

Minutes of Meeting
The Committee for Sustainable Management of Blue Swimming Crab Resources in Thailand No. 1/2023

On 23 August 2023, 09.30 a.m. - 02.00 p.m.
At the Phayoon meeting room, 7th floor, Chulabhorn Building,
Fisheries Department and via online.

List of Attendants

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| 1. Mr. Amnuay Kongphrom | Instead of the Fisheries Department Deputy Director-General (Chairman) |
| 2. Mrs. Kritsana Chankaew | Director of Fisheries Commodity Standard System and Traceability Division |
| 3. Mrs. Veeraporn Suksomchit | Leader of Traceability System Development Group, Fisheries Commodity Standard System and Traceability Division (fcstd) |
| 4. Mr. Phonkritsana Phunsaen | Instead of Aquaculture Certification Group Leader, fcstd |
| 5. Miss Wantana Jenkitkoson | Leader of Fishing Ground Development and Rehabilitation Group, Marine Fisheries Research and Development Division (marine) |
| 6. Miss Sukanya Charoenwai | Instead of Legal Affairs Division Director |
| 7. Mr. Weeraphon Thitipongtrakul | Instead of Fisheries Resources Assessment Group Leader, marine |
| 8. Mr. Treerat Chaonthawee | Representative of the Thai Frozen Foods Association |

Via the Zoom Cloud Meeting system

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| 9. Miss Nattaya Srichantuek | Acting in the position of fisheries economics expert |
| 10. Mr. Sorapong | Instead of the Marine and Coastal Resources Research and Development Institute Director, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources |
| 11. Mrs. Dararat Abhaiborirat | Instead of the Fisheries Development Policy and Planning Division Director |
| 12. Miss Pantiya Jai-on | Instead of Coastal Aquaculture Research and Development Division Director |
| 13. Miss Krittika Srisuk | Instead of Fishing Control and Surveillance Division Director (surveillance) |
| 14. Mr. Amornsak Sawadee | Professor, Academic Services Office, Walailak University |
| 15. Miss Rattana Chusri | Representative of the Thai Food Processors Association |

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| 16. Mr. Charoen Tohitae | Representative of the Thai Fisher Folk Federation of Association |
| 17. Mr. Pichai Saesim | Representative of the National Fisheries Association of Thailand |

List of Absentees (Due to be occupied with government duty)

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| 1. Cdr.Phonchai Singhaboon | Fishing gear expert |
| 2. Mr. Pawarot Naranattrakul | Marine fisheries expert |
| 3. Director of Fisheries Resources Management and Measures Determination Division | |
| 4. Mr. Thuanthong Juthaket | Professor, Faculty of Agriculture Ubon Ratchathani University |
| 5. Mrs. Thanittha Thonpanon | Professor, Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University |
| 6. Mr. Sonthaya Kulkalaya | Professor, Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Rambhaibarni Rajabhat University |

List of Absentee (Due to Retirement)

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| 7. Fishery management consultant | Consultant |
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List of Participants

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| 1. Mr. Songphon Detsanae | Leader of Fisheries Statistics Analysis and Research Group, Fisheries Development Policy and Strategy Division |
| 2. Miss Atima Inphrom | Statistician (Practitioner Level), Fisheries Development Policy and Strategy Division |
| 3. Miss Saowanee Thapliang | Fishery Biologist (Practitioner Level), fcstd |
| 4. Mr. Chalermphon Chujit | Fishery Biologist (Practitioner Level), fcstd |
| 5. Miss Niramom Uppatham | Fishery Biologist (Government Officer), fcstd |
| 6. Miss Kanchana Prasomthong | Fishery Biologist (Government Officer), Fisheries Development Policy and Strategy Division |
| 7. Miss Saraphon Hunsuan | General Administration Officer, marine |
| 8. Mr. Pramook Takiankam | Representative of the Thai Frozen Foods Association |
| 9. Miss Sudarat Nilrat | BSC FIP Project Coordinator, Thai Frozen Foods Association |

List of Participants via Zoom Cloud Meeting

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| 10. Miss Apinya Klachaeng | Fishery Officer (Experienced Level) |
| 11. Mr. Teeraset Bunsaukulthawat | Legal Officer (Practitioner Level) |
| 12. Mr. Thawatchai Poonchuai | Representative of the Thai Frozen Foods Association |
| 13. Miss Opor Sripha | Representative of the Thai Frozen Foods Association |
| 14. Mr. Athiyut Hanmontri | Representative of the Thai Frozen Foods Association |

Meeting Start at 09.30 a.m.

Agenda 1 Chairman's Report

Chairman (Mr. Amnuay Kongphrom, Director of Marine Fisheries Research and Development Division, Vice Chairman of the Committee) informed the meeting that due to the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Bancha Sukkaew, Deputy Director-General of the Fisheries Department, is on urgent duty. Therefore, he was assigned to be the chairman of this meeting.

The purpose of this meeting is for the committee to be informed of the progress of the project to improve sustainable blue swimming crab fishing in Thailand for the 6-month period of 2023, the results of the project to research and develop equipment and tracking systems for small fishing vessels and the results of operations according to the action plan for the management of blue swimming crab fisheries 2023 – 2027, including considering the preparation of draft Harvest Control Rules: HCRs for blue swimming crab fishing. Therefore, he asked the committee at the meeting to consider further.

Resolution: Acknowledged.

Agenda 2 Approval of Minutes of the Thailand Blue Swimming Crab Resource Management Committee for Sustainable Management Meeting No. 3/2022

The Secretariat by Fisheries Commodity Standard System and Traceability Division has circulated the report of the meeting of the Sustainable Blue Swimming Crab Resources Management Committee of Thailand No. 3/2022 on December 6, 2022, and has scheduled the report to be revised within the day on December 13, 2022. However, there was no one requesting to amend the minutes of the meeting and the meeting approved the said minutes.

Resolution: Approval of meeting report no.3/2022.

Agenda 3 Matters for Report

Agenda 3.1 The progress of the project to improve sustainable blue swimming crab fishing in Thailand for the 6-month period of 2023, by the Thai Frozen Foods Association.

Mr. Pramook Takiankam, representative of the Thai Frozen Foods Association, presented the progress of the project to improve sustainable blue swimming crab fishing in Thailand for the 6-month period of 2023, based on evaluation results from the Marine Resources Assessor Group (MRAG) and the Fisheryprogress.org website are rated A. As for activities under all 28 indicators, the evaluation results have continued to improve, especially the issue: Stock Rebuilding, Harvest Strategies, Habitat Information, Habitat Outcome, Specific Objective and FMP Monitor and Evaluation.

Representatives of the association clarified the issue of activity indicators by which performance results must be reported for evaluating project progress in December 2023. The association will write to the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources to request further assistance with the said information.

The committee also provided comments on the results of scheduled activities that were not completed or required additional information for the next progress report such as determining the minimum size of blue swimming crabs that could be caught. This activity is an important management measure used to maintain the appropriate number of blue swimming crabs in the early reproductive stages in nature and is a continuation of the research on the appropriate size of blue swimming crabs in the early reproductive stages. Therefore, the results of the study of the size of blue swimming crabs in the early stages of reproduction should be taken into consideration in determining the appropriate size of blue swimming crabs that are allowed for catching. Especially the blue swimming crab fishing area in Surat Thani. Although the Department of Fisheries has proposed measures to determine the size of the first blue swimming crab caught in the past two years, it has not yet been announced due to legal restrictions. However, to pass the assessment of this indicator, it is necessary to push for communication and publicizing the appropriate size of blue swimming crabs for fishermen to know and put into practice.

Representatives of the association explained the Observer on Board activities of blue swimming crab fishing vessels in Surat Thani to confirm that blue swimming crab fishing does not be ETP species catch. The association has received budget support from the Resources Legacy Fund (RLF). Therefore, the Department of Fisheries is asked to consider supporting staff to conduct observation work on fishing vessels. The Chairman has the opinion that currently, video camera technology and fishing vessel coordinate tracking systems have been applied to replace observers on vessels. From a trial study in a surrounding nets vessel, it is considered a good way to reduce the time burden, travel of personnel on board the vessel and it is empirical evidence that is internationally reliable. Therefore, it was proposed to consider adjusting to installing recording equipment on fishing vessels. However, the association has no objection and agrees that there should be a discussion with relevant agencies such as Marine Fisheries Research and Development Division, Fish Quarantine and Fishing Vessels Inspection Division, Fisheries Commodity Standard System and Traceability Division.

The meeting agreed that a meeting should be held to discuss activity issues with relevant agencies in the next order to create an understanding of each issue and to determine details of the preparation of data reports in relevant areas to obtain complete information and has a positive effect on the assessment. In addition, the Secretariat inquired about the possibility of requesting support from outside funding sources for some activities that may not yet be the primary mission of the agency or that will need to be jointly implemented to be completed. The association informed that it could submit project proposals through the association to receive budget support for activities under FIP from foreign importers.

Resolution: Acknowledged the results of the activities and agreed to hold a meeting to discuss details between the Thai Frozen Foods Association and related agencies on each issue to obtain information according to the progress assessment plan for December 2023.

Agenda 3.2 The results of the project to research and develop equipment and tracking systems for small fishing vessels. The research budget is supported by the Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) by the Faculty of Engineering, Kasetsart University.

The second time went to the area and focused on System Software to collect data such as location of the vessel, Aquatic animals that can be caught, and allow fishermen to charge their own batteries and used for fishing as well and bring the problem to be dealt with further. The important part is recording fishing information (E - Logbook) such as Aquatic animals that can be caught, name of aquatic animal, quantity to connect with traveling at that time in Thai language, easy to use and can be prepared quickly.

The third time, a total of 18 fishing vessels were tested. Gateway equipment and a set of equipment to record navigational positions (Tracking Node) were installed and the use of the E-Logbook by fishermen was tested. This time the fishery will have a different maritime or fishing route.

4) Project summary

- Obtained a software system for collecting fishing data and recording basic aquatic animal data, E-Logbook, through Tablet devices.

- The system was tested at the actual work site 3 times in 2 areas of Surat Thani province which can be used for its intended purpose and has received good feedback from fishermen in the area.

5) Continuous development

- Development of the next generation of equipment includes 1) Housing, a device that can float on water to prevent damage. 2) Fast device charging system and 3) Energy saving system and equipment status monitoring.

- Adding the identification of park boundaries or non-hunting areas to the software system to confirm fishing is done correctly.

- Analysis of fisheries for good management and planning, such as Analysis of the cost of oil used in each round of fishing, Evaluating the operating results from the produced products compared to the expenses.

At the meeting, the committee asked for information and offered additional opinions. The issues were summarized as follows:

- Mr. Charoen Tohitae, representative of the Thai Fisher Folk Federation of Association, asked 1) What is the approximate distance of the vessel tracking device? and 2) What is the safety system of the device? To which a professor from the Faculty of Engineering gave the answer: 1) There is no distance restriction because the collected data travels with the fishing vessel and will be returned only in the case when the vessel is docked or near the coast within 500 meters - 1 kilometer and data will be transferred automatically. 2) The device will be waterproof, which is safe and will continue to improve the device's floating ability. The representative of Thai Fisher Folk Federation of association proposed that the project organizers convey information to fishermen to understand the goals and use of such equipment.

- The Chairman asked 2 questions as follows: 1) How is this system different from GPS Locker? A professor from the Faculty of Engineering answered that when compared to general GPS devices, the same principles would be used. It's about keeping the position. But in this project the equipment has been designed to be highly secure and the data cannot be altered. And it is information that is displayed truthfully and saves energy from the equipment set. 2) If in the future there is an extension to the prohibition of fishing in the case of installing this type of equipment, will the fishermen know in advance or be able to warn the fishermen before they go fishing in the no-fishing zone? A professor from the Faculty of Engineering answered that because the area is a sea area used for fishing, the project will use an energy-saving system and will not have an internet connection while at sea. This makes it impossible to know whether this area is an off-limit fishing spot or a no-fishing zone and means that only traces of fishing can be known.

Mr. Pichai Saesim, representative of the National Fisheries Association of Thailand, proposed the preparation of a map that can view the coastal sea zone, conservation zone, and bay closure zone in the same manner as the FMC Center and agreed that there should be coordination with the FMC Center or recommend the development of the program, including the development of telephone warning signals in conservation areas, and agrees with wireless battery charging. As well as asked whether the developed equipment could display Lat - Long values or not. The professor answered that the displayed data is Lat – Long, which is all raw data that can be calculated. And inquire 1) Filling out the aquatic animal logbook/coordinates Whether the fishing boat has GPS or not. If there is no GPS, how can the information be filled in? 2) In the case of Tracking node, can it notify the warning status whether the machine is still working or not? The professor answered that 1) the coordinates or aquatic animals caught from local fishing in this project will be an overview showing the final data. When the vessel returned to port, what was

found? But it was not possible to tell the location of the fishing. 2) Tracking already exists but may be developed to provide more status notifications. But there is a disadvantage: it may waste energy.

- Mr. Treerat Chaonthawee, representative of the Thai Frozen Foods Association, proposed additional notifications that the memory might be expanded and downloaded offline maps into the Tracking Node and when it reaches shore, it will update immediately. The professor gave the opinion that everything can be done, including various methods, but it can be carried out in Phase 3.

- Mrs. Veeraporn Sukksomchit, leader of Traceability System Development Group, fcsd, asked about whether mobile phones can be used instead of tablets in the future and how much the cost of the equipment would be. And the professor gave the answer that in the future, mobile phones can be used instead of tablets. This is a multi-platform format. Tablets can be placed at the Gateway or can be operated via mobile phones as well. As for the development costs, there are quite a few things, such as management. It is currently in the trial and development phase. It is still not possible to confirm the true expenses.

- Miss Nattaya Srichantuek, acting in the position of fisheries economics expert, inquired about this system. In the case of basic usage problems, is there a way to fix them myself? The professor gave the answer: The function of this system is only to charge the battery. Most of the time, this type of operation uses a backup method. If the node is broken, it can be replaced.

- Miss Wantana Jenkitkason, committee member and assistant secretary, asked how the Tracking and E-Logbook systems, which are both parts, are connected to the system. The professor explained that using the collection of location, date, time, fishing spots and combining it with the Logbook system to know the types of aquatic animals and their links in that fishing cycle, to get quantities, days, times, and fishing areas.

Resolution: Acknowledge the results of the project to research and develop equipment and tracking systems for small fishing vessels.

Agenda 3.3 The results of operations according to the action plan for the management of blue swimming crab fisheries 2023 – 2027, 6-month period.

1. Not yet implemented level means that the measure has no activity at all. There are a total of 11 measures.

2. Implementation level means that activities are being carried out that are expected to influence the indicators specified in the measures but have not yet produced clear results. There are a total of 15 measures.

3. Planned implementation level means that related activities have been carried out and results have been produced. The said production, when analyzed in the 6-month period, has progressed qualitatively or quantitatively in line with the goals that are set in the indicators. There are a total of 21 measures.

Completion means that the operation process has occurred until the output has been completed and is consistent with the output in the indicators. There are 4 measures.

The details are as per the table summarizing the monitoring of the action plan for blue swimming crab fisheries management 2023 - 2027, each measure (6-month period) as follows:

สรุปการติดตามแผนปฏิบัติการเพื่อการบริหารจัดการการทำประมงปูม้า พ.ศ. 2566 - 2570 ราชอาณาจักร (รอบ 6 เดือน)

วัตถุประสงค์	เป้าหมาย	จำนวน มาตรการ	ยังไม่ได้ ดำเนินการ	เริ่มดำเนินการ	ดำเนินการ ตามแผน	ดำเนินการ แล้วเสร็จ
1. ควบคุมระดับการลงระงับประมงปูม้าให้สอดคล้องกับจุดอ้างอิงที่เหมาะสม	ระดับการลงระงับประมงปูม้าในระดับที่ต่ำกว่าระดับการลงระงับประมงตามจุดอ้างอิงที่เหมาะสม	2			1	1
2. ลดการจับลูกปูม้าขนาดเล็กและปูม้าไข่ในอกระดอง	ลดสัดส่วนการจับลูกปูม้าที่ขึ้นท่า อลดร้อยละ 10 และลดสัดส่วนการจับปูม้าไข่ในอกระดองที่ขึ้นท่า อลดร้อยละ 10 ของระดับปัจจุบัน	6	2	2	2	
3. ฟื้นฟูทรัพยากรปูม้าโดยการส่งเสริมกิจกรรมธนาคารปูม้าและกิจกรรมปล่อยลูกปูม้าสู่ธรรมชาติ	ติดตามการจับปูม้าในเขตทะเลชายฝั่งมีค่าสูงขึ้น ร้อยละ 5-10 ของระดับปัจจุบัน	5		2	3	
4. ส่งเสริม/สนับสนุน ชาวประมงในการทำประมงปูม้าอย่างมีความรับผิดชอบ	การประมงปูม้าเป็นไปตามแนวทางการปฏิบัติอย่างรับผิดชอบไม่น้อยกว่าร้อยละ 80	5	1	1	3	
5. เติบโตเพิ่มขึ้นเชิงระบบ MCS เพื่อใช้ติดตามควบคุม และนิเวศวิทยาการทำประมงปูม้า	ลดระดับการทำประมงปูม้าที่มีกฎหมาย อลดร้อยละ 5-10 ของระดับปัจจุบัน ผ่านการควบคุมตามระบบ MCS	3	1		2	
6. พัฒนาปรับปรุง ระบบตรวจรอบอ่าวตามบ้าน สำหรับผลิตภัณฑ์ปูม้าของไทย	ปูม้าที่จับในปูม้าไทย และจากการนำเข้าสามารถตรวจสอบย้อนกลับได้ตลอดห่วงโซ่อุปทาน	3		1		2
7. ส่งเสริม/สนับสนุน และเพิ่มพื้นที่แหล่งหลบภัยของลูกปูม้าในฝั่งอ่าวไทยและฝั่งอันดามัน	แหล่งหลบภัยของลูกปูม้าโดยอาศัยข้อมูลทางด้านวิชาการ เพิ่มขึ้นจำนวนไม่น้อยกว่า 2 พื้นที่ ในพื้นที่ฝั่งอ่าวไทยและฝั่งอันดามัน	4	2	1	1	
8. ส่งเสริม/สนับสนุน และรักษาไว้ซึ่งแหล่งอาศัยของลูกปูม้า	แหล่งอาศัยของปูม้าได้รับการบริหารจัดการเชิงนิเวศ จำนวนไม่น้อยกว่า 10 พื้นที่ต่อปี	3		1	2	
9. ส่งเสริม/สนับสนุน การประกอบอาชีพประมงปูม้าและส่งเสริมความเข้มแข็งของชุมชนประมง	ชุมชนที่ทำการประมงปูม้ามีความมั่นคงในการประกอบอาชีพ เพิ่มขึ้นจำนวน ไม่น้อยกว่า 22 ชุมชนต่อปี	4		1	3	
10. ส่งเสริม/สนับสนุน การเพิ่มมูลค่าผลิตภัณฑ์จากการทำประมงปูม้าในระดับพื้นที่	รายได้ที่มาจากการทำประมงปูม้า และผลิตภัณฑ์จากการประมงปูม้าระดับพื้นที่เพิ่มขึ้นไม่น้อยกว่า เพิ่มขึ้นร้อยละ 10	4		1	2	1
11. ส่งเสริม/สนับสนุน การขับเคลื่อนการพัฒนาสินค้าประมงปูม้าด้วย BCG Model	สัตว์น้ำปูม้าได้รับการพัฒนาให้มีต้นแบบการสร้างเศรษฐกิจชีวภาพ เศรษฐกิจหมุนเวียน และเศรษฐกิจสีเขียว (BCG Model) ตลอดห่วงโซ่มูลค่า	4	2		2	
12. บริหารจัดการทรัพยากรปูม้าเพื่อการจับประมงที่ยั่งยืน	แนวทางการบริหารจัดการทรัพยากรปูม้าครอบคลุมทุกจังหวัดชายฝั่งทะเล	5	3	2		
13. ปรับปรุงกฎหมายให้สอดคล้องกับสภาพการทำประมงและการใช้ประโยชน์ทรัพยากรปูม้าอย่างยั่งยืน	กฎหมาย กฎระเบียบ ที่เกี่ยวข้องกับการทำประมงปูม้าได้รับการทบทวนและปรับปรุงให้เหมาะสมกับสถานการณ์การทำประมงปูม้าในปัจจุบัน	3		3		
รวม		51	11	15	21	4

The next step will be to collect information from related agencies other than the Fisheries Department and because there are many activities that have been supported by other associations. Which the Marine Fisheries Research and Development Division has not yet been able to collect. Therefore, the plan may be resubmitted to get the results back when evaluated in 12 months.

The committee meeting presented additional opinions, which summarized the issues as follows.

- The Chairman explained that in this meeting only the results from monitoring internal agencies would be gathered. If the agency has activities that are expected to be consistent, they can notify them and will prepare a letter requesting information in the next order.

- Mr. Pramook Takiankam, representative of the Thai Frozen Foods Association, expressed his opinion on the progress of this plan and wanted an explanation of the yellow and green bars according to each topic in the table in addition to this table.

- Miss Saowanee Thapliang, Fishery Biologist (Practitioner Level), fcstd, commented that some activities do not have a responsible person or may be difficult to carry out and have asked the association about channels for budget support.

- Mr. Pramook Takiankam, representative of the Thai Frozen Foods Association, explained that the budget support channel is that the main source of funding is NFI, divided into 2 rounds of funding: 1) January and 2) June. A written project proposal for support, finalized throughout the year, must be submitted to NFI by October or November to determine if any work from the plan is still outstanding and needs support. The amount of support will be in the range of approximately 1 – 2 hundred thousand baht/job. The remaining work is to conduct on board observations on fishing vessels of various sizes using both types of gear to confirm that no ETP species have been caught. And currently there is still a pending budget and may need to be discussed further with the Fisheries Department. He further informed the committee meeting that there are RLFs interested in this project who may be able to request a budget from RLF, but this agency will focus on local fisheries.

- Miss Wantana Jenkitkoson, the committee member and the assistant secretary made recommendations for taking care of the refuge for young blue swimming crabs. Because if the project area will be expanded to the areas of Chumphon and Nakhon Si Thammarat provinces, it may be requested to discuss with the association. To write a project to request funding support and to prepare basic information and supporting information for the management of refuge areas for young blue swimming crabs in the aforementioned 2 areas.

In this regard, the association has asked the assistant secretary to prepare a report on the results of operations according to the plan with details on activities completed and activities carried out according to the plan. So that the association will translate and send it to the assessor in December 2023.

The Secretariat is aware and will request additional cooperation from agencies outside the Fisheries Department to achieve more comprehensive operational results, such as Department of Marine Resources and Environment, Fisheries associations/clubs, independent organization, or other agencies. This will have a positive impact on the management plan evaluation report and can be used to improve the plan to be more efficient and effective.

Resolution: Acknowledged and the Chairman assigned the secretariat to coordinate with the association in providing information to follow up on work in the evaluation round in December 2023.

Agenda 4 Matters for Consideration

4.1 The preparation of draft Harvest Control Rules and strategies for blue swimming crab fishing in the Gulf of Thailand, 2023-2027.

According to the secretariat department's letter No. นย 0514.2/ dated 2023 requesting the committee to consider making recommendations. (Draft) Harvest Control Rules and strategies for blue swimming crab fishing in the Gulf of Thailand, 2023-2027 which the secretariat has improved and presented to the committee for consideration.

Summary of recommendations from the committee meeting No. 1/2023 are as follows:

1) Table 2: Blue swimming crab catch volume classified by type of fishing gear in 2022. The meeting considered the overall catch quantity data and recommended that data be displayed only on the Gulf of Thailand. (In the past it was the amount of catches for the whole country (Gulf of Thailand and Andaman) To be consistent with the proportion of catch according to type of fishing gear in fishing areas in Surat Thani Province and asked to classify the catch according to the type of gear, Crab gill nets, crab traps, and the size of fishing gear, including: 1) Size less than 10 gross tons 2) Size between 10 - 29 gross tons and 3) Size 30 gross tons or more to be in the same direction as specified in the project. As well as Fisheries Statistics Analysis and Research Group, Fisheries Development Policy and Strategy Division will forward the catch information to the Secretariat.

2) Table 3: Indicators of the status of target aquatic animal resources and target reference points, designated reference points. which agreed on the principle of setting target reference values and designated reference values that were determined based on academic information and biology of blue swimming crabs. The committee has proposed adjusting only the target reference value of the spawning ratio to be more flexible. It can be summarized as follows:

- Exploitation ratio in the range between 0.5 – 0.7.
- The proportion between larvae and adults should be 80% of the adults and should not be less than 50%.
- The appropriate spawning ratio in nature should have the number of blue crabs in the first reproductive stage not less than 30 percent (originally not less than 20 percent) and should not be less than 20 percent which has improved Harvest Control Rules (according to attached document).

The Thai Frozen Foods Association requests that the committee meeting consider guidelines for promulgation of the draft Harvest Control Rules in the next order. The Chairman

commented that the committee could consider approving the draft to present it to the Fisheries Department to consider assigning relevant agencies at various levels to proceed further.

Resolution: The committee agreed in principle and agreed that it should be proposed to the Fisheries Department to consider assigning relevant internal agencies to acknowledge and consider guidelines for further work.

Agenda 5 Other Matters (If any)

Representatives of the Thai Frozen Foods Association informed that there is now a plan to expand the blue swimming crab fishing area to be assessed from Surat Thani to Chumphon and Nakhon Si Thammarat. The source is due to the demand for blue swimming crab products from Thailand, which is a country in the region that has FIP project evaluation results at level A while Indonesia downgraded to level C and Vietnam inactive. Thai manufacturers see that they should expand potential areas. In this regard, the association has considered the issue of expanding the area of the original project and proposing to add another project. Which has coordinated with the evaluator and can proceed in both ways. However, the association's member entrepreneurs agree that the FIP project has been assessed as progressing at a good level for the 6th consecutive year. This shows a good image of Thai blue swimming crab products and builds confidence among foreign importers as well, being able to request a standard assessment next year. If Chumphon and Nakhon Si Thammarat areas are combined into one FIP, there will be an advantage in saving costs. But there is a concern that the project evaluation level may drop to B or C level, and this may reduce confidence in the standards of blue swimming crab products. Therefore, it is likely that the association and Thai Blue Swimming Crab Entrepreneurs will carry out FIP work in the Surat Thani area and would like to add one more blue crab FIP project in the Chumphon and Nakhon Si Thammarat areas. MRAG is in the process of coordinating to consider the possibility of using shared resources for both projects.

Resolution: Acknowledged.

Meeting Close at 02.00 p.m.

Miss Saowanee Thapliang
Fishery Biologist (Practitioner Level)
Meeting Minutes Recorder