

Achiraya Wongkaew 2012: Factors in Deciding Fishing Locations and Fishing Seasons, and the Switch of Fishing Gears for Blue Swimming Crab (*Portunus pelagicus* (Linnaeus, 1758)) by Small –Scale Fishers. Master of Science (Fishery Management), Major Field: Fishery Management, Department of Fishery Management. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Jiraporn Trisak, Ph.D. 68 pages.

This research focuses on investigating the logic behind the small-scale fishers' decisions in relation to financial factors (cost, revenue and profit), an aspect of fishers behavior. I collected catch data during October 2006-September 2007 from the fishers in a small-scale blue swimming crab (*Portunus pelagicus* (Linnaeus, 1758)) fishery in Bangpra Subdistrict, Chonburi province. The fishery typically employs crab trap and gill nets in four fishing grounds, Bangsan, Sriracha, Udom Bay and Banglamung. The results from this study indicated that the fishers' decision where to fish is independent from the financial factors. The decision to fish seasonally has nothing to do with the financial factors for fishing with trap. In contrast, revenue and profit influence in the decision for fishing with gill net. The results from this study also suggest that the fishers switch from gill net in the winter to trap in the summer correspondingly to the changes of income and profit. Furthermore, the results and observed evidences from the study suggest that convenience and safety of fishing trip could possibly involve in the decision where to fish.

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Thesis Advisor's signature