

# The adaptability to shock in small-scale fishing community : Case Studies Bang Ya Preak sub-district, Samut Sakorn province

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**Illegal, unreported and  
unregulated fishing-related  
regulation (IUU) as  
unexpected shock**



# IUU as Unexpected shock toward small-scale fishery in Thailand

- ▶ Yellow card becomes a crucial issue in 2015 on IUU regulation
  - The warning that Thailand practice illegal, underreport and unregulated fishing activities. (European Commission, 2015; (EC) No 1005/2008)
  - The failure to resolve this issues will cost Thailand around for \$200–300 million or at worst \$500 million (Akrayut, 2015)
- ▶ Domestic change
  - Relevant laws *suddenly imposed* such as Royal Enactment of Fishing 2015, subsequently royal decree in following year
  - The public organization is established to inspect trafficking and other illegal activities such as Command Center for Combating Illegal fishing (CCIF)

# The measurement on small-scale fishing

- ▶ **Registration** system is imposed (Section 32 fishery royal enactment, 2016)
- ▶ **Report system** is applied to this group (Section 33 Fishery royal enactment, 2016)
- ▶ The territory where traditional fishing vessel can do fishing is restricted **within only 3 sea-mile from land** (Section 34 Fishery royal enactment, 2016)
- ▶ The prohibition of some fishing equipment considered as highly devastating such as trawl net and push net

# Area of Study

- ▶ Bang Ya Preak Sub-district, Samut Sakorn Province
  - In Thailand, Samut Sakorn province is one of the 10 largest fishing port in Thailand. It have a 41.8 long coastal line along with Gulf of Thailand as in Figs.1 (Samutsakhon Province, 2014)

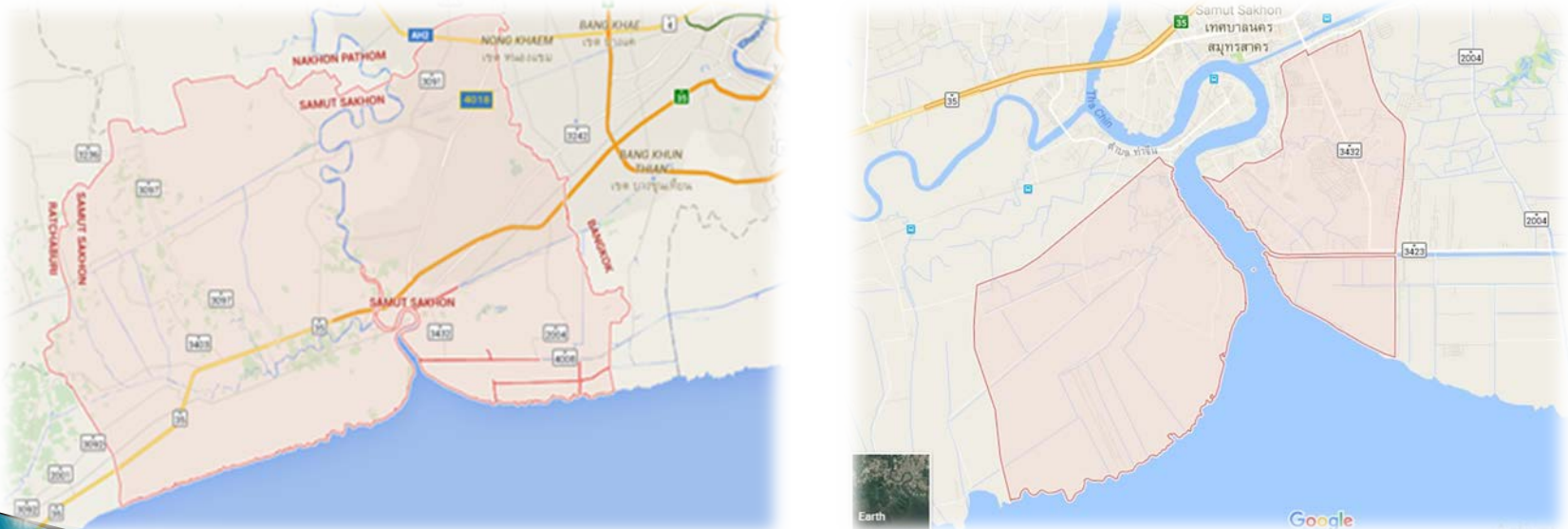


Figure 1: (Source: Google Map, 2016)

# What men and women are doing?

- ▶ In this community, men specifically do fishing
- ▶ They own their own fishing gear
- ▶ Traditionally, they learn how to fish from their fathers
- ▶ Fishery as masculine job
- ▶ Women do not fish alone.
  - “ From my experience, since I was born, I have never seen female fisher. Sometimes, I might see them accompany their husband but not alone”
- ▶ They might do some marine product processing such as drying small fish, salting krill before selling to small distributor call “Long”
- ▶ Domestic work is still in the hand of women

# Sudden shock and its effect

“...Everything becomes a cost for us. I was even asked to **apply a seamen book for this artisanal fishing vessel** (Hang Yao) like this—then point his hand to his boat. It is very ridiculous because it is only me who do fishing and whatever part of this boat need to be changed I have to **pay to the authority for such change**. Although, I really want to use migrant labour, human trafficking is still an issue scaring me if I do so; whereas, my son does not want to fish after attaining formal education and my wife normally do not fish...”

(Mr. Neung, Personal Communication, July 13, 2016)

# Change in fishing pattern

- ▶ Form the individual work to the synergic work
  - The new equipment floating net demand more labour to apply (at least 3 people)
  - Women's labour in that area become demanded for fishing in response to such shock
    - “...If in a household, wife and son also fish, they might be able to change to use new equipment smoothly...”



**Just IUU?**

# Constant stress from their perspectives

## ▶ Attitude toward this job

- The younger generation do not fish after receiving formal education, the gradual change in sense of masculine and being fishermen

“...The new equipment requires at least 3 people in using the net (Aun-Loy), but in my family there is only me who do fishing because my son does not really want to practice this fishing anymore after attaining school. This is completely different from when I was young. **At that time, I follows my dad to the boat since I can remember.** Thus, tell them (government) don't worried we are the last generation of fishers in this village....”

(Mr. Neung, Personal Communication, July 13, 2016)

## ▶ Seasons and species

# Constant stress from their perspective

- ▶ The clash of the knowledge
  - From the central government's perspectives, trawl net is considered as highly devastating equipment
  - From their perspective, other equipment does not fit to that area as reflected:

“...the equipment we are told to use does not match to the geography of this area which is so muddy and the species aqua animal we catch regularly (Krill) to feed ourselves. (Laugh for a while) you know the Bangkok scholars are still mistaken that krill is shrimp and think that we catch shrimps. I used to challenge them to rear krill and see if it will transform to shrimp...”

**Attempt to adapt and  
constraint**

# Adaptability and transformation

- ▶ **Material aspect**
  - The assets and access (Allison & Ellis, 2001)
- ▶ **Socio-economic aspect**
  - Gender, age, class
  - Institutional constraint such as political institution (Weeratunge et al, 2010)
- ▶ **Emotional aspect**
  - Perception in which they can adapt to such shock and stress (Bene et al, 2016).


# Some various effort to adapt to stress and shock

- ▶ In order to deal with season, household needs to diversify their catch species according to its season eg. Shrimp in January–March and Krill and trash fish in August–November.
  - Men transfer this skill through other male member
- ▶ Illicit fishing activities become an option for the fishermen in this area eg fishing with prohibited equipment and during the period of time where they are not allowed, going beyond the limited boundary.
- ▶ Once, male is discouraged from dealing with such shock from IUU, some household decide to abandon fishing livelihood = Livelihood collapsed

# Some various effort to adapt to stress and shock

- ▶ Women need to do fishing for the survival of family while fish processing and domestic work are still on their shoulders in response the shortage in labour

# The questions to scrutinize further

- ▶ Why some households can sustain their livelihood; whereas, some cannot? / Does gender play any role?
  - ▶ Within the different choices available for men and women according to gender norm, what are their strategies applied to sustain their livelihoods and the emotional aspect of those men and women?
  - ▶ If fishing needed to be conducted by men and women instead of only by men, does it change power relation between men and women?
  - ▶ Is the connection between being fisherman and masculinity is going to change?
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# Acknowledge

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**Thank you very much**

