

ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : Traditional Fishermen's Way of Life in Songkhla Province
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The objectives of this research are 1. to study the traditional fishermen's ways of life in Songkhla Province, 2. to study change in the fishermen's way of life, and 3. to study trends and needs for occupation support of the fishermen. The study was done through the in-depth interviews of 15 fishermen who acted as key-informants including the context observation; data obtained were later analysed contextually with descriptive statistics.

Results of the study can be summarized as follows:

1. The traditional fishermen's ways of life comprise the plan for living on the fishing days and on the day-off; their living location is close to the seashore where they can fish; most of their daily food comes from the sea; their health also relate to the sea conditions; their main beliefs are from Islam; they converse well in local Malay dialect.

2. In sea fishing, they use two types of boat, the short tailed and the one with motor generator; the first one is for catching sea animals with various kinds of net; the second type is used for fishing small fish (for making fish source and drying). Fishing is done seasonally; they gain knowledge and experiences mostly through the transmission from their ancestors; the modern tools for fishing they use today can catch more fish than before.

3. Problems and obstacles facing them today are the changing in the environment resulting in reducing marine resources and the increase in capital for fishing.

4. The fishermen tend to make a living on fishing in the future and they want the government's help, particularly in the occupational funding, organizing occupational group and other occupational facilities.

Recommendations emerged from this study are the local government should provide more supporting measures for the fishermen including supplementary occupations to increase their income, among others.