

## Abstract

Sea turtles are one of precious natural resources in Thailand which were abundant in history, yet, they have been threatened and their populations have declined dramatically. So far, those turtles are rare to be found and have reached the endangered condition. At all events, the loss of marine turtles have been caused by many reasons due to the reckless act of mankind – bottom trawling; destruction of natural habitats, which are the main substances from rich feeding grounds to nutrient poor nesting sites; and the intensive harvest, as turtles are utilized for sustenance, traditional feasts and to generate extra income for those who sell their shell, meat and eggs. Those are vital causes of the rapid decline in sea turtles.

The paper presents that Thailand is lack of sea turtle conservation national policy but, certain regulations can be applied to protect the turtles which are the regulations on the turtle habitat management through the natural environment act, city planning and promotion of public participation on co-management with government ; the regulations for the protection of sea turtle species and habitat area through the geographical restrictions, hunting and possession prohibition; the laws to prevent and solve the endangered sea turtles caused by human activities, such as, fishing, tourism activities, and disposal of pollutant to the sea. These laws and regulations mentioned are concordant to the international laws involved the marine turtle conservation.

However, problems concerned the law measures to protect sea turtles are still arising. For instance, government has not brought the existing laws to apply to the sea turtle management regulations and some of their habitat territories have not been declared as protected area. Moreover, the fishers are not apprehensive to the law enforcement according to low rate penalty; federal officers are confused about their authorities because of the indistinctness of the agreement; and the most importance, the lack of willingness of fishers to conserve sea turtle species

Therefore, results suggest that government needs to establish the national policy for sea turtles in order to actively protect sea turtles in the perspective of the habitat management for marine turtles laws, to make the announcements of protected

area due to sea turtle habitat and intensify the punishment and security measures enforcing to those who break the conservation of sea turtles laws, including to encourage conservational awareness of endangered turtle species within the population of Thailand.