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Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures

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SUBSIDIES

NEW AND FULL NOTIFICATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XVI:1 OF THE GATT 1994 AND ARTICLE 25 OF THE AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES

THAILAND

The following notification, dated and received on 28 June 2021, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Thailand.

I. COMPENSATION PROGRAMME FOR FISHING OWNERS AFFECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S FISHING VESSEL REMOVAL MEASURE 2015 (FOR WOODEN VESSELS OF MORE THAN 90 GT)

1. Title of the subsidy programme

Compensation programme for fishing owners affected by the government's fishing vessel removal measure 2015.

2. Period covered by the notification

1 January 2019 - 31 December 2021.

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the subsidy

The objective is to compensate fishing vessel owners for their lost opportunity to fish resulting from the government's fishing vessel removal measure in 2015. This program will help operators/fishers who are affected by the measure to earn a living and alleviate their debt problems.

4. Background and authority for the subsidy including specifying the name of the laws relating to subsidies

In 2015, the government decided to control the number of fishing vessels operating in Thai waters to maintain fish stocks at the levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield (MSY), which is one of the government's measures to manage fisheries resources and address IUU fishing problems. There were several fishing vessels removed and not allowed to fish permanently through this process. In order to compensate fishing vessel owners for their lost opportunity to fishing, the government designated the Department of Fisheries to implement the above-mentioned program.

5. Form of the subsidy

Granting funds according to the buy-back purchasing price.

6. To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Fishing vessel owners or fishing operators affected by the government's fishing vessel removal measure and could not use those vessels to fish permanently since 2015, including 52 wooden vessels of more than 90 GT. Every participating vessel was taken into dismantling operations and could not be brought back for fishing again.

7. The amount of the subsidy

The government provides grants for 52 wooden fishing vessels of more than 90 GT which were removed from fishing activities permanently with a total amount of 286,058,700 Baht.

8. Duration of the subsidy

1 March 2019 - 15 December 2020.

II. CAPACITY BUILDING ON MARINE SHRIMP PRODUCTION AND MARKETING FOR DOMESTIC SHRIMP CONSUMPTION

1. Title of the subsidy program

Capacity building on marine shrimp production and marketing for domestic shrimp consumption.

2. Period covered by the notification

1 January 2019 - 31 December 2021.

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the subsidy

The objectives of the program are

- 1) to build resilience for marine shrimp farmers' institutes and community enterprises to become self-reliance and self-sufficiency ; have more bargaining power and be able to manage the marketing process and product distribution for domestic shrimp market.
- 2) to support small-scale marine shrimp farmers who are members of farmer's institutes and community enterprises back in business by providing access to business opportunity and funding and specific pathogen-free shrimp seed.

4. Background and authority for the subsidy

The responsible authorities are the Department of Fisheries (DOF) and the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC).

5. Form of the subsidy

Grants and soft loans.

6. To whom and how the subsidy is provided

- 1) DOF provides grants for marine shrimp farmers at 90% of the prices to buy specific pathogen-free and quality shrimp seed. However, the grant should not be more than 40,000 Baht per each farmer.
- 2) BAAC provides soft loans for marine shrimp farmers to buy farming inputs. The loan amount for each farmer should not be more than 300,000 Baht in 1st year, not more

than 150,000 Baht in 2nd year, and 3rd year. DOF will compensate farmers at 3% interest rate per year.

- 3) BAAC provides soft loans for marine shrimp farmer's institutes and community enterprises to increase managing and marketing abilities and product distribution. The loan amount for each farmer's institute/community enterprise should not be more than 2,000,000 Baht per each institute in 1st year, not more than 1,000,000 Baht in 2nd year, and 3rd year. DOF will compensate the farmers at 3% interest rate per year.

7. The amount of the subsidy

Year 2019 - 2021: Total budget of 278 million Baht.

8. Duration of the subsidy is provided

Year 2019 - 2021.

III. THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND RESILIENCE BUILDING PROGRAM FOR LOCAL FISHING COMMUNITIES

1. Title of the subsidy programme

The career development and resilience building program for local fishing communities.

2. Period covered by the notification

1 January 2019 - 31 January 2021.

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the subsidy

- 1) To replenish aquatic resources in the coastal areas;
- 2) Local fishing communities to earn more income and have a better quality of life from fishing occupations;
- 3) To create awareness on the sustainable utilization of aquatic animal resources and to strengthen local fishing communities;
- 4) To promote the participation of local fishing communities in sustainable coastal marine resource management.

4. Background and authority for the subsidy including specifying the name of the laws relating to subsidies

Previously, overfishing resulted in a lower amount of aquatic animal resources. Small-scale artisanal fisheries in the coastal area are affected by this. Artisanal fishers have to take vessels further from the shore with higher expenses, longer time to fish, and more risks.

According to [Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E.2558 \(2015\)](#) and [Royal Ordinance on Fisheries \(No.2\) B.E. 2560 \(2017\)](#), the Department of Fisheries is authorized to promote the participation of local fisheries communities in the management, conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of aquatic resources. The Department of Fisheries has implemented the project so that artisanal coastal fishers gathering as groups and being registered as a local fishing community organization with the Department of Fisheries could participate in restoring aquatic resources to increase productivity. This includes the development and promotion of coastal artisanal fishing communities to be self-reliant.

5. Form of the subsidy

Granting funds to local fisheries communities for carrying out activities in the management, conservation, and utilization of fisheries resources in a balanced and most sustainable manner and activities to develop livelihood and strengthen the community. For example, 1) activities to increase the productivity of aquatic animals such as establishing the banks for aquatic animals and development of aquatic animals' habitats in the community and release of aquatic species in natural water bodies, etc., 2) activities to improve and modify fishing gear to be appropriate, sustainable and legal, 3) activities to create more value-added aquatic animal products and improve post-harvest handling efficiency 4) marketing support activities and improving access to market channels for artisanal fishers and local fishing communities.

6. To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Period 1: 1 March - 30 September 2020

Target groups: 144 local fisheries communities registered by the Department of Fisheries in 22 coastal provinces

Period 2: 1 October 2020 - 30 September 2021

Target groups: 250 local fisheries communities registered by the Department of Fisheries in 22 coastal provinces.

7. The amount of the subsidy

The total budget of 39,400,000 Baht for expenses to support 394 local fishing communities, 100,000 Baht per community, divided into

Period 1: 1 March - 30 September 2020: 14,400,000 Baht for 144 local fishing communities.

Period 2: 1 October 2020 - 30 September 2021: 25,000,000 Baht for 250 local fishing communities.

8. Duration of the subsidy

Period 1: 1 March - 30 September 2020.

Period 2: 1 October 2020 - 30 September 2021.

IV. COMMUNITY-BASED ECOLOGICAL FISHERY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1. Title of the subsidy programme

Community-based ecological fishery resource management.

2. Period covered by the notification

1 January 2019 - 31 December 2021.

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the subsidy

- 1) To enable fishers to understand the principles, rationale, and necessity of implementing an ecosystems approach to manage fishery resources in coastal fishing communities that lead to actual practice for the efficient use of resources and sustainable development;
- 2) To conserve and restore coastal resources and utilize such resources in a balanced manner by the participation of the local fishing community;

- 3) To create awareness among fishers to maintain a balance of the local coastal ecosystem.
4. Background and authority for the subsidy including specifying the name of the laws relating to subsidies

According to [Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E.2558 \(2015\)](#) and [Royal Ordinance on Fisheries \(No.2\) B.E. 2560 \(2017\)](#), the Department of Fisheries is authorized to promote the participation of local fisheries communities in the management, conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of aquatic resources.

5. Form of the subsidy

Transfer of knowledge on eco-based fishery resource management, including conservation, restoration, and sustainable utilization of fishery resources. This includes supporting materials and equipment for carrying out activities to restore aquatic resources.

6. To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Thirty-two artisanal fishing communities/local fishing communities in Chonburi, Phetchaburi, Rayong, Chanthaburi, Trat, Surat Thani, Chumphon, Pattani, Songkhla, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Krabi, Phuket, Phang Nga, Trang, Satun, and Ranong.

7. The amount of the subsidy

The total budget is 4,327,800 Baht, divided into

- 1) Fiscal Year 2019 (October 2018 to September 2019) 1,672,000 Baht;
- 2) Fiscal Year 2020 (October 2019 to September 2020) 735,000 Baht;
- 3) Fiscal Year 2021 (October 2020 to September 2021) 1,920,800 Baht.

8. Duration of the subsidy

October 2018 - September 2021.

V. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES IN ESTABLISHING BLUE CRAB BANKS TO RETURN BLUE CRABS TO THE THAI SEAS

1. Title of the subsidy programme

Strengthening communities in establishing blue crab banks to return blue crabs to the Thai seas.

2. Period covered by the notification

1 January 2019 - 31 December 2021.

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the subsidy

- 1) To expand the blue crab bank project to restore the blue crab to the Thai sea;
- 2) To transfer the knowledge of the process how to release baby crabs into natural water bodies to increase the survival rate after;
- 3) To increase the amount of baby blue crabs in nature.

4. Background and authority for the subsidy including specifying the name of the laws relating to subsidies

The Department of Fisheries is responsible for implementing the project in accordance with the Cabinet meeting which agrees to expand the project "the blue crab banks to restore the blue crab to the Thai sea" to other coastal communities according to the context of each community condition. This is to restore the balance of marine resources as well as increasing trade opportunities which will lead to income generation at the foundation level and quality of life of people in the community.

5. Form of the subsidy

- 1) Transfer knowledge to communities about blue crab banks;
- 2) Support materials and solar power pack for carrying out the project activities;
- 3) Organize public relations activities to transfer knowledge about Blue Crab Bank and conservation of coastal fishery resources.

6. To whom and how the subsidy is provided

- 1) Fishing communities that operate blue crab banks;
- 2) Communities that want to set up a blue crab bank;
- 3) Youth and interested people in various communities in the coastal provinces in the area of 190 communities.

7. The amount of the subsidy

8,514,150 Baht.

8. Duration of the subsidy

17 February 2019 - 31 January 2020.
