



สำนักงานที่ปรึกษาการเกษตรต่างประเทศ ประจำกรุงแคนเบอร์รา
กระทรวงเกษตรและสหกรณ์
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3 Months Area Closure in the Gulf of Thailand

The Gulf of Thailand is closed for 3 months hoping to increase the number of mackerel during its spawning season.



On 14 February 2020, at the Pak Nam Chumphon Pier, Pak Nam Sub-district, Mueang District, Chumphon Province, the Department of Fisheries organized a ceremony to announce the implementation of management measure for fishery resources during spawning and larval raising season in the Gulf of Thailand in the year 2020. The closure covers areas of Prachuap Khiri Khan, Chumphon, Surat Thani Province between 15 February and 15 May 2020.

Mr. Chalermchai Sreeon, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, presided over the ceremony. Mr. Misak Pakdeekong, Director-General of the Department of Fisheries and Mr. Sanit Srivihok, Deputy Governor of Chumphon Province also participated in the ceremony.

Mr. Misak Pakdeekong specified that the management measure has consistently been implemented during this period every year covering an area of 3 provinces of approximately 27,000 square kilometres. It has been one of the important regulations for

sustainable fishery resource management in which the Department of Fisheries has adopted for more than 67 years. Mr. Chalermchai pledges that the regulation shall restore and make fisheries resources sustainable which is the policy to which the Ministry attaches its great importance.

The Department of Fisheries disclosed that over the years of research shows strong decline in number of Indo-Pacific mackerel due to various factors, including the deterioration of fishery resources and the environment, consumer demand, and maybe using certain types of highly efficient gear to fish in the area. Even though such management measure being implemented, illegal fishing generally occurs along the coastal areas which inhibit spawning and offspring living. Therefore, the Department of Fisheries amended the Fisheries Ordinance of 2015 to be stricter and having restricted measures to solve Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU fishing). This results in restoration of fishery population.

Mr. Misak stipulated that this regulation won't drastically affect fishermen. After the closure in the central Gulf of Thailand opens, the special area of 7 nautical miles and bay area of Prachuap-Hua Hin will be further closed for another 30 days for effective management in line with mackerel life cycle which will sustainably restore aquatic resources. In 2019 purse seine fishing vessels caught 114,056 tons of fish. For mackerel alone, catch increased from 578 tons in June to 1,880 tons in July.

Source: Banmuang Newspaper 14 February 2020

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