



Department of Fisheries



Promote Small – scale fisheries in Thailand

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The structural gap, in three numbers

40%

of global fisheries catches

37.3 million tonnes from SSF

1 in 12

livelihoods supported

almost half are women

< 5%

of MSC-certified volume

comes from SSF (estimated)

ARTISANAL Vessels vs. COMMERCIAL Vessels

Type of Vessels	2023 no. of Vessels	2025 no. of Vessels	Share of Fishing Vessels	Share of Total Catch
ARTISANAL	48,776	46,430	80–85%	10–15%
COMMERCIAL	9,497	8,893	15–20%	85–90%

- Coastal or community fishing uses small boats or not, local tools, low investment, relies on household labor and relies primarily on local resources
- Although the no. of artisanal vessels are many more than commercial ones, they share a very small no. of total catch.

Thailand's Marine Capture Artisanal Fisheries Production, 2025



Artisanal Vessel 46,430 units

Workers 91,208 persons

Quantity 280,343.61 MT

Value 27,065 MB

Production by fishing area

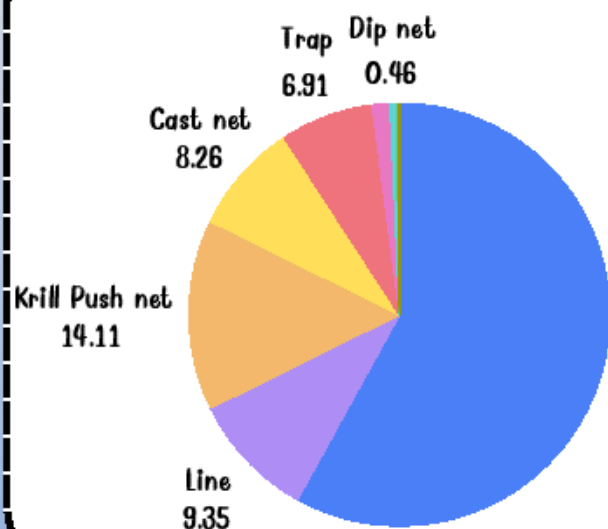
Gulf of Thailand

229,766.37 MT
(81.38%)

Andaman Sea

52,577.24 MT
(18.62%)

Production by types of fishing gear



Gill net	56.25%	Jellyfish dip net	1.31%
Line	9.35%	Dip net	0.46%
Krill Push net	14.11%	Beam trawl	0.15%
Cast net	8.26%	Rake	0.05%
Trap	6.91%	Purse	4.00%

Production by species

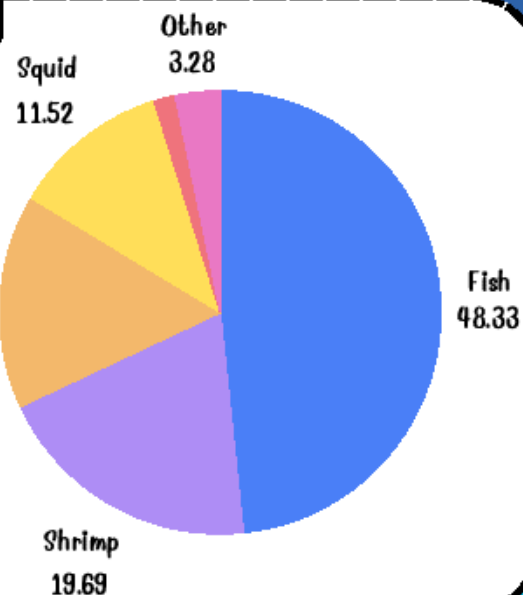
Fish 48.33%

Shrimp 19.69%

Crab 15.62%

Squid 11.52%

Other 3.28%



The Fisheries production group strengthening project

- promote and support local fisheries community organizations in conducting fisheries related activities
- foster collective management
- encourage conservation and rehabilitation
- promote participation in fisheries resource management
- enhance aquatic product processing and value addition
- support marketing and distribution



Step to enhance participation of local fishing community

Step 1 Explain the project and select the fishing community

Step 2 Brainstorm with the fishers

Step 3 Implement the local fishing community plan

Step 4 Monitor, evaluate and report performance results





The local fishing community organizations in Thailand

Section 25 of the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries of 2015, as revised in 2017

local fishing community Organizations

3,599 unit (123,824 members)

Coastal marine fisheries

956 unit

offshore marine fisheries

60 unit

Inland fisheries

867 unit

Aquaculture

1,053 unit

Aquatic animal processing

663 unit

The Strengthen Fisheries Production Groups project in Thailand, 2026 (201 unit)





The local fishing community organisations in Thailand

The Strengthen Fisheries Production Groups project in Thailand, 2026

Aquatic animal processing Activity (51 unit)



Artisanal Fishing Law Change: Big Move, Big Responsibility

Small-scale fishermen can now go beyond the coast and fish in offshore areas.

The Goal

More income and better opportunities for local communities.

Key Takeaway

"More fishing area = A need for smarter monitoring"

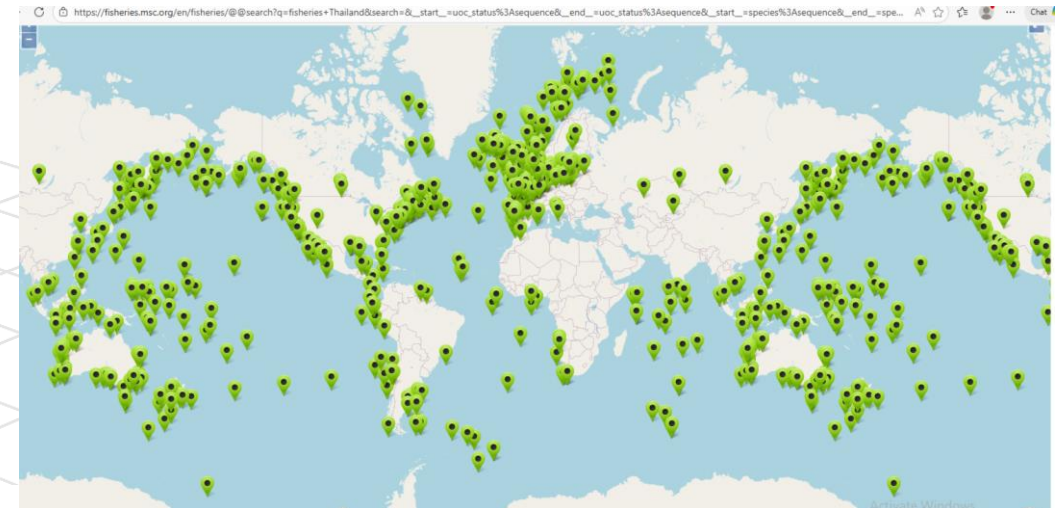
Ecolabeling types in Thailand's small-scale fisheries

1) recognized only in Thailand and neighboring countries

- Gov. : Standard for Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries Practices and Local Fishery Product Processing, Green Flag Fishery Product Logo, Q
- Private-sector brands: Fisherfolk Ecolabel

2) recognized worldwide

- Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)
- ASC



Standard for Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries Practices and Local Fishery Product Processing

1. Promote participation and support for local fishing community organizations to ensure the sustainable use of aquatic resources
2. Encourage the processing of local marine fishery products to meet standards, ensuring high-quality and safe products for consumers
3. Enhance the income and quality of life of small scale fishers, fostering stability and sustainability in the fishing industry

Sustainable Local Fisheries Standards: 4 main requirements for fishing boats



**Environmentally
Friendly
And
Sustainable
Fishing Practices**



**Practices
Responsibility
for the Safety
of Fishery
Products**



**Social
Responsibility**



Traceability

Small Scale Local Fishery Product Processing Standards :

3 mains requirements for small scale processors

Raw material



Hygiene in processing



Traceability



Standards for Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries Practices and Local Fishery Product



**Sustainable Local Fisheries
Standards for fishing boat**



**Small Scale Local Fishery Product
Processing**

Certified by DoF (Voluntary standard)

Green Flag Fishery Product Logo



Certified by DoF for fishery products and aquatic animal products from small-scale farmers and community enterprises, guaranteeing freshness, cleanliness, safety, and environmental friendliness.



Fisherman shop @Bangkhen



- DoF has established Fisherman shops to offer a marketplace for selling fishery products from small scale processors.
- To serve as a platform for promoting and marketing fishery products from processors

Lessons Learned: Fisherfolk Ecolabel Initiative



- **Model:** a private-sector brand managed by SSF promote sustainability, direct-to-consumer sales, provide fair pricing and increase income for fishers
- **Growth:** Private partners helped to expand the network. Online sales, supported by efficient logistics, market access and maintain strong consumer demand.
- **Success Factors :** Digital platforms and efficient logistics are critical for market success
- **Key takeaways:** Private-sector, community-based branding can drive sustainability, Partnerships enable growth

Current instruments for SSF ?

- International certification, MSC and ASC, are difficult to achieve for small-scale fisheries. In addition, the certification cost is high.
- Artisanal fisher mostly rely on "Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs)" or NGOs or government for assistance.
- Often the domestic market does not give value on this ecolabel or standard.
- **Weak point:** limited market information, lack of product documentation.

Ecolabeling Advantages

- More of an incentive-based tool rather than a form of mandatory.
- Creating an “added value” instead of aiming for a mass market.
- The SSF standard is raised due to by the demand-side (consumer) factors.
- The number of certification applications is increasing by approximately $> 5\%$ per year.

Ecolabeling Disadvantages. Standards for Local Fishery Product Processing :

- Discontinuity of the value chain: while upstream (fishing) is doing well, Downstream (processing) is still lagging behind
- Compliance cost is high, especially on the processing side, requiring dedicated buildings/premises, quality control and data recording.
 - Not aligned with SSF's capital potential.
- Restricting raw materials for production to only from certified vessels causes a discontinuous supply affecting the feasibility of processors.
- Lack of knowledge, documentation, quality control and record keeping due to experience required and comprehensive understanding.

Most Impactful Policy Changes

- ❖ Tailored Certification Systems
- ❖ Financial and Technical Support
- ❖ Strengthen Domestic Markets (not only export)
- ❖ Support Local Infrastructure (Fisher cooperatives and direct to consumer marketing channels)
- ❖ Integrated Management (resource management with community development)



