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### Social aspects to fish catch in Songkhla Lagoon, Thailand

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Fishing plays an important role as a main livelihood for the local people in Thailand. However, as many coastal areas in the world, the fishers are facing with the decrease of fish catch. This study was implemented to find out if the social aspects effect on the fish catch in Songkhla Lagoon. The method covered questionnaires and in-depth interview with the village leaders. A survey of 164 fishers was conducted in eight villages in this area. There were moderately low but significant correlations between the socio-economic data and total catch. The total catch for one year was correlated with the number of fisher's year living, number of catching days, and number of catching hours based on Spearman rank order correlations (Rs) of 0.23, ( $p < 0.01$ ), 0.38 ( $p < 0.01$ ) and 0.24 ( $p < 0.01$ ) respectively for the fishermen in Songkhla Lagoon. Illegal fishing gear causes seriously to fish decline. A well-managed fishing activity need to be urgent acted in the Songkhla Lagoon.

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