

The Establishment of Co-management approach at Nam Oon Dam, Sakon Nakhon Province, Thailand

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I. Introduction

Typical characteristic of Inland and coastal fisheries in Southeast Asia are considered as “targeting multi-species and involving large number of small-scale fishers”. Because of this nature, fishery statistics on these fisheries are recognized as inaccurate or under-reported. As fisheries statistics are basis of good fisheries management, it is necessary to improve data and information collection by utilizing suitable methodologies for these fisheries, e.g. by involving local communities, local officers, etc. For these reason, SEAFDEC have been supporting Member Countries by reviewing the problems and constraints in fisheries data collection in coastal small-scale and inland fisheries at national level, and identify the key issues in fisheries data collection that should be addressed by the countries.

In 2013 SEAFDEC supported Thailand with a very successful training course on Practical Approach for Enhancing Co-management in Inland Fisheries, with Training on Trainers (TOTs) courses, aimed at providing more clear and detailed concept and methodology on Co-management/Community-based resources management, and skills of establishment community fisheries organizations are extremely needed for Thailand.

Including DOF Thailand have new fisheries laws, Section 9 to promote the participation and support of local fishing communities to management, Maintenance, Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable use of aquatic resources within the fishery in coastal fisheries or Inland Fisheries. Department of Fisheries (DOF) action to assist or support the following: (1) Encourage the participation of local fishing communities in policy making, (2) Encourage group forming and provide registration of local fishing communities; (3) Advising local fishing communities to Management, Maintenance, Conservation, Restoration and utilization of aquatic resources. Including to support the operation or community activities in such matters, and (4) Knowledge or information about the deal. Maintenance, restoration, conservation and utilization of aquatic resources.

In this consistence, DOF Thailand collaborate with SEAFDEC to support on facilitating Co-management/Community-based resources management and gathering fisheries activity information for key persons of pilot site of Nam Oon Dam, Phang Khon District, Sakon Nakhon Province.

II. Methodology

This paper reviews activities to promote Co-management and community management in Nam Oon Dam, Sakon Nakhon Province. The activities have conducted by SEAFDEC in collaborate with DOF Thailand since July 2014 including 1) Baseline survey, 2) Training and election of fishing communities representatives, 3) Local workshop to define fisheries management measures at Nam Oon Dam 4) Announcement of Fisheries management measures around Nam Oon Dam by sign board, 5) Data collection on catch data by fishing logbook, and 6) Monitoring catch data and satisfaction on fisheries management measures.

III. Results

Baseline survey

Base line survey was conducted by interview the fishermen in 22 communities around Nam Oon Dam, which located within 5 District covering 8 Sub-district namely: Rae, Nanai, Nongbua, Nongpling, Nikomnam-oon, Kudhai, Warichaphum and Plahlo. The total number of fishermen interviewed is 139 fishermen. Most fishermen engage in fishery combine with agriculture, they operate paddy field, rubber tree and cassava. The main purposes of fishery are source of income and consuming, furthermore the main fishing gear is gill net and fish trap. There are 5 middlemen from Community consist of Dong Kham pho, Huay Bun and Ban Klang that were interviewed to clarify fish distribution in Nam Oon Dam area.

Training and election of fishing communities' representatives

The training aimed to build awareness on the important of Co-management, make understand on the conservation area in Nam Oon Dam. The election of the fisheries community representative to be the Inland Fisheries Management committee in Nam Oon Dam for establishment a network on Fisheries Management. There are 32 representatives were selected from 16 communities around Nam Oon Dam area.

Local workshop to define fisheries management measures at Nam Oon Dam

The workshops provide the lecture to the 32 community representatives and government officer in order to enhance knowledge on Inland fisheries Management as well as Fisheries Law and regulation for fisheries measurement setting. Then, the group discussion was conducted by divide participant into 3 groups to discuss on fisheries management measures for fishing gear, fishing ground and close season. The result of discussion as follow:

1. Fishing gear: Prohibit to use Giant lift net, Diving with air compressor and Shooting, Not allow to collect juvenile, however, Long line fishing is allow to operate during close season.
2. Fishing ground/conservation zone: Increase and clearly define the conservation zone.
3. Close season: the close season (spawning season) change period from 16 May-15 September to 16 April - 15 August in each year, during close season the fishers are allowed to fishing on the date 10, 20, and 30 in each month. In addition, this result will be set the Fisheries management measures for Nam Oon Dam area.

Announcement of Fisheries management measures around Nam Oon Dam by sign board

According to the Communities define their own fisheries management measures of Nam Oon Dam, the Community's sign board which contain the map of Nam Oon Dam, close season period, the allowed date for fishing, prohibited fishing gear and conservation zone, were set up at 16 Communities around Nam Oon Dam by community themselves after the community meeting to announce and make understand on the fisheries management measures. The sample of sign board show as below:



Figure 1. The Sign board of Fisheries management measures in Nam Oon Dam

Data collection on catch data by fishing logbook

In order to monitor the change of fisheries resources before and after close season, the fishermen volunteered from 16 communities asking to record fish catch on the logbook providing by SEAFDEC. Moreover, the catch data also record from middlemen at landing site to know the quantity of selling catch. The result of catch data can calculate the total catch and catch value of Nam Oon Dam.

Monitoring catch data and satisfaction on fisheries management measures

After close season period, the fishermen continue to record catch data into the logbook until 31 December 2015. The results of catch data will be indicated the current situation of fisheries resources in Nam Oon Dam which will show to the 16 fisheries communities before the next closed season in April 2016. Furthermore, SEAFDEC conducted the attitude survey from fishermen on the appropriate close season period, fishing gear prohibited, conservation zone, fisheries resources after close season period and other opinion to follow up the fisheries management measures declare to the fisheries community by the sign board.

IV. Conclusion

The Fisheries Co-management of Nam Oon Dam, Sakon Nakhon Province was promoted to 16 Fisheries Community around Nam Oon Dam. The fishermen have learned the fisheries management by themselves and encourage awareness rising on conservation of the fisheries resources through the activities of fisheries management providing by SEAFDEC and DOF Thailand. Moreover, the problem on decline of fisheries resources in the Community Fisheries will be solved and the fishermen will preserve the fisheries resources with the sustainable fisheries management.

Reference

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