

Thailand revitalize fishery laws to meet global market demands

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Thailand's Captain *Thammanat Phromphao*, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives speaking on the occasion of inaugurating a workshop "Driving policies and guidelines for government operations Fiscal year 2024, Department of Fisheries" addressed about the revitalisation of fishery industry in Thailand.

Prayun Insakul, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives witnessed the gathering. More than 600 Fisheries Department executives and officials attended across all 76 provinces nationwide from the fisheries sector which is an important source of income in the Thai economy.

Thailand focuses on both production for domestic consumption and export to foreign countries. As a result, the gross product or GDP of the fisheries sector is worth up to 126,240 million baht. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives therefore gives importance to driving the mission of the Fisheries Department to achieve the goals set and in line with the government's policy on agriculture that wants to help and solve the problems of farmers' livelihoods so that they can eat well. Income has increased 3 times within 4 years by driving 9 important policies and 7 urgent orders.

Important policies must be driven to maximize the benefits of fishermen all over the country. In particular, amendments to 19 secondary fisheries laws were accomplished within a period of 3-4 months, including pushing forward the draft New Fisheries Act. However, we continue to seriously and continuously accelerate the crackdown on the smuggling of illegal fishing products. To solve the problem of fishery products being depleted and oversupplied in the market, including having to find measures to reduce costs to help fishermen. I would like to give encouragement to all Fisheries Department officials. This is considered an important tool in taking care of fishermen in the Andaman Sea, the Gulf of Thailand, and

inland fisheries. In order for fishermen to have a better life and livelihood, as well as aim to drive Thai fisheries back to being kings of the ocean once again, Minister Thammanat said.

Driving 9 important policies of the Department of Fisheries:

1) Establish a public service center Support the work of the Pirunrat Agricultural Service Center and driving the operation of the learning center project to increase product production efficiency to facilitate fisheries, resulting in the achievement of unified and concrete fisheries development as a whole.

2) Drive the mission to raise the level of MR fisheries agricultural products, including MR tilapia, giant prawns, sea shrimp, and sea bass. Ready to continue solving the problem of falling prices of aquatic animal products

3) Prevent, correct, restore, and cope with droughts / natural disasters. By publicizing and warning farmers who breed aquatic animals. Planning for dealing with natural disasters Along with planning to produce freshwater baby breeds and release them into waterways to replace aquatic animals damaged by natural disasters by 2024, a total of 256,000,000 babies

4) Suppress illegal importation of fishing products by integrating with the Phaya Nagarat Special Team and establish an operations center to combat the import and export of illegal fishing products. To raise the level of concentration in preventing illegal imports and exports of fisheries products.

5) Promote high value agricultural products and services, locally for high value agricultural product. Targeting 23 groups of farmers, 7 high-value products, including ornamental fish, boiled/frozen sea shrimp, live sea shrimp, tilapia, giant freshwater prawns, sea bass, and blue swimming crabs, with plans to push Thai aquatic animals towards soft power in the future, such as Siamese fighting fish, antimony fish. Pink, Nile Tilapia, etc.

6) Promote farmers/farmers institutes to provide complete agricultural services. Supporting projects to strengthen local fishing community organizations by promoting and developing fishing careers in 200 communities across the country. Further continuation to move forward with the participatory aquatic animal production bank project, which in 2024 has a goal of being implemented in 200 water sources throughout the country

7) Do agriculture that is environmentally conscious. Develop fishery products produced under the BCG economic model, including seaweed, aquatic eggs, blue swimming crabs, and giant freshwater prawns. Including the Straw Ma Pla To project, encouraging the use of straw left over from rice farming as a raw material for creating natural aquatic animal food. To help alleviate the impact and reduce dust PM 2.5 from straw burning.

8) Create an insurance system for Thai farmers through the implementation of various projects to alleviate suffering for farmers and fishermen, such as a loan project to enhance liquidity for marine shrimp farmers. Loan project to enhance liquidity for fishing entrepreneurs Commercial and local fishing boat insurance projects, etc.

9) Choosing appropriate agricultural services and supporting the project to strengthen the fisheries production group.

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