

Local management practice to deal with the effects of Tsunami disaster in Thai fishing communities

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ABSTRACT

On December 26, 2004, the provinces of Andaman Sea coast which were productive coastal areas in Thailand, both tourism and fishery business were damaged by Tsunami disaster. Hence fishers faced the problems to maintain their livelihood and income opportunities after the disaster. This might lead to unsustainable of coastal resource utilization. This study had two main objectives. The first was to assess the effects of the Tsunami disaster on fishers' activities. The second was to investigate the practices of local people to deal with the negative effects on coastal resource utilization after the disaster. To achieve these objectives, the survey was conducted in selective fishing communities where fishers were involved in both capture fisheries and aquaculture, in June and November, 2005. The study areas were Krabi and Phang-Nga Provinces that lie along the Andaman Sea coast. The findings showed that relief helps from government and other organizations were an important factor for fishers in rebuilding their effort to return back to prior stage. However, fishers and local institutions tried to handle the situation by themselves. The decentralized management approach has been developed through people's participation in managing relief help and coastal resource utilization.

Keywords: Tsunami disaster, disaster's effects, recovery, coastal resource management, local institutions