Crab Trap Fishery in Ranong Province

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Abstract

Crab trap fishery in Ranong Province were studied in Kapoe and Suksamran Districts during January 2004 to May 2005. Species composition percentage of crab trap was 96.58 of crab, which were 49.63 % of blue swimming crab (Portunus pelagicus), 25.77% of three spot crab (P. sanguinolentus), 16.40% of rock swimming crab (Charybdis spp.) and 4.78% of other crabs. Monthly average carapace width of blue swimming crab in Kapoe fishing ground varied from 8.55-11.31 cm which smaller than that of the Suksamran fishing ground (11.70-13.47 cm).

Kapoe fishing ground have characteristic as bay and water run off from canals. Crab trap was operated all year round. The total crab catch rate was 0.47 kg/10 traps or 12.02 kg/trip and blue swimming crab catch rate was 0.39 kg/10 traps or 10.17 kg/trip. The average fishing cost was 200.00 baht/trip and revenue from boiled crab meat was 689.00 baht, net cash income was 489.00 baht.

Suksamran fishing ground is near by open sea. Fishing season found during October to February each year. Local fishermen used small longtail boat (11-13 H.P.) for fishing. Total crab catch rate showed 0.60 kg/10 traps or 15.43 kg/trip and blue swimming crab catch rate was 0.05 kg/10 traps or 1.05 kg/trip. The average fishing cost was 285.00 baht/trip and revenue from boiled crab meat was 885.70 baht, while the net cash income was 600.70 baht. Compare to the fisherman moved from Chumporn and Surathani Province which fishing by longtail boat (110-115 H.P.), total crab catch rate was 0.56 kg/10 traps or 100.07 kg/trip and blue swimming crab catch rate was 0.31 kg/10 traps or 54.86 kg/trip. The average fishing cost was 3,345.68 baht/trip and revenue from crab was 5,728.55 baht, net cash income was 2,382.87 baht.

Key words: crab trap, blue swimming crab, Portunus pelagicus, Ranong Province

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