Milestone 45: Report of the first Advisory Committee meeting

A specific management advisory committee was developed at a national level for all Thai BSC fisheries and this committee facilitates the consultation process for these fisheries. It was established as ‘National Committee on Blue Swimming Crab Resource Management’ initially signed in March 2016 and revised in April 2017 due to re-structuring of Department of Fisheries. The responsibilities and review of their outputs reported as Milestone 49.

In 2017, the first Management Advisory Committee meeting was conducted on 23 January, 13.00-16.30 hrs, Pla Too Meeting Room, Blodprasob Building, Department of Fisheries

For Information

The meeting informed on Stakeholder Consultation Meeting for BSC FIP in Surat Thani during 20-21 December 2016. The key issues are:

- Background and reasons in developing and implementing FIP including tasks under Action Plan
- Information on bycatch from gill net and trap fisheries
- Explanation to local fishers and other stakeholders on the process of data collection to study environment and to assess BSC fishery aiming at development of guideline to increase BSC production in Ban Don bay in Surat Thani by Asst. Prof. Dr. Amonsak Sawasdee, Walailak University and his team
- Presentation the progress of documentary research (desk-based study) on BSC stock status Assoc. Prof. Thanitha Darbanandana, Kasetart University. Information was gathered and categorized and next step is data analysis.

For Consideration

- Revise the National Committee members and the Working Group based on new structure of Department of Fisheries and its responsibilities
- Consider and appoint FIP manager to be focal point working with National Fisheries Institute (NFI) and Assistant FIP manager. It concluded that Pakawan Talawat (WWF) was appointed as the FIP manager with two assistants: Pramook Takiankam (TFFA) and Wuttichai Wankahard (DoF), agreed by all committee members.
- Monitor progress and challenges in implementing NPOA. Several documents related to NPOA were shared in Google Drive including NPOA, FIP Action Plan, Directive on establishment of the Committee, Directive on establishment of Working Group, Map of Ban Don bay, Joint Declaration of Intent, and progress reports.
Activity 1: BSC stock status (desk-based study)
MoU between TFFA and Assoc. Prof. Thanitha Darbanandana, Kasetart University was developed on 15 September 2016, expected to complete in 15 March 2017. The progress reported during Stakeholder Consultation meeting during 20-21 December 2016. It is in the process of gathering relevant papers while analysis will be conducted during 29-31 January, expected to complete by 23 February and will be deliver the final version in March 2017.

Activity 2: Assessment of BSC fishery including bycatch and ETP species
- Activity 2.1 Catch and bycatch from gill net and trap fisheries
  The proposal by Asst. Prof. Dr. Amonsak Sawasdee was approved by Agricultural Research and Development Agency (ARDA) in January 2017. Next step is to sign contract in February 2017 and data collection will start in March 2017.
- Activity 2.2 ETP species
  The progress bycatch study reported during Stakeholder Consultation meeting in December 2016. The Committee suggested the proposal should not be shared in Google Drive, only research title and summary of the progress should be shared.

Activity 3: Assessment of ecosystem related to BSC
Review of ecosystem dynamics, catch composition, and CPUE in Surat Thani project was planned to collect data in January 2017 but flooding situation causes the delay. Secondary data from Central Gulf Marine R&D Center, DoF, will be used for Ecopath analysis in early February, resulting trophic levels in Ban Don Bay. It is expected to complete in February.

Activity 4: Market situation and import-expert statistics
Thailand exported crabs to US, Vietnam, Taiwan, UK, Australia, China, Korea, Germany, Japan, and Italy in January – November 2016, based on statistic from Custom Department. We lacked information of imported crabs. The meeting suggested to request additional information from Import-Export Fish Inspection Unit, and Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division.

Activity 5: Establish Working Group to follow-up and update situation of overall BSC resources – completed, referring to DoF Directive 2652/2559

Activity 6: Integrated knowledge for BSC fishery management
The meeting suggested hiring computer person who specialize in database development to gather relevant information and papers including MSY of BSC fishery, documentary research, progress in implementing NPOA.

Activity 7: Establish community crab banks
Based on Master Plan of Thai Marine Fisheries in 2011-2016, there have been 22, 18, 13, 7, 8 and 9 community crab banks established, respectively. There were training course on crab banks to transfer basic knowledge in establishing crab banks, operation, and good practices in different areas. Another issue to consider is appropriate material use e.g. tanks, cages, etc. It is suggested that there should be a survey to evaluate status of existing crab banks.
Activity 8: Study on survival rate of juveniles from crab banks
- Technical paper on BSc resource management and community crab banks in Prachub
  kiri Khan is in the process of consideration by committee of Marine Fisheries R&D
  Division.
- Research on carb bank in Sikao, Trang province by Kasetsart University requests for
  additional time for collecting information. Currently is waiting for funding.

Activity 9: Release of young crabs
22.9 million zuea and young crab were produced nationally, while 900K of them were
released in Surat Thani area in 2016. There is a plan to produce 4.9 million in 2017, 204k of
zuea and young crabs were released during October – December 2016. In Surat Thani, there
is a plan to produce 270K young crabs.

Activity 10: Determining reference points
Wait for the findings of the study on environment and assessment of BSC fishery

Activity 11: Determining appropriate CPUE for BSC fishery
Wait for the findings of the study on environment and assessment of BSC fishery

Activity 12: Determining appropriate measures in spatial management
Wait for the findings of the study on environment and assessment of BSC fishery. GIS
information on sea grass, artificial reef, and coral reef are available in the website of
Department of Marine and Coastal Resources.

Activity 13: Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) activities with communities
- Training on MCS volunteers in February – June 2016 conducted in 8 provinces, 40
  attendants/province, total 320 participants.
- Establishing community surveillance group
  o 2015 – 18 communities
  o 2016 – 18 communities – 36 communities in total
- Operating community MCS activities
  o 2015 – 198 times
  o 2016 – 198 times – 396 times in total

Chairperson assigned Fishing Control and Surveillance Division to gather cases relevant to
BSC fishing gear.

Activity 14: MCS network to prevent illegal fishing
Seven trainings on fisheries regulations were conducted in 2015 with 210 participants in
total. Seminars were organized for 22 coastal provinces during July to September 2016 for
1,100 participants. But it is still unclear on effectiveness of the MCS network, thus there is a
suggestion to monitor and evaluate knowledge obtained from the trainings, Chairperson
assigned secretariat to monitor the effectiveness of the trainings from Fishing Control and
Surveillance Division.

Activity 15: Educating officers/fishers on Royal Ordinance 2015 and the Act on the
promotion of marine and Coastal Resources management 2015
Marine Fisheries R&D Division organized 2 workshops

- Workshop on law and regulations related to small-scale fisheries organized in 22 coastal provinces with 305 participants in total. Target audiences were government officers and local small-scale fishers
- Workshop on community-based management to share lesson learned, challenges, and the implementation of community-based management. This was organized during July-August 2016 covering 22 coastal provinces. Target audiences were DoF officers and representatives from community committee in the areas – 418 people in total.

**Activity 16:** Determining community conservation zone

Conservation zone for BSC was determined in coastal areas of 21 communities

- 2015 to now – 7 communities
- 2016 to now – 7 communities
- 2017 – 7 communities

All communities operated crab banks. Determining conservation zone by communities is aimed to conserve and restore coastal resources. There are community rules to monitor the utilization of resources and to manage fisheries e.g. all types of gill net and trap are not allowed to operate in conservation zone.

**Activity 17:** Strengthening fishing communities through establishing community learning centers

There is a plan to implement in 2018, currently waiting for funding from the implementation of Master Plan of Marine Fisheries Management. It is in the process of notifying Director of Central Gulf Marine Fisheries R&D Center, changes based on re-structure of DoF.

**Activity 18:** fishing logbook

Marine Fisheries Management Plan of Thailand: A National Policy for Marine Fisheries Management 2015-2019 (FMP) states that vessels over 30 GT with logbook and report Port-In Port-Out (PIPO) while vessels over 10 GT but less than 30 GT requires logbook and report to PIPO only trawlers, purse seiners, anchovy falling netter. For vessels less than 10 GT require logbook for those to supply factories for export.

The Committee suggested DoF to educate in filing logbook to small-scale fishers. Initially, fish markets who buy fish from local fishers are the person to fill logbook. It should have training for small-scale fishers to record simple logbook.

**Activity 19:** Disseminating information on ETP species and saving them from accidently caught in BSC fishery

Department of Marine and Coastal Resources organize trainings on how to save ETP species caught accidentally by fishing gear. There is no specific information ETP species caught by BSC fishery because the fishery is not clearly relevant in catching ETP species. However, the training provides benefit to BSC fishers accidentally find ETP species caught by other type of fishing gear, they can save those species DMCR officers are willing to be trainers with DoF activities.
**Activity 20:** Communication Plan
Publication on crab banks, video and stickers on BSC life cycle, BSC FIP flyers, DoF news on jointed Declaration of Intent in implementing BSC FIP, and poster to encourage not harvest undersized crab and berried carps. The meeting discussed the regulations based on Royal Ordinance 2015, suggesting that in the case that fishers accidentally catch berried BSC, they should go to crab banks. Chairperson assigned secretariat to follow-up communication work on carb banks of Kung Krabaen Bay Royal Development Study Center to add into NPOA.

**Activity 21:** Evaluation of NPOA implementation
The meeting discussed possibility to have external evaluator to evaluate the progress of implementation with credibility.