

Milestone 61 processes and working groups that are involved in the decision-making process with fisheries.

Department of Fisheries.

December 2023.

From MRAG evaluation in 2022, It is recommended that evidence is available to demonstrate the management system or fishery is attempting to comply in a timely fashion with judicial decisions arising from any legal challenges and that the decision-making processes use the precautionary approach and are based on best available information. The Department of Fisheries has therefore provided a case example of the decision-making process to demonstrate that the Management System tries to solve problems in a timely manner.

For example, solving problems where fishermen present issues to the Provincial Fisheries Committee to solve problems for fishermen.

Case 1 From the conflict situation in Ban Don Bay Surat Thani Province during May 2020

- Working group to solve the problem of encroachment on public area, Ban Don Bay, Surat Thani Province, according to Surat Thani Provincial Order No. 3437/2020 dated 12 June 2020.
- On June 23, 2020, the THAI-MECC set up a joint administration team to maintain peace and order as well as solve problems of encroachment on public areas around Ban Don Bay, Surat Thani Province.
- The Provincial Fisheries Committee meeting on June 29, 2020, appointed a subcommittee to consider studying sustainable solutions to natural resource problems in Ban Don Bay and meeting of the subcommittee to consider studying solutions to natural resource problems in Ban Don Bay on July 29, 2020.
- Carrying out the demolition of buildings (Small, shellfish farm rail, and Homestay) and other structures.

Summary of guidelines for consideration for resource management in the Ban Don Bay area, Surat Thani Province, to achieve sustainable balance, are as follows:

1. Management of conservation areas or aquatic animal sanctuaries according to Section 56.
2. Area management for the utilization of aquatic animal resources, to determine areas of cockle breeding grounds. (Supports young cockles in Ban Don Bay) by specifying fishing gear according to the type of gear/fishing method/fishing area/size of the fishing vessel that used for fishing and other conditions that prohibit fishing in aquatic animal catchments according to Section 71 (1).
3. Area management to define aquaculture areas (reduce the original area /add new area) according to Section 77.
4. Management of public property areas of the country for shared use.

Therefore, in 2023, there will be additional announcements of areas for raising sea shellfish in accordance with Section 77 in 4 districts, namely Chaiya, Tha Chang, Phunphin and Mueang, totaling 5 plots, with an area of 31,764,45 rai and there is a plan to announce in 2024 another 2 plots in Kanchanadit District, area approximately 14,500 rai. It is expected that this will be sufficient to meet the needs of farmers. If any areas later have management problems or are not suitable, they will be proposed to the committee to consider reducing the area or canceling it.

Case 2 Squid nets or squid fishing fishermen in Koh Samui and Koh Phangan districts, Surat Thani province, have suffered from using squid falling nets equipment. This is the season between February and April of every year, unable to go fishing outside the coastal area. Because most fishing vessels are small, there is a risk in their occupation during strong waves and monsoons. Therefore, fishermen request the Provincial Fisheries Committee to consider issuing an announcement according to Section 71 (1) allowing squid falling nets equipment to be used for fishing in the coastal area. The regulations are based on public hearing of stakeholders to submit the matter to the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives for approval. At this time, a draft announcement has been prepared and is in the process of seeking approval from the Provincial Fisheries Committee. The fishermen accepted the stipulation that they prohibited fishing within 500 meters of the coastline, specifying the mesh size of the net is

not less than 3.2 centimeters, the length of the surrounding net must not exceed 50 meters, including determining the number of watts of the electric bulbs used.

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