

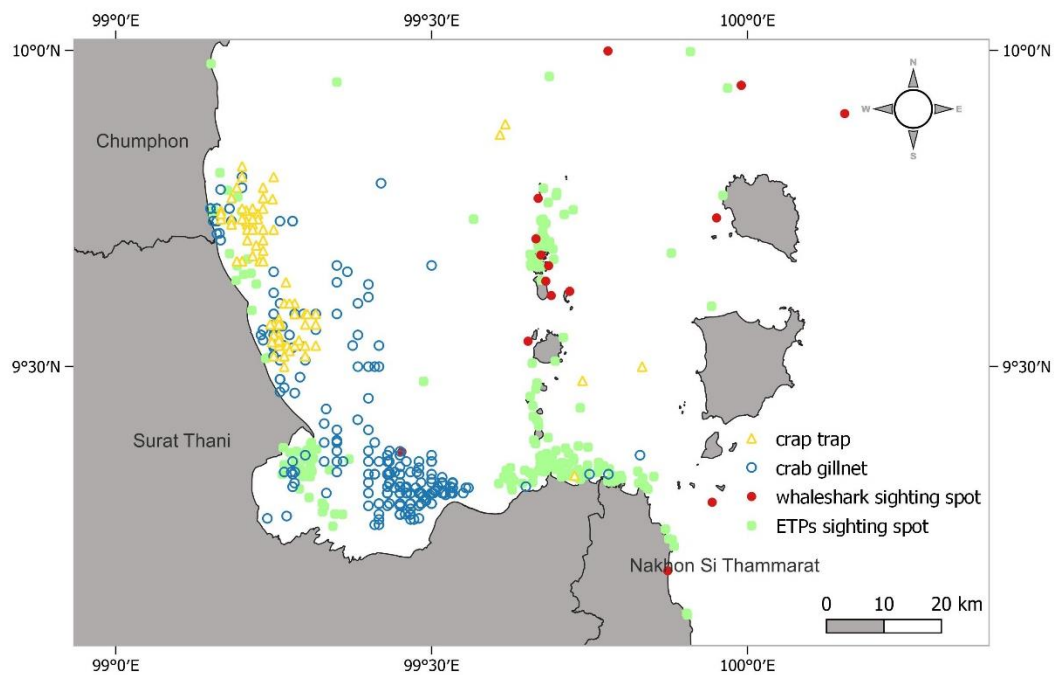
Milestone 60 Assessment of impact of fishery on the ecosystem

Department of Fishery and Department of Marine and Coastal Resources

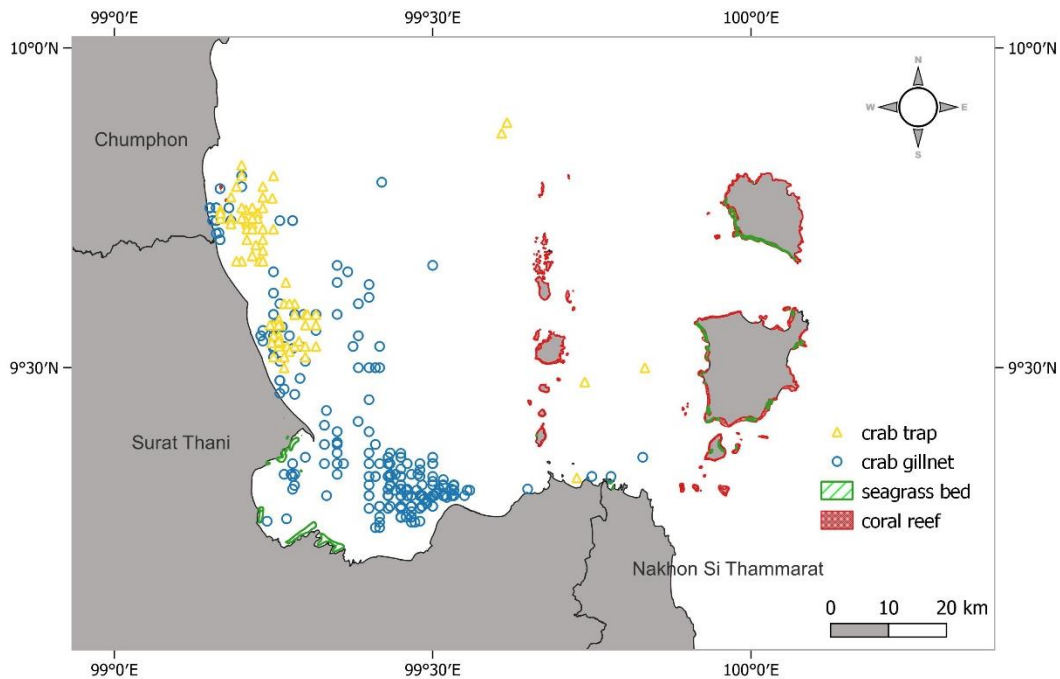
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The Department of Fisheries and the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources held a meeting and exchanged information on the impact of blue swimming crab fishing on the overall ecosystem of Surat Thani Province. A GIS map of blue swimming crab fishing grounds and habitats and ETP species has been created, and the results are analyzed as follows:



Picture 1 GIS map of blue swimming crab fishing grounds and distribution of ETP species.



Picture 2 GIS map of blue swimming crab fishing grounds and habitat (Seagrass bed and coral reef).

When considering the fishing grounds for blue swimming crabs, the distribution areas of ETP species, and habitats, it was found that some areas of blue swimming crab fishing in Surat Thani Province overlap with distribution areas of ETP species. They are often found feeding near the shore, especially in Ao Ban Don (Picture 1). Because most of the blue swimming crab fishing grounds in Surat Thani Province are small-scale fisheries that use small fishing vessels. There are fishing grounds in front of the community near the shore, limited to shallow water, with fishing for subsistence and trade within the community. However, due to the characteristics of fishing gear used, which are inefficient, mainly rely on human labor, and have a high ability to select aquatic animals, coupled with local fishermen being aware of the conservation of aquatic resources in front of the community. There are rules and regulations for fishing that do not harm the environment and marine resources, such as: use of mesh size that do not harm aquatic species, use of fishing gears that do not harm aquatic species, and avoid placing fishing gear in areas where ETP species

are found, which is expected to have a direct impact on ETP species. In addition, no overlap of blue swimming crab fisheries and habitats was found. (Picture 2)