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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

Foreign Fisheries Leaflet No. 72-5

FISHERIES OF THAILAND, 1970



International Activities Staff

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Fisheries of Thailand, 1970

Summary

Thailand's 1970 fish catch amounted to 1,448,404 metric tons, an increase of 14 percent over 1969. Marine fish accounted for over 90 percent of the catch. About 50 percent of the total catch was sold and consumed fresh; 22 percent processed into fish meal; and the rest preserved by smoking, salting, drying, and fermenting.

Thailand's fishery imports in 1970 (compared to 1969) increased by 42 percent in tonnage and 0.5 percent in value. Main sources of imports were Malaysia and Japan. Major items imported were canned fish, fish preparations, and preserved fish, including crustacea and mollusks. Fishery exports increased in volume by 49 percent and in value by 3.7 percent. Shrimp, prawn, and lobster still constitute the major export items, mainly to Japan. About 52 percent of total fishery export earnings came from Japan, 17 percent from the United States.

I. COMMERCIAL FISHING

The Department of Fisheries estimates that the total fish catch in 1970 was 1,448,404 metric tons, 14 percent higher than in 1969.

Marine Fishing. The total catch of marine fish amounted to 1,335,690 metric tons, an increase of 13.2 percent from the 1969 level. The number of fishing boats, according to the 1970 survey of the Department of Fisheries totaled 27,521, of which 8,313 were non-powered and 19,208 powered. Fishing gear used in the marine fisheries in Thailand is broadly classified into the following major types: otter board trawl, pair trawl, Thai purse seine, bamboo stake trap, Chinese purse seine, anchovy purse seine, Spanish mackerel drift gill net, and others.

Otter board trawling accounted for about half of the total catch, and played the most significant role in marine fisheries in Thailand. Catch by species is shown in Table 1.

Due to a decline in the resources in the Gulf of Thailand and to the prospect that Thailand may some day face a shortage of fish unless necessary action is taken, programs have been developed to conserve fishery resources by breeding fish in coastal waters and by deep-sea fishing in international waters. The Department of Fisheries has undertaken a priority project of shrimp farming development to improve efficiency, particularly in the coastal lands not yet utilized. In 1970, the Department made a survey in the Bay of Bengal, outside of East Pakistan's territorial waters, and discovered new fishing grounds which are believed to be rich in marine life.

Freshwater Fishing. The 1970 catch of freshwater fish increased by 24.6 percent, from 90,439 metric tons in 1969 to 112,714 metric tons.

Information supplied by U.S. Embassy, Bangkok, Thailand, January 1972

Major species were the serpent-head fish, catfish and carp, including the highly valued Chinese carp. Serpent-head fish and climbing perch are quite common. They are found in abundance in large rivers and tributaries, flooded swamp-land, and in large reservoirs in the Central Plain and the Northeastern regions.

II. PRODUCTION OF PROCESSED FISHERIES PRODUCTS

Most of the Thai fish catch is sold and consumed fresh. Dried, salted, and smoked fish are also favorite Thai foods. Fish sauce is used by most Thais instead of salt. In 1970, there were 346 factories making fishery products, including 93 salted fish factories, 114 fish sauce factories, 39 shrimp paste factories, 18 steamed fish factories, 24 dried and salted shrimp factories, 2 canned fish factories and 7 fish meal factories.

The utilization of fish catch in 1969 and 1970 is shown in Table 2; utilization (by species) of the marine and freshwater fish catch is shown in Tables 3 and 4.

III. FOREIGN TRADE IN FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS

Both Thailand's imports and exports of fishery products increased in 1970. Imports rose by 42 percent in tonnage and 0.5 percent in value to 13,748 metric tons valued at $\text{฿}78.5$ million (US\$3.8 million).^{1/} Exports increased by 49 percent in tonnage and 3.7 percent in value to 30,958 metric tons valued at $\text{฿}331.9$ million (US\$15.9 million).

The major imports, by value, are canned fish and fish preparations while exports are mainly fresh and frozen shrimp. Malaysia and Japan are the major suppliers of fishery products to Thailand. Japan and the United States the major customers for Thailand's fisheries exports.

Table 5 shows Thailand's import and export of fishery products.

^{1/} US\$ 1.00 equals Baht 20.8

Table 1. Thailand's Fisheries Catch; 1969-70.

<u>Catch</u>	<u>1969</u> (M.T.)	<u>1970</u> (M.T.)	<u>Percent Change</u> 1969-1970
<u>Marine</u>			
Chub Mackerel	83,987	123,693	+47.3
Short-bodied Mackerel	47,898	42,615	-11.0
Shark	8,715	9,717	+11.5
Rays	10,132	11,995	+18.4
Miscellaneous	280,351	262,244	-6.6
Duck Fish	492,427	487,675	-1.0
Shrimp	58,313	63,652	+9.2
Lobster	5,613	2,397	-57.3
Brine Shrimp	13,059	15,617	+19.6
Sea Crab	14,154	47,957	+238.9
Mollusk	139,860	207,987	+48.7
Squid & Cuttlefish	24,529	59,973	+144.5
Sea Weed	56	122	+117.8
Sea Cucumber	2	46	+2200.0
Total, Marine	<u>1,179,595</u>	<u>1,335,690</u>	<u>+13.2</u>
<u>Freshwater</u>			
Serpent Head Fish	15,410	20,232	+31.3
Catfish	18,323	16,730	-8.7
Swamp Eel	1,146	1,634	+42.6
Climbing Perch	6,882	8,458	+22.9
Common Carp	8,073	12,223	+51.4
Labyrinth Fish	8,080	11,152	+38.0
Chinese Carp	596	509	-14.6
Miscellaneous	28,038	37,718	+34.6
Prawn	3,898	4,058	+4.1
Total, Freshwater	<u>90,439</u>	<u>112,714</u>	<u>+24.6</u>
GRAND TOTAL	1,270,034	1,448,404	+14.0

Source: Department of Fisheries

Table 2. Utilization of Thailand's Catch, 1969-70
(live weight)

<u>Products</u>	<u>1969</u> (Metric Ton)	<u>1970</u> (Metric Ton)
Fresh Fish	565,235	680,531
Frozen Fish	4,391	21,785
Dried & Salted Fish	75,130	84,302
Boiled & Smoked Fish	27,989	16,611
Fermented Fish	8,432	13,761
Shrimp Paste	15,193	16,326
Dried Shrimp	15,244	18,721
Fish Meal	296,775	324,500
Fertilizer	22,594	601
Fish Sauce	56,494	55,137
Others	<u>182,557</u>	<u>216,129</u>
Total	<u>1,270,034</u> :=====	<u>1,448,404</u> =====

Source: Department of Fisheries

Table 3. Thailand's utilization of marine fisheries catch; by species and product, 1970
(in metric tons, live weight)

Catch	Total Catch	Sold or Consumed Fresh	Frozen	Dried and Salted	Boiled or Smoked	Shrimp Paste	Dried Shrimp	Fish Meal	Fertilizer	Fish	
										Sauce	Other
Chub Mackerel	123,693	110,441	1,316	6,882	4,087	-	-	-	-	-	967
Short-bodied Mackerel	42,615	36,678	1,210	4,387	340	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shark	9,717	7,372	-	1,334	790	-	-	-	5	-	-
Rays	11,995	8,112	-	1,412	2,471	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	262,244	193,208	5,625	33,243	2,534	425	-	571	3	24,711	1,924
Duck Fish	487,675	77,746	-	3,948	-	820	-	318,425	551	25,137	61,048
Shrimp	63,652	39,235	5,342	355	14	124	18,560	-	-	-	22
Lobster	2,397	1,968	408	5	-	-	-	16	-	-	-
Brine shrimp	15,617	790	-	20	-	14,781	25	-	-	-	1
Sea Crab	47,957	41,085	6,000	606	-	-	-	266	-	-	-
Mollusk	207,987	48,316	-	2,775	-	-	-	5,020	-	-	151,876
Squid and Cuttlefish	59,973	47,173	1,884	10,915	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sea Weed	122	66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56
Sea Cucumber	46	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	42
TOTAL	1,335,690	612,192	21,785	65,882	10,239	16,150	18,585	324,298	559	50,815	215,185

Source: Department of Fisheries

Table 4. Thailand's utilization of freshwater fisheries catch; by species and product 1970.
(in metric tons, live weight)

Catch	Total Catch	Sold or Consumed Fresh	Dried and Salted	Boiled or Smoked	Fermented Fish	Shrimp Paste	Dried Shrimp	Fish Meal	Fertilizer	Fish Sauce	Other
Serpent-head Fish	20,232	15,408	2,667	681	1,276	-	-	1	1	2	196
Catfish	16,780	13,234	630	1,284	1,390	-	-	1	1	1	189
Climbing Perch	8,458	7,048	254	145	952	-	-	-	-	9	50
Swamp Eel	1,634	1,450	39	104	31	-	-	-	-	-	10
Common Carp	12,223	7,697	1,130	1,313	1,877	-	-	68	11	5	122
Chinese Carp	509	376	10	47	74	-	-	-	-	-	2
Labyrinth Fish	11,152	1,572	9,288	126	149	-	-	-	-	3	14
Miscellaneous	34,034	16,977	3,989	2,478	6,958	26	-	80	28	3,214	284
Prawn	4,058	2,718	215	51	755	131	136	-	-	5	47
Other	3,684	1,859	198	143	299	19	-	52	1	1,083	30
TOTAL	112,714	68,339	18,420	6,372	13,761	176	136	202	42	4,322	944

Source: Department of Fisheries

Table 5. Thailand's foreign trade in fishery products, 1970.

	<u>Quantity</u> (Metric Ton)	<u>Value</u> (1000 Baht) ^{1/}
A. <u>Imports</u>		
Fresh, frozen, and live fish	1,258	6,999
Salted, fried, and smoked fish	1,009	17,956
Crustacea and mollusks, fresh, frozen, dried, salted, and cooked	4,228	5,075
Canned fish and fish preparations, incl. crustacea and mollusks	3,180	22,447
Fish and fish preparations, preserved but not canned, incl. crustacea and mollusks	<u>4,073</u>	<u>26,075</u>
TOTAL	<u>13,748</u> =====	<u>78,552</u> =====
B. <u>Exports</u>		
Fresh, frozen, and live fish	15,332	43,571
Salted, dried, and smoked fish	8,264	52,773
Crustacea and mollusks, fresh, frozen, dried, salted, and cooked	7,349	235,515
Canned fish and fish preparations incl. crustacea and mollusks	7	70
Fish and fish preparations, preserved but not canned, incl. crustacea and mollusks	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>
TOTAL	<u>30,958</u> =====	<u>331,941</u> =====
C. <u>Re-Exports</u>		
Fresh, frozen fish	0.8	46
Salted, dried and smoked fish	207.4	899
Canned fish and fish preparations	<u>13.6</u>	<u>322</u>
TOTAL	<u>221.8</u> =====	<u>1,267</u> =====
D. <u>Fish Imports - By Country</u>		
Malaysia	9,258	27,443
Japan	1,651	19,935
Morocco	540	6,075
S. Korea	296	4,720
Mexico	103	3,591
India	69	2,784

^{1/} US\$1.00= Baht 20.8

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Table 5. Thailand's foreign trade in fishery products, 1970 (cont'd)

	<u>Quantity</u> (Metric Ton)	<u>Value</u> (1000 Baht)
D. <u>Fish Imports - By Country</u>		
Burma	785	2,784
Singapore	222	1,852
South Africa	231	1,754
Hong Kong	58	1,451
Others ^{1/}	<u>535</u>	<u>5,894</u>
TOTAL	<u>13,748</u> =====	<u>78,552</u> =====
E. <u>Fish Exports - By Country</u>		
Japan	5,371	171,913
United States	1,692	56,578
Hong Kong	3,533	42,531
Malaysia	15,921	29,138
Singapore	2,366	9,067
Italy	598	7,826
France	475	5,689
Spain	205	2,387
Others	<u>797</u>	<u>6,812</u>
TOTAL	<u>30,958</u> =====	<u>331,941</u> =====
F. <u>Fish Re-Exports - By Country</u>		
Singapore	206	824
Laos	13	279
Hong Kong	<u>3</u>	<u>164</u>
TOTAL	<u>222</u> =====	<u>1,267</u> =====

Source: Department of Customs

^{1/} Incl. from U.S. 17 metric tons valued at \$715,000