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UPDATES FROM THE WATER

OCTOBER 2021

SURAT THANI (THAI) BLUE SWIMMING CRAB

Gear Type: Gillnet and Traps

Volume: 12,000 MT

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

Progress Rating: A (Advanced Progress)

Start Date: February 2017

The Surat Thani blue swimming crab FIP has continued to make progress over the last six months despite the challenges provided by the COVID-19 pandemic. The fishery volume was reduced because of the lockdown restrictions implemented in Thailand, but accurate numbers for the volume are currently not available. Despite the imposed reductions in fishing activity, the FIP still managed to make progress on some of the activities specified in the Action Plan.

The Governor of Surat Thani province signed off on a conservation area for the blue swimming crab nursery grounds, which had been agreed to through a stakeholder consultation process. This recommendation will now be submitted to the Minister for Fisheries and will then become an official regulation with appropriate restrictions able to be enforced in this area. A stakeholder consultation process also completed an evaluation of impacts on bycatch in the blue swimming crab fishery. The final report on this work will be released in October 2021.

In addition, the Department of Fisheries conducted an internal revision of the blue swimming crab Fishery Management Plan and will initiate a stakeholder consultation process as part of the next steps for this plan. Research on the impacts of ghost gear was also undertaken in three different areas of Surat Thani, differing in fishing intensity and resources. The work is being done to evaluate the impacts of ghost gear on the environment as well as target species.

Over the past several months, there has been a strong interest to expand the FIP to include Chumphon to the north and Nakhon Sri Thammarat to the south; however, this has been put on hold until the COVID-19 situation is resolved.

Sign up to become a FIP Participant today by visiting:

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

Help conserve marine ecosystems, protect livelihoods, and increase the number of sustainable fisheries and the overall supply of sustainable seafood.

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](https://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, please visit seafoodsustainability.org