Project Plan of "Study on Catch Composition in Bottom Gillnet Fisheries, Ban Phe, Rayong Province"

Nakaret Yasook

Bottom gillnet is one of important fishing gear of Thai fisheries. In year 2011, Department of fisheries, Thailand (DOF, Thailand) reports number of bottom gillnetter 7,164 fishing boats operated in Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea. Dominant type of gillnet is miscellaneous what majority composed with fish gillnet, 3,810 gillnetters, crab gillnet is second dominant, 2,321 gillnetters and the shrimp gillnet or trammel net is 1013 gillnetter. More than 80% of gillnetters are small scale fisher operating with fishing boat 5-10 m length overall, around the coastal area of Thailand. In coastal fisheries, length of gillnet is operate from 500-2000 m. and roughly length of gillnet operate in both Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea is from 3,500 – 15,000 km. Statistics of catch landing of gillnet recorded by DOF-Thailand in year 2008 shows the landing of marine product by all type of gillnet is about 85,000 metric ton, however there are none of statistic record in each particular type of gillnet.

FAO reports the incidental catches by gillnet are various species including marine mammal and seabird. However both of incidental catches caused by drifting gillnet what operated in certain fishing area. Less understanding of bycatch of bottom gillnet operated in coastal area. In fact small scale fishers are limited in fishing effort regarding to the size of fishing boat, capital investment, and number of fishers, however, with the massive quantity reflected by the total length of gillnet what calculated from statistic data, supplement by weight of landing marine product by gillnet fisheries, bycatch of bottom gillnet may occur in last volume and almost of them less valuable marine product in economic but high vulnerable to marine ecosystem. So that Investigation for bycatch in diversity and estimation of bycatch should be investigate in order to be based information prepare for further management or fishing technology development to reduce bycatch in the future.

During 2012-2015, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) and some Japanese Universities and Research Institutes has been undertaken the cooperative research project namely, "Coastal Capability Enhance in Southeast Asia" in corporation with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD), Eastern Marine Fisheries Development Center (EMDEC) of Department of Fisheries-Thailand, Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University (KU). It is very good opportunity for junior researchers of EMDEC of DOF-Thailand, SEAFDEC/TD, KU to corporate study on various project in related with Area Capability of Set Net, Rayong province. The Study on Catch composition in Bottom Gillnet Fisheries in Ban Phe, ayong Province is able to fulfill the information of catch composition of bottom gillnet of study area and reflect the estimation of bycatch of bottom gillnet in Eastern Gulf of Thailand and fishing technology to improve bycatch selectivity in the future.