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THITIYA THAWAN-ITTHIKORN: INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT OF
THE NORTHERN PART OF THE INNER GULF OF THAILAND. THESIS ADVISOR:
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The northern part of the Inner Gulf of Thailand is highly important coastal area due to its location where 4 major rivers namely, Bang Pakong, Chao Phraya, Tha Chin and Mae Klong, drain into the Gulf of Thailand. As a consequence, the area is subdivided into 3 parts by the rivers. The eastern part spanning from Bang Pakong estuary to Chao Phraya estuary is predominantly industrial area. Such development brings about pollution which causes adverse effects on fisheries and aquaculture. Moreover, water shortage, flood and coastal erosion are increasing problems. The central part spanning from Chao Phraya estuary westward to Tha Chin estuary is mainly used for aquaculture particularly natural shrimp farms. While urban settlement as well as fishery-related industries are congregated at the Tha Chin estuary westward to Mae Klong estuary is mostly used for aquaculture, salt production and fisheries. From this study, integrated coastal management is proposed by concentrating on abatement and reduction of impact. This management should be followed by means of zoning measures to encourage activities appropriate for their respective area, rehabilitation of diminishing mangrove forest, and promoting aquaculture, which is important in reducing fishery related problems. Such measures should alleviate problems arising from land use conflicts and ultimately allow sustainable utilization of coastal resources.