

The Important Role of Middle Persons in Small-scale Marine Capture Fisheries Product Distribution: case study in Rayong province, Thailand

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ABSTARCT

The main objective of this study is to describe the small-scale marine capture fisheries products distribution in Rayong Province, Thailand, which particularly focus on the relationship between small-scale fishers and middle persons who are play important role for buying fish from the small-scale fishers. The data were collected by interviewing 297 small-scale fishers who fish along the 3 districts of adjacent sea in Rayong province and 39 middle persons. The results found that more than 60% of fishers sell their catch to the middle persons. The middle persons buy the aquatic products from the same fishers and the fishers also sell their catch to the same middle persons. 60% of middle persons provide loan or fishing gear to fishers when they lose one's capital from fishing. The relationship between fishers and middle persons in small-scale fisheries is like a mutual assistance system. However, the co-management for small-scale marine fisheries products among the fishers themselves or between the fishers and middle persons with supporting by local government can sustain the fisher livelihood and benefit in the selling and buying system.

Keywords: *middle person, small-scale fisheries, fisheries products distribution, role, relationship*