

Commercial Fisheries Status of Nakhon Si Thammarat Province in 2009

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Abstract

The study on status of commercial fisheries in the area of Nakhon Si Thammarat Province was conducted by collecting data from 3 types of trawler, i.e. small otter board trawlers, medium otter board trawlers and paired trawlers; and 3 types of purse seiners, i.e. purse seine with fish aggregating devices, light luring purse seine and Thai purse seine at 3 fishing ports located in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province during January-December 2010. The results showed that the fishing ground of small otter board trawlers was the area with 10-30 meters of water depth from Ranote District, Songkhla Province to the north of Ko Pa-Ngan, Surattani Province. While the fishing ground of medium otter board trawlers was the area with 10-70 meters of water depth from Ranote District, Songkhla Province to the north of Ko Pa-Ngan, Surattani Province. For paired trawlers, their fishing ground was 18-60 meters in water depth and covered the areas from the north of Ko Losin, Pattani Province to Surattani Province with high density of fishing in the area with 40-50 meters of water depth. For purse seiners, they mainly fish in the area with 20-70 meters of water depth from the east of Laem Talumphuk, Ko Kra, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province to the east of Ko Samui, the east and the north of Ko Pa-Ngan, Surattani Province. In term of the average catch per unit effort (CPUE), there were 19.11 ± 7.37 , 39.31 ± 11.00 and 111.86 ± 32.78 kg/hr for small otter board trawlers, medium otter board trawlers and paired trawlers, respectively. These three types of trawlers caught 80.57%, 71.21% and 74.67% of economic marine species; and 19.43%, 28.79% and 25.33% of trash fish, respectively, and the compositions of trash fish caught by them were 46.33%, 39.61% and 39.03% of young economic marine species; and 53.77%, 60.39% and 60.79% of true trash fish, respectively. For purse seine with fish aggregating devices, light luring purse seine and Thai purse seine, their average CPUE were $4,294.34 \pm 4,715.09$, $3,108.17 \pm 2,684.38$ and $3,469.39 \pm 2,813.12$ kg/day, respectively. The pelagic fish, which was the biggest composition in catch of these three types of purse seines, contributed 94.48%, 84.19% and 97.38% of total catch, respectively.

It was found in all type of trawlers that the size of demersal species in economic marine resource group was apparently bigger than the size of same species in trash fish group. The average size

and length at first capture of some species, such as Japanese threadfin bream (*Nemipterus japonicus*), Purplespotted bigeye (*Priacanthus tayenus*), Slender lizardfish (*Saurida elongata*), Brushtooth lizardfish (*S. undosquamis*) and Indian mackerel (*Rastrelliger kanagurta*), caught by small otter board trawlers were smaller than those caught by medium otter board trawlers and paired trawlers. It was also found that Short mackerel (*R. brachysoma*) caught by purse seines with fish aggregating devices and light luring purse seine were smaller than such fish caught by other types of fishing gears.

Key words : marine resources, commercial fisheries, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province

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