

Fisheries Policy and Support Measures in the Context of Thailand



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measures in the Asian context
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Fisheries Development Policy and Planning Division,
Department of Fisheries,
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

Outlines: Thailand's Fisheries Policy and Support Measures in the Context of Marine Capture



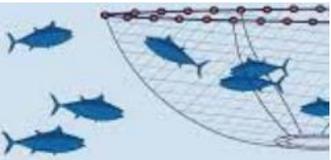
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Thailand 's Fisheries Overview



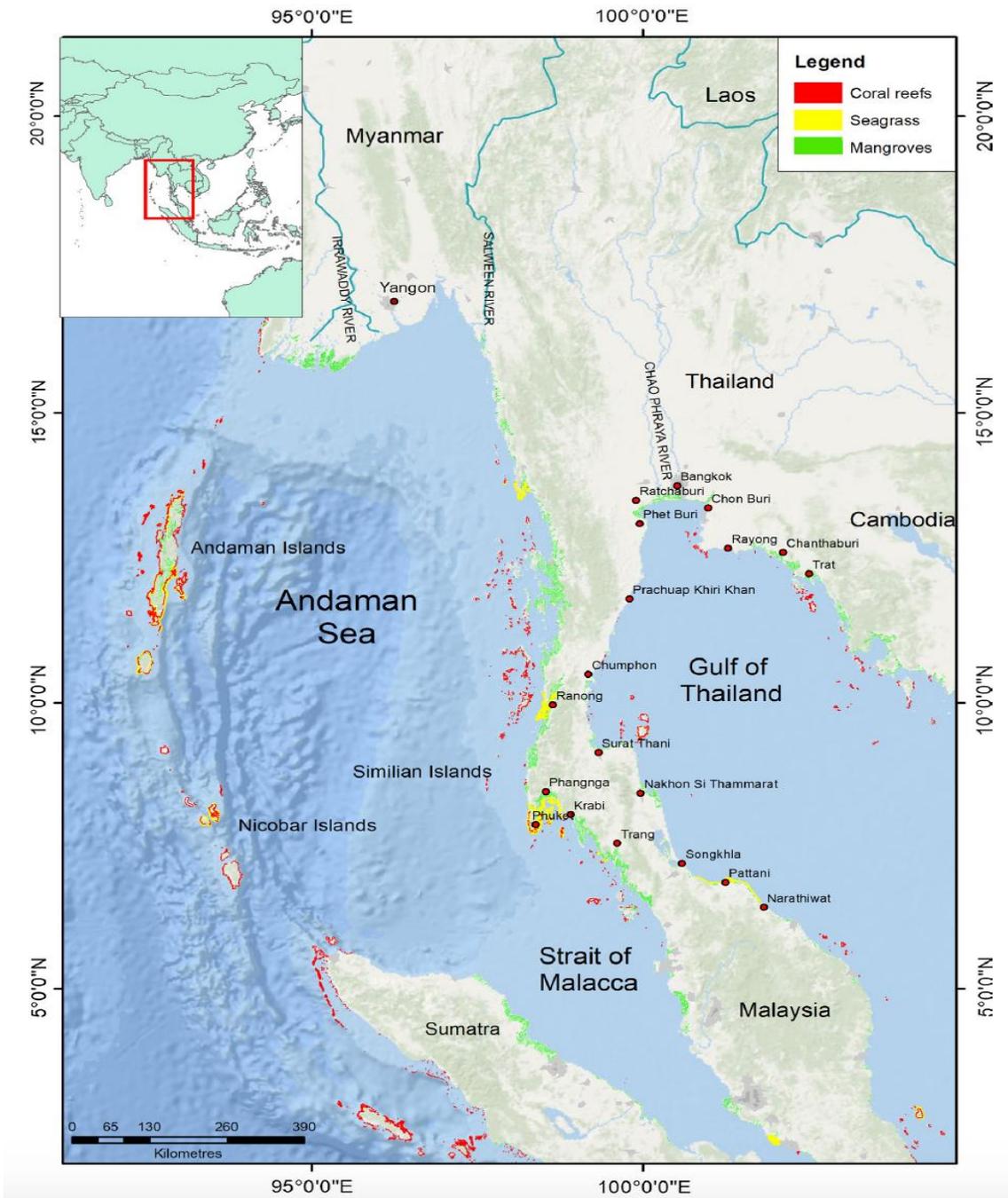
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Fisheries Policy



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Fisheries Support Measures



THAILAND

- Located in a tropical zone
- Maritime area: 350,000 km³
- Two coasts: Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea
- Coastline: 2,815 km. /1,760 miles
- Engage in multispecies fisheries



Thailand's Fisheries Production, 2022

Total Fish Production
2,386,627 t



Aquaculture
1,001,135 t (42%)

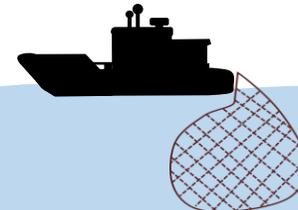
Capture fisheries
1,385,492 t (58%)

Freshwater
466,953 t (20%)

Coastal
534,182 t (22%)

Freshwater
105,735 t (4%)

Marine
1,279,757 t (54%)



Economic Importance of the Fisheries Sectors in Thailand



Fisheries sectors plays a crucial role in the Thai economy, It generates employment for more than 1 million people and earns approximately 200,000 million baht (60,000 million USD) in export revenue annually. Moreover, Thailand has been the world's largest exporter of canned tuna.



In 2022, Fisheries GDP was approx. 130,000 million baht, with a growth rate of 2.3% and a contribution of 0.75% to national GDP.



There were approx. 200,000 workers in marine capture fisheries sector (workers on fishing vessels)



The majority of the workers on fishing vessels is male, while women play a significant role in the seafood processing and marketing sector.



Marine Capture Fisheries, 2022

Catch
1,279,757 t

60,247 fishing vessels



Small Scale Vessel

- < 10 gross tons with low-efficiency fishing gear.
- 50,639 vessels (84%)

Catch
272,645 t (21 %)

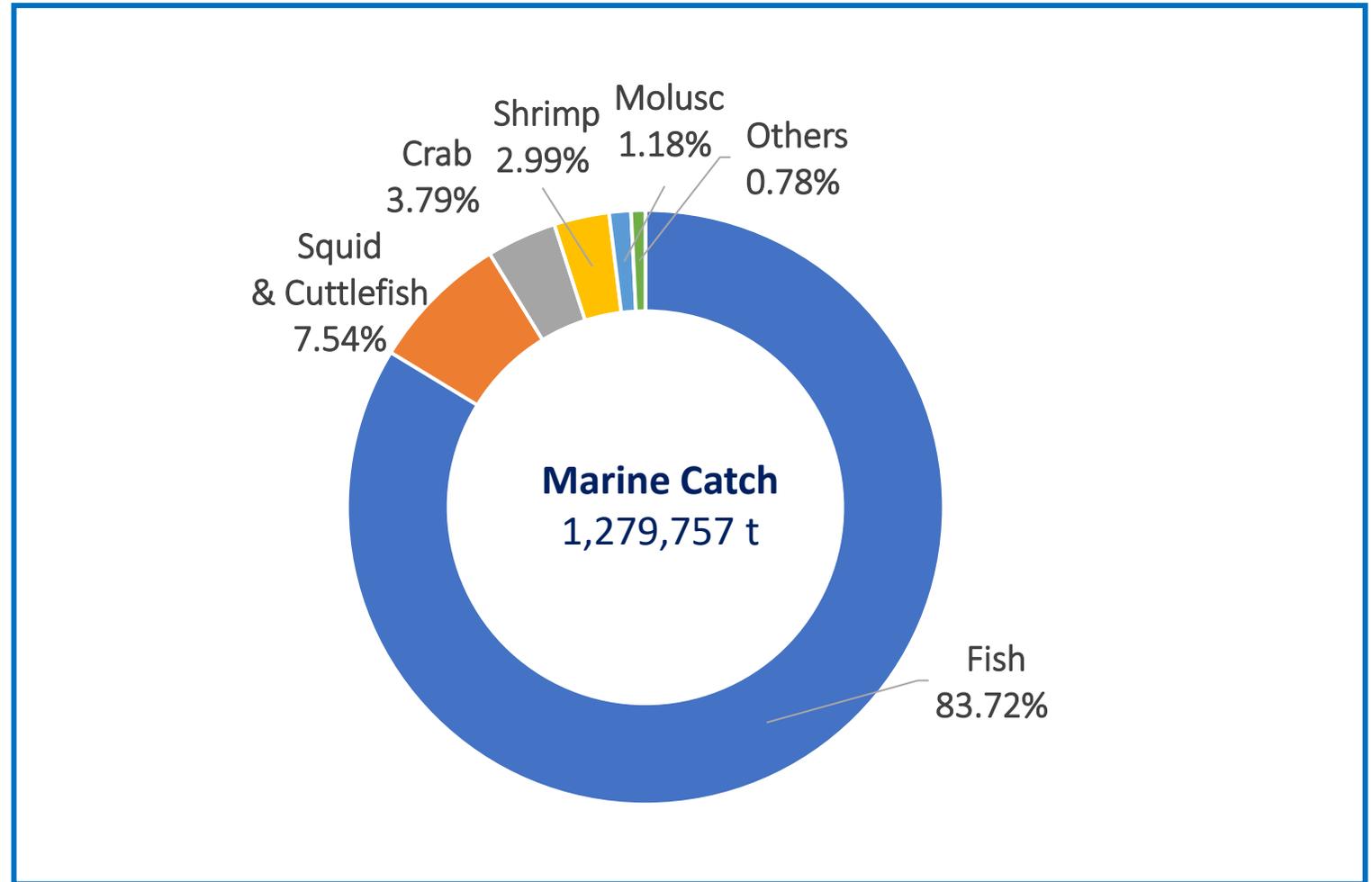


Commercial Vessel

- ≥ 10 gross tons & < 10 gross tons with high efficiency fishing gear.
- 9,608 vessels (16%)
 - $X < 30$ GT (48%)
 - $30 \leq X < 60$ GT (28%)
 - $60 \leq X < 150$ GT (23%)
 - $X \geq 150$ GT (1%)

Catch
1,007,112 t (79%)

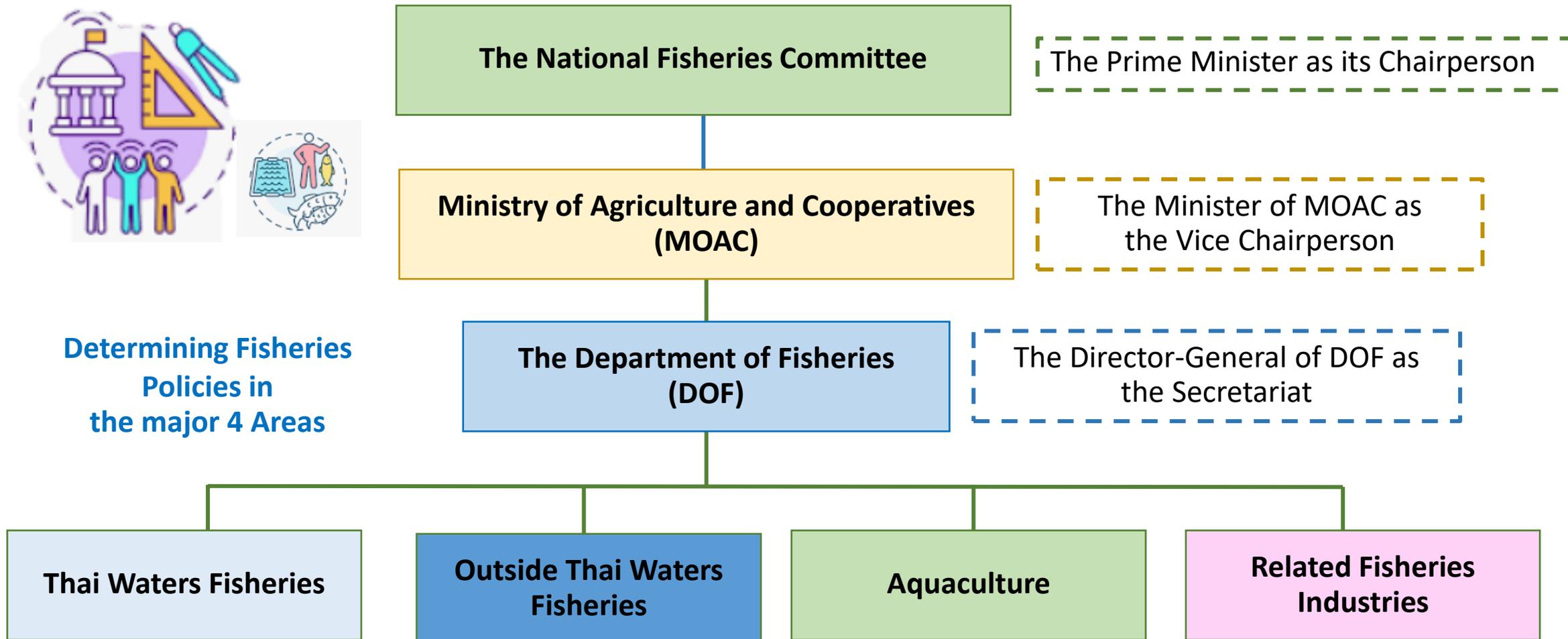
Marine Catch, Divided by Species , 2022



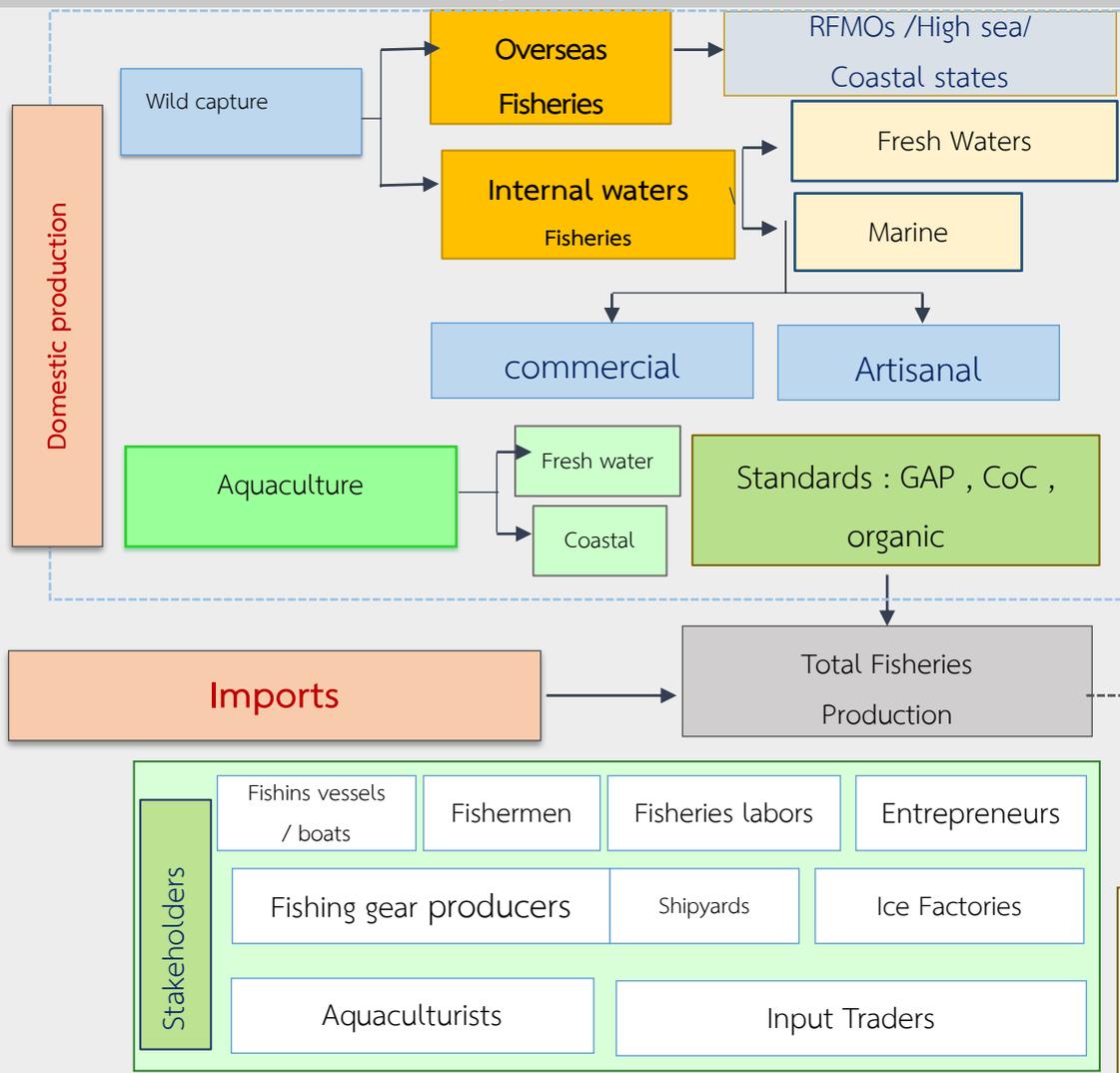
Thailand's Institutional Framework for fisheries



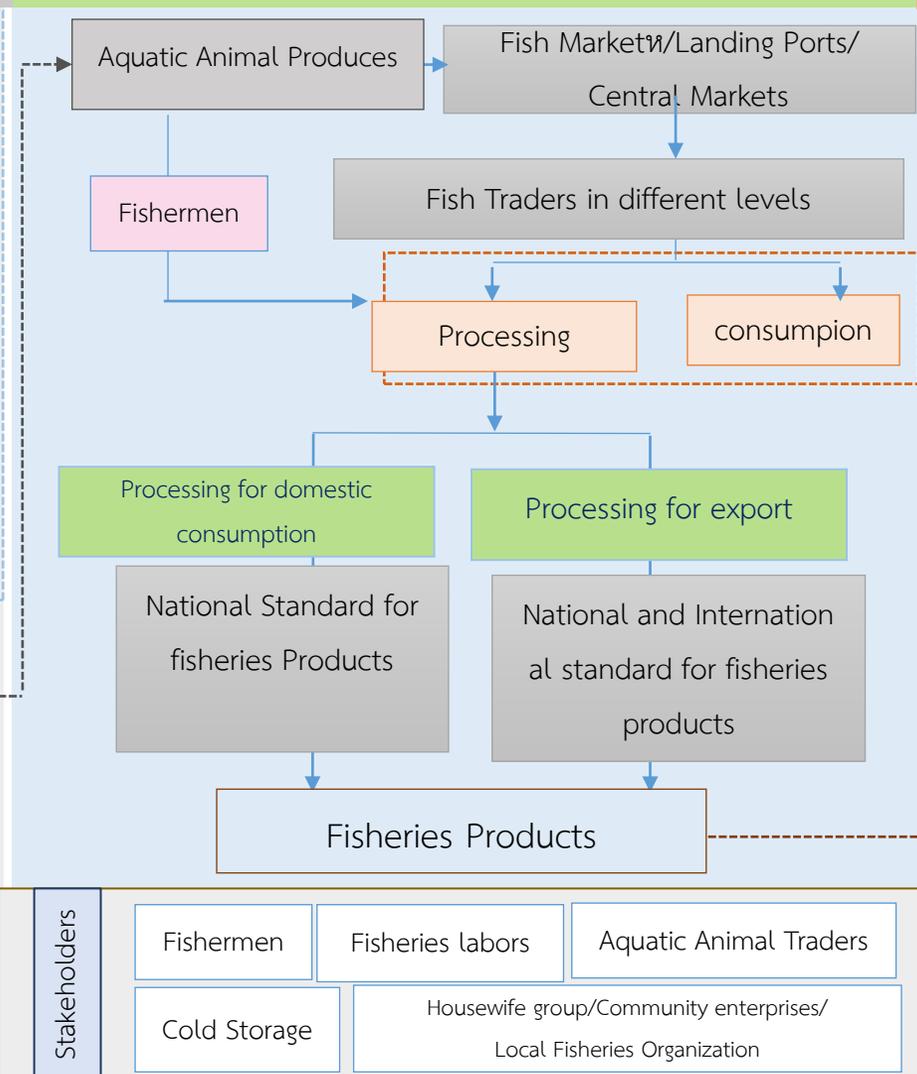
Determining Fisheries Policies in the major 4 Areas



Upstream



Midstream



Downstream



International Cooperations / Traceability/ Laws and international Regulations i.e. IUU MMPA etc.

Vision : Balancing Fisheries Resources / Strengthening Thai Fisheries / Sustainable Growth of Fisheries Economy

Strategy 1 Conserve , Restore and maintain the balance of Ecosystem

Strategy 2 Sustainable Fisheries Resources Management

Strategy 3 Develop competitiveness and the Potential of Fishermen and entrepreneurs

Strategy 4 Develop Technology and Innovations in Fisheries

Thailand's Marine Capture Fisheries Administrative Framework

1. legal framework
2. Marine Fisheries management/ Fleet Management
3. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System
4. Traceability System
5. Law Enforcement
6. Proactive International Cooperation



Legal Framework

Modern fisheries legal framework consistent with the relevant international law



Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015)
and Its amendments in 2017



Efficient instrument to manage and conserve
fisheries resources sustainably

- Fisheries Management
- Fishing Operations in Thai Waters
- Fishing Operations outside Thai Waters
- Conservation and Management Measures
- Control, Surveillance, Traceability, and Inspection
- Administrative Measures
- Criminal Sanctions

➤ International Instruments:

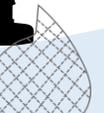
- UNCLOS 1982: **ratified in 2011**
- UN Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA): **ratified in 2016**
- FAO's Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA): **ratified in 2017**
- FAO – IPOA IUU
- RFMOs CMMs
- FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)



National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate
IUU Fishing (NPOA – IUU)
No.1 (2015 - 2018) & No.2 (2020 – 2022)



Marine Fisheries Management Plan of Thailand (FMP)
No.1 (2015 – 2019) & No.2



Fleet Management/ Marine Fisheries Management (FMP)



Vessel Registration System

➔ 🏠 Change from open access fishery to **limited access fishery**



Fishing Licencing Scheme

➔ 🏠 Issuance of fishing licenses in line with **the fishing capacity and the maximum sustainable yield (MSY)**

Fishing Capacity & Effort
Control Measures

To maintain fish stocks to above
levels that can produce the MSY



- Limiting the number of fishing vessels and fishing licenses up to total allowable effort (TAE) and based on MSY
- Implementing a fishing day scheme : Limitation of a number of fishing day for vessels using high efficiency gears
- Imposing restrictions on the size and characteristics of fishing gear.

Various Fisheries Resource
Enhancement & Conservation
Measures

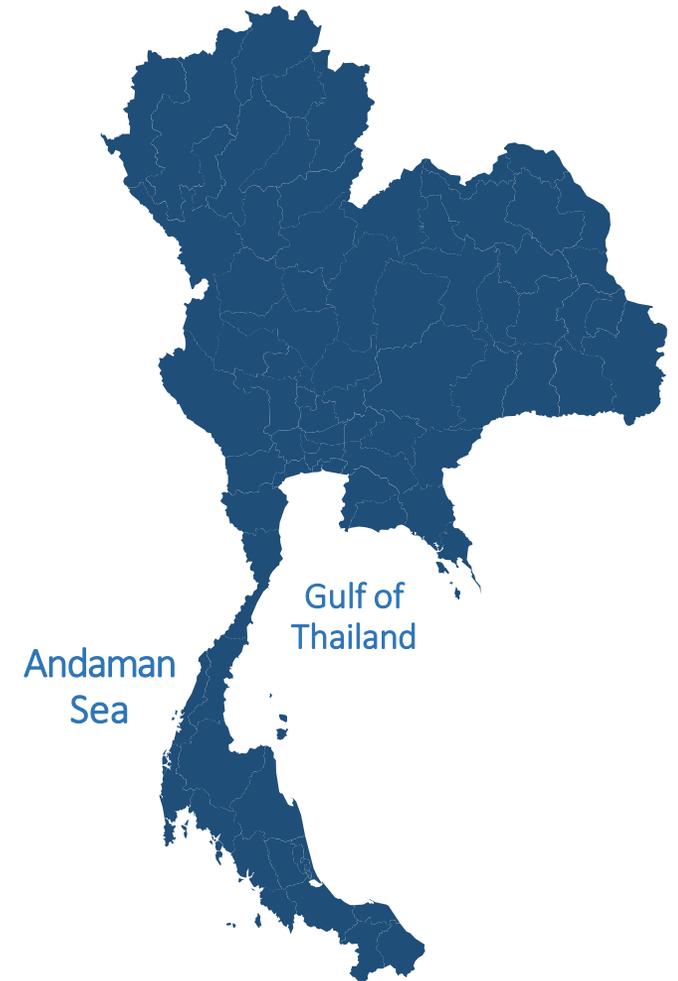


- Ban of destructive fishing gears (such as push net equipped with motored vessel, etc.)
- Imposing restrictions on the net mesh size
- Implementing seasonal closures : to protect Indo-Pacific mackerel and other economic species during their spawning season and juvenile stage in the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea
- Define demarcation zone where only small scale vessels are allowed to fish
- Rebuilding the fisheries resources through constructing artificial reefs and restocking schemes, etc.

Fish Stock Assessment in Thailand

Scientific Reference Point: MSY → Total Allowable Catch (TAC) = 95% of MSY

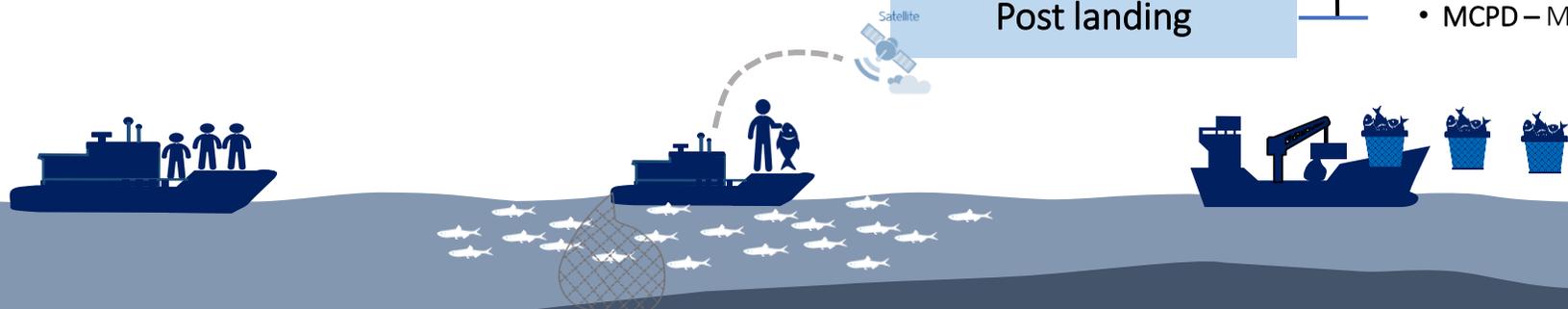
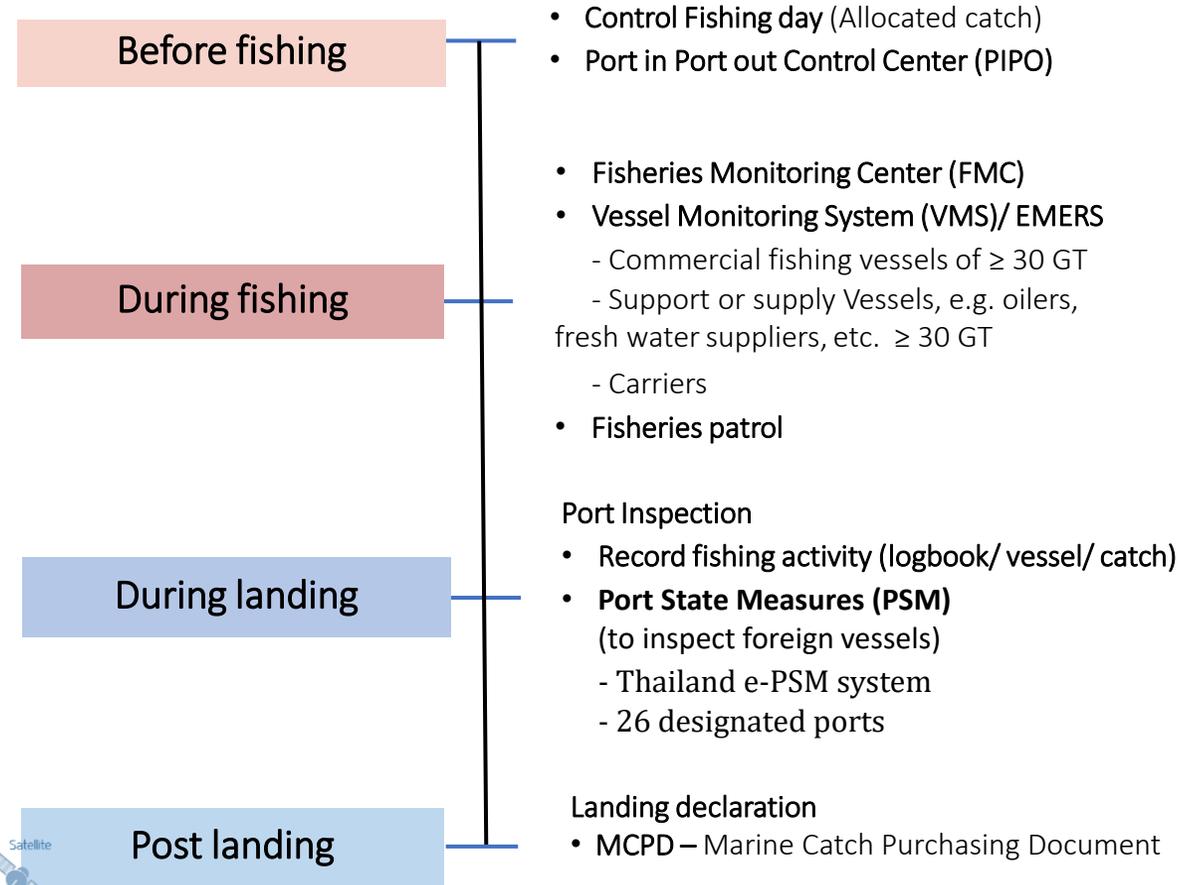
- 3 groups of species
 1. Demersal Fish
 2. Pelagic Fish
 3. Anchovy
- Two areas : Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea
- Biannual licensing



Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) System



Set up core MCS agency and improve inter-agency cooperation



Traceability System

Thailand has established a comprehensive electronic traceability system covering the whole supply chain as well as all modes of transportation to combat IUU fishing in line with international standards.

 PSM linked and Processing Statement System (PPS) and Thai Flagged Catch Certification System

 Enhanced cooperation with market states

 Robust and risk-based inspection processes



Law Enforcement



Clear legal basis for comprehensive fisheries management, MCS and traceability-related measure, and non-compliance is subject the punishment



Enforcement and prosecution



Imposing proportional & significant deterrent measures with fines and administrative sanctions



Expedited legal processes

Criminal Sanction

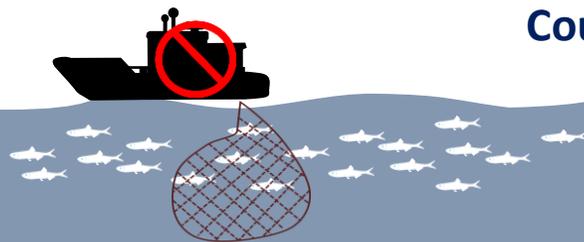


Fines

Upon proportional sanction to stop repeating guilty



Court



Administrative Sanctions for serious infringement



According to Section 113 & Section 114 of the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries 2015 and its amendments



Confiscation of fish or fish products and fishing gears



> Prohibition of fishing activities

> Suspension of fishing license

> Withdrawal of fishing license and listing the vessel to Thailand IUU vessel list



> Detention of fishing vessel

Proactive International Cooperation

1

FAO's Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA)

2

RPOA-IUU

3

ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU)

4

RFMOs Umbrella

- Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) as a member
- Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) as a member
- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) as a cooperation non-members

Thailand's Government Financial Assistance Program for Marine Fishery Sector

Conducted from 2021 to the present

These fisheries support programs have been notified in 2023 under the New & Full Notification of the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures

- 1 Fishing Vessel Removal Program for Sustainable Marine Fishery Resources Management (Phase 2)
- 2 Occupational Development and Strengthening of Fishing Communities Program
- 3 Loan Program to Enhance Liquidity of Fishery Entrepreneurs (Phase 1 & Phase 2)
- 4 Program for Alleviating the Suffering of Fishers whose Fishing Vessels are Affected by Natural Disasters.

1. Fishing Vessel Removal Program for Sustainable Marine Fishery Resources Management (Phase 2)

- **Objective**

- to control the number of commercial fishing vessels to maintain fish stocks above levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield (MSY)

- To compensate fishing vessel owners for their lost opportunity to fish resulting from the government's measures so that they can earn a living and alleviate their debt problems.

- **Form of Subsidies:**

- Provide granting for compensating fishing vessel owners have affected by the government measures since 2015.

- **Method of the Payment:**

- 1. First installment: Pay 30% of the compensation amount for the cost of dismantling or destroying fishing vessels.

- 2. Second installment: Pay 70% of the compensation amount after the owners of the fishing vessel had finished disassembling or destroying the fishing vessel.

- **Qualification:**

- Participated Fishing vessels and operators must not have criminal records related to fishing and human trafficking which are considered serious crimes

- **Budget:**

- The estimated compensation budget for **the 55 fishing vessels** affected by government measures in 2015 is **261,788,400 Baht**

- **Duration:**

- The year 2021-2022

- **Responsible Agencies:**

- The Department of Fisheries

2. Occupational Development and Strengthening of Fishing Communities Program

- **Objective:**

- To replenish fisheries resources
- To support local fishing communities to earn more income and have a better quality of life
- To create awareness on the sustainable utilization of aquatic animal resources
- To promote the participation of local fishing communities in sustainable coastal marine resource management.

- **Form of Subsidies:** Provide funding to local fishing community organizations to manage, maintain, conserve, and utilize fisheries resources in the most balanced and sustainable manner including activities to develop careers and strengthen communities.

- **Target Group**

local fishing community organizations registered with the Department of Fisheries,

- **Duration:**

Fiscal year 2022 & 2023

- **The Amount of Subsidies**

Total Budget is 40,000,000 baht for 400 local fishing community organizations (100,000 baht per each)

- **Fiscal year 2022**: A total budget of 20,000,000 baht for supporting 200 local fishing community organizations.

- **Fiscal year 2023**: A total budget of 20,000,000 baht for supporting 200 local fishing community organizations.

- **Responsible Agency:**

The Department of Fisheries

3. Loan Program to Enhance Liquidity of Fishery Entrepreneurs, Phase 1 & Phase 2

- **Background:**

Strictly enforcement of the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries, has resulted in fishers' burden to proceed according to the related regulations.

- **Objective:**

To enhance liquidity in fishing occupation by supporting low-interest loans to commercial & artisanal fishery entrepreneurs so that they can proceed fisheries operation according to Thai Fisheries law & regulations.

- **Form & Method of Subsidies:**

- The banks provide loans to commercial & artisanal fishery entrepreneurs with an interest rate of 7 percent per year

- The government subsidizing interest at 3 percent per year and fishers pay 4 percent per year for a period of not more than 7 years from the date of starting the loan.

- **Responsible Agencies:**

- 1) Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
- 2) The Department of Fisheries
- 3) Government Savings Bank
- 4) Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives

- **Qualification:**

Participated Fishery entrepreneurs must not be a person prohibited from obtaining a fishing license under Section 39 of the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015) and not a person under legal proceedings according to the law on fisheries.

- **The Amount of Subsidies**

- **Phase 1:** The estimated amount of interest compensation throughout the project period is not more than 250 million baht for 2,312 fishery entrepreneurs who have been approved for credit.

- **Phase 2:** The estimated amount of interest compensation throughout the project period is not more than 1,050 million baht.

- **Duration of the subsidy**

- **Phase 1:** The year 2021 – 2028

- **Phase 2:** The year 2023 – 2030

4. Program for Alleviating the Suffering of Fishers whose Fishing Vessels are Affected by Natural Disasters.

- **Objective:**

To help fishers whose fishing vessels are affected by natural disasters while fishing, taking into account their damage, necessity, and appropriateness in order to alleviate the suffering so that they can resume their livelihoods.

- **Form & Method of Subsidies**

- Providing funds for fishing vessel repairs in the event of damage

- Compensating for fishing vessel losses or damages to the extent that fishing vessels cannot be repaired

(The payment based on actual expenses or damages incurred but not exceeding the specified amount)

- Providing funeral payment in the event of the death of a vessel owner or a crew or missing or not found,

- Providing medical expenses In the event that the fishing vessel owner or a crew is injured.

- **Target Group**

Owners of fishing vessels whose fishing vessels have been damaged due to natural disasters while fishing, where the damaged fishing vessels must be registered as Thai vessels with valid fishing licenses while fishing.

- **The Amount of Subsidies**

- **Fiscal Year 2021:** the total amount of aid is 7,590,163 baht, for 99 fishing vessels

- **Fiscal Year 2022:** the total amount of aid is 4,219,285 baht, for 67 fishing vessels.

- **Fiscal Year 2023:** the total budget is approximately 3,709,000 baht, for 39 fishing vessels.

- **Responsible Agency:**

The Department of Fisheries

Thailand 

PATH TO SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

