



PROVISIONAL PROSPECTUS

Visit to a Frozen Seafood Company and Fishing Vessel Inspection to Assess Opportunities for Improving Market Access for Indo-Pacific Mackerel from the Gillnet Supply Chain in Tha Sala District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, Thailand, 28–30 October 2026

1. Background

Under the Japanese Trust Fund VII (JTF7)-supported project “Improving Fishers’ Livelihood and Fisheries Co-Management in Inland and Coastal Small-Scale Fisheries” (2025–2029), supply chain studies have been undertaken in Lao PDR, the Philippines, and Thailand to assess existing small-scale fisheries supply chains and identify practical opportunities for improving fishers’ livelihoods. In Thailand, the study focuses on the Indo-Pacific Mackerel Gillnet Supply Chain in Tha Sala District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province. Following completion of the supply chain study, a stakeholder consultation workshop was conducted to validate the findings and identify priority interventions with fishers, traders, and other relevant stakeholders. The study findings were accepted by the stakeholders. Participants highlighted the need to maintain the freshness and quality of Indo-Pacific mackerel, particularly during periods of high catch when fishers may not be able to sell all fish immediately. Better preservation could provide fishers with greater flexibility in selling their catch and strengthen their bargaining position.

As a practical follow-up, the use of a chill box with ice was proposed to improve onboard preservation. Before developing or applying the system, additional technical information on fishing vessels, onboard working conditions, available space, catch handling practices, and operational requirements is needed to ensure that the proposed technology is appropriate, practical, and cost-efficient for small-scale gillnet fishers.

In addition, improved fish quality should be linked with potential market opportunities. A frozen seafood company was identified as a possible alternative market that could help absorb fish during periods of abundant catch and reduce the impact of declining prices. Therefore, a visit to a frozen seafood company is proposed to better understand its product quality specifications, purchasing requirements, supply volume, handling, preservation, and other conditions for accepting Indo-Pacific mackerel from Tha Sala. The field visit and vessel inspection will provide technical and market information needed to develop practical follow-up interventions under Activity 2.1.2: Development and Improvement of Small-Scale Fisheries Supply Chain.

2. Objectives

- To assess the feasibility of applying a chill box system on small-scale gillnet fishing vessels based on vessel characteristics, fishing operations, catch volume, and current onboard handling practices.
- To understand the frozen seafood company’s (Nissui) requirements for sourcing Indo-Pacific mackerel, particularly quality, quantity, handling, delivery, and purchasing conditions.
- To explore potential market linkages and practical options for improving catch quality and market access for small-scale fishers in Tha Sala.

3. Expected Outputs

- Technical specifications and recommendations for an appropriate chill box system for small-scale gillnet fishing vessels.
- Identified requirements and conditions for supplying Indo-Pacific mackerel to the frozen seafood market.
- Recommended actions for improving catch quality and strengthening market linkages, including key opportunities and constraints for small-scale fishers in Tha Sala

4. Participants

The activity will involve relevant SEAFDEC staff from one SEC, two FMS/RDD, and one TRD (technical personnel supporting the assessment of the chill box application), the national focal person from Thailand, local fishers and stakeholders in Tha Sala, and representatives of the frozen seafood company.

5. Date and Location

The activity will be conducted during 28–30 October 2026 in Tha Sala District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, and at the selected frozen seafood company, which is Nissui in Hat Yai District, Songkhla Province, Thailand.

6. Tentative Activities

Time	Activity	Responsible team/Remark
Wednesday, 28 October 2026 (Day 1)		
08.00-12.00	Traveling from Bangkok to Nakhon Si Thammarat	SEAFDEC/TD
12.00-13.00	Lunch	
13.00-16.00	- Meeting with fishers to inspect Indo-Pacific mackerel gillnet fishing vessels and discuss vessel space, fishing operations, catch handling practices, current use of ice and containers, and practical requirements for an appropriate chill box system.	SEAFDEC/TD and fisher
Thursday, 29 October 2026 (Day 2)		
08.00-11.30	Travel to Hat Yai, Songkhla Province	SEAFDEC/TD
11.30-13.00	Lunch	
13.00-17.00	- Visit Nissui Hat Yai factory to discuss product specifications, quality and freshness requirements, size, quantity, delivery, purchasing arrangements, and potential market linkage. - Interview the middleman or fisher who sells fish to Nissui Hat Yai factory who located in Songkhla	SEAFDEC/TD and DOF
Friday, 30 October 2026 (Day 3)		
09.00-12.00	Meeting with DOF to identify practical next steps for improving catch quality and market access based on the information obtained.	SEAFDEC/TD and DOF
12.00-13.00	Lunch	
13.00-21.00	Travelling back to Bangkok	SEAFDEC/TD and DOF

* The schedule might be adjusted for stakeholder availability

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