnet, using gillnet with mesh size less than 4.5 cm, no fishing at the areas 1, 2 and 3 in March, April and May annually.

Other gear types which should be considered were:

- a) All gill nets,
- b) Bamboo stake trap,
- c) Trawl and push net,
- d) Short necked clam dredge,

- e) Purse seine, lifted net, cast net and anchovy net,
- f) Fishing boat less than 10 gross tonnage (beam trawl, otter board trawl and pair trawl),
- g) Light luring fishing.

Other issues:

- a) Size of boat that could fish and could not fish in the restricted area,
- b) Size and number of gear have to be specified clearly,
- c) Purse seine with no purse line,
- d) Number of legal and illegal boats in the area

Additional comments from the meeting:

- a) Consider to close the area between Chang Island and main land for fishing,
- b) No fishing by Ravai hook, and ray purse seine as it destroys the rare species in the area,
- c) Local people could be able to access more scientific results and the information should be widespread,
- d) Joint research between local fishers and EMDEC,
- e) Limit area fishing for those occupying large area when fishing,
- f) To reduce conflict, small scale fisheries and commercial fisheries should follow the management plan and agreement which was formulated and accepted by them,

Finally, Mr. Pairochana thanked to the participants, saying that we were grateful to discuss together and to have a good trip back home. The meeting was then closed.

**Agenda**

**Conservation Committee Meeting**  
**Management Measures for Area and season closure in Ao Trat**

REBYC-II CTI; GCP/RAS/269/GFF

5<sup>th</sup> February 2016

KU Home, Kasetsart University, Bangkok

4 February 2016

16.00-18.30 hr Hotel Registration

5 February 2016

08.00-09.00 hr Meeting Registration

09.00-09.15 Opening of the Meeting (Mr. Pairochana SaiKlieng, DOF consultant)

09.15-10.00. Open discussion: The presenters presented on the results of research works conducted by national experts and the staff of Eastern Marine Fisheries and Development Center (EMDEC), was shown as background knowledge for the participants in the meeting. The summary of the research works were on fisheries status in Trat, proposal to address issues from stakeholders in Ao Trat, fish larvae identification and distribution, socio economics of the fishers in Trat, threat to rare species and the drafted season and area closure management measures in Ao Trat. 12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-16.00. The participants continued to discuss and exchange ideas.

Conclusion from the meeting were as following:

1. Target species to manage were *Rastrelliger*, swimming crab and shrimp,
2. Area zone was divided 7 area, the management will scope on area 1 to 3,
3. Season will scope from March to May annually,
4. Issues have to be considered in conjunction with 1-3, that were:
  - a. Multi-gear in the proposed area,
  - b. Gear affecting sea turtle, dugong dolphin etc.,
  - c. Gears that occupies large area.

16.00-16.15 Mr. Pairochana closed the meeting.

**Some Activities**



