

Kridsana Mookkaew 2012: Status of Resource Management of Blue Swimming Crabs in Phang-nga Bay: A Case Study of People's Participation at Bangphat Communities, Tambon Bangtoey, Muang District, Phang-nga Province. Master of Science (Marine Science), Major Field: Marine Science, Department of Marine Science. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Saran Petpiroon, Ph.D. 215 pages.

Fishing communities' participation is crucial for conservation and resource management of blue swimming crabs in Phang-nga Bay. The objectives of this research were to study personal characteristics, socio-economic conditions, resource status of blue swimming crabs, level of people's participation, personal factors involving economic and fisheries condition that affected satisfaction on Coastal Habitats and Resources Management (CHARM) Project. Sixty-five households were selected from Bangphat Communities, Tambon Bangtoey, Muang District, Phang-nga Province as a case study. Data has been collected secondarily from research documents and primary data were gathered by interviews, questionnaires and carapace crabs measuring. The statistical analysis included descriptive and inferential statistics.

The results revealed that crab gill-nets fisheries is the main occupation while shrimp paste manufacturing, aquaculture and trading business are secondary occupation. Eco-tourism became the main attraction in the community recently. Most participants have some kinds of debt from career. Participation level of the management of blue swimming crab resources was high in from of crab bank project, communities' regulations of fisheries, designate conserved. Participation level was higher in male than women while there were some variations on participation level on the differentiation of income. Participants with higher participation rate in the CHARM project also had higher satisfaction. After the end of CHARM project, some activities were able to be carried on with few problems after end of the project. Community participation could be lead to conservation activities, managements and will be able to support sustainable fisheries in Phang-nga Bay.

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