



UPDATES FROM THE WATER

OCTOBER 2020

THAILAND BLUE SWIMMING CRAB

Gear Type: Gillnet and Traps

Volume: 12,000 MT

FIP Stage: 4 (Improvements in Fishing Practices or Fishery Management)

Progress Rating: B (Good Practices)

Start Date: February 2017

Thailand's Surat Thani blue swimming crab fishery has an export value of \$60 to \$80 million and includes approximately 1,300 small-scale vessels and 100 commercial vessels. Over the years, the blue swimming crab population dropped. Several issues facing the fishery led to the decline, including over-exploitation in heavily fished inshore areas, harvest of undersized crabs and egg-carrying females, lack of a management plan or harvest strategy, and lack of enforcement capacity. Industry stakeholders created a fishery improvement project to address these challenges. The pandemic caused some delays as the government issued an emergency decree from March until July, restricting travel. Despite this, the FIP continued to make notable progress - a genetic analysis of the population was conducted, better information on endangered, threatened, and protected species and habitat distribution was provided by the government, and the Fisheries Management Plan was revised.

Over the coming year, FIP stakeholders will work to understand the impact of ghost gear on the blue swimming crab stock and the ecosystem, hold a stakeholder consultation to determine appropriate minimum landing size, and update the stock assessment model a new method. The current stock assessment model shows is around a healthy level. We anticipate the updated model will show a similar result. This FIP has historically engaged many stakeholders including fishers. A community leader is a member of the Provincial Fisheries Committee to represent small-scale fishers, sharing their experience and challenges. He has voting rights in the committee in developing local regulations.

Become a WWF FIP participant today by visiting:

<https://seafoodsustainability.org/fisheries/fishery-improvement-projects-signup>

Being a WWF FIP Participant provides a pre-competitive space for companies to engage with fisheries in their supply chains and leverage power across multiple companies to drive fishery improvements forward. By signing on to support a FIP, you are joining forces with other leaders in the industry that seek to help conserve marine ecosystems and advance the livelihoods for millions of people who depend on them.

WWF recognizes FIP participants on the industry website, SeafoodSustainability.org. WWF also works with FIP participants to communicate the benefits of FIPs among key buyers, sustainable business leaders, employees, environmental activists, and other key constituencies.

Together we can protect oceans and the food and livelihoods they can sustainably provide.

For more information or to partner with WWF, please visit SeafoodSustainability.org or contact us at info@seafoodsustainability.org
