

Women in Southern Thailand
Small - scale Fishing Villages :
Amidst Surging Waves

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Support Network for Women in Fisheries Project
(SNWIF)

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Prologue

This overview of the roles of women in southern Thai small-scale fishing villages is a conclusion of the Support Network for Women in Fisheries (SNWIF) project. SNWIF is a tiny non-governmental organization (NGO) with one full-time and one part-time staff member which coordinated with local NGO's in Surat Thani, Trang and some Andaman Coastal provinces during June 1994-November 1995.

This writing presents the primary state of knowledge of the roles of women in southern Thai small-scale fishing villages, an overlooked issue in Thai society. Its ultimate goals are a). to provide basic information to interested people in order to b). promote women's roles in small-scale fishing community organizations and c). promote sustainability of the organizations.

The document is a basic compilation of data and experiences derived from the following methods given the particular limitations in time and skills of the project staff (see Appendix A) :

1. The SNWIF project officers briefly visited the target villages on a regular basis during one year to talk to villagers and observe community activities.
2. The SNWIF project officer stayed a short period of time in the villages.
3. The SNWIF project officers discussed the village situations with local NGO's staff on a regular basis.
4. Five local NGOs' staff who are familiar with the target villages collected data using a question guideline.
5. The SNWIF project held a meeting to analyse and synthesize village data. Five feminists were invited. The meeting brought about a clearer research framework.
6. The SNWIF project organized 3 meetings for women's groups and women leaders in different areas.
7. The SNWIF project officers interviewed women's group leaders and outstanding women in the villages.

8. The SNWIF project officer did a literature survey.

There were many constraints in the above-mentioned methods which substantially limited the completeness of this document. This document is only a primary effort to summarize what the SNWIF project learned and gained from its a short period of project activities.

Introduction

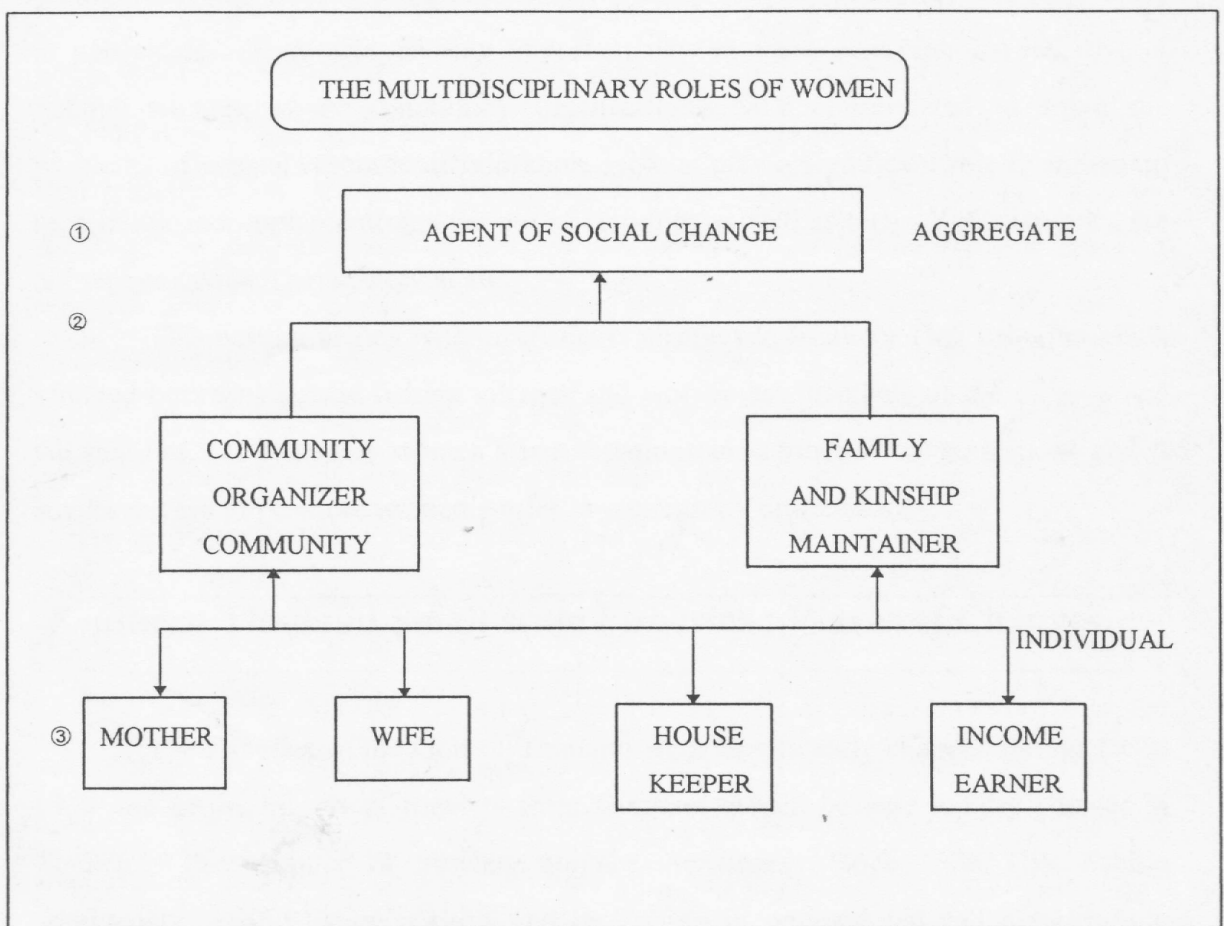
All aspects of Thai society changed rapidly during the last three decades since the beginning of the first national plan of social and economic development in 1961. Under the economic growth and export-oriented policy, infrastructural and industrial development projects were substantially accelerated. All social groups including southern small-scale fishing communities were unavoidably affected by such a development mainstream.

Thai fisheries are in crisis due to the near-depletion of fish stocks. Depletion resulted from polluted sewage discharged from rural and urban sectors, depletion of coastal resources and exploitative fishing gears. The small-scale fisherfolks desperately struggle to get by through conserving their facing near-coastal area for their livelihoods (Kaewnoo, 2536 : 2-3).

For about the last five years many small-scale fishing communities in the southern region of Thailand have been organized to solve the problems of coastal resource degradation by setting up various projects, for example seagrass-bed conservation, mangrove conservation, saving groups, petrol cooperatives and etc.. These community organizations learn, with success and failure, to collaborate, to collectively negotiate solutions, and to build up networks for coordination and experience sharing. Since 1994 fishing community organizations in 10 southern provinces have been organized into the Federation of Southern Small-scale Fisherfolks. It consists of 30 committee members who are representatives and leaders of the provincial-level organizations. The committee has a meeting every three months to discuss affairs and to plan for activities.

The Federation of Southern Small-scale Fisherfolks has gradually developed its work strategies with different degrees of organizational strength in the provincial-level organizations. Since 1996 the Federation has been granted DANCED (Denish governmental agency) financial support of 13 million Baht (about US\$ 520,000) for its two year-and-a-half project activities.

Women are also a crucial part in the effort, even though the roles of women in small-scale fishing community organizations are not yet recognized and accepted. Such an ignorance of women's roles is internationally evident as shown in Diagram 1.



Source : Colette Dehlot

Graphics : UNCTAD

Source : Rodda, A. (1994:100)

Diagram 1. The role of women and social recognition

Women in the southern small-scale fishing villages take care of children, husbands and old people in their families. They are also in charge of cooking, cleaning houses and laundering for their family members. Meanwhile, women go fishing with men or work to earn family incomes. The significant roles of women in the small-scale fishing families as mother, wife, housekeeper, and income earner are not different from their sisters in other communities. At the same time, whenever there are social activities in the villages (religious functions, funerals, wedding ceremonies, mangrove reforestation project, artificial reef production and placement project, and etc.), women are the ones who inform and persuade their family members, relatives and neighbours to participate. They also take an important part in these activities. Particularly, in fishing villages where community organizations have consolidated to solve the problems of coastal resource deterioration, women play a significant role in initiating, mobilizing and implementing a variety of activities as well as men. Yet, such roles are not recognized in Thai society at all.

This writing begins with macro-level changes in southern Thai fisheries which affected both small-scale fishing villages and women as members of the villages and the families. It evaluates women's participations in community organizations and it suggests ways to promote women's roles in community organizations.

Southern Thailand Small-scale Fisheries : Waves of Changes

The fisheries in the Gulf of Thailand were significantly changed during 1959-1963 due to the import of trawlers from Germany which became rapidly popular in Thailand. The number of trawlers quickly increased. Since 1976 Thai fishing continuously expand by overfishing and by fishing in international and neighbouring waters (Nutalai, P. et al, 1992:100).

According to the Southern Development Centre of the Office of National Economic and Social Development Board, marine fisheries are most important for the southern region due to its total coastal length of 1,670 km. Fishing is a major occupation in all coastal provinces excluding two inland ones: Yala and Pattalung. The number of registered boats in the south accounts for 60 per cent of the country. Most of them are in Nakorn Si Thammarat, Songkhla, Surat Thani and Satun provinces.

More than 40 per cent of the catches is used as input for fish meal factories. Other catches are for consumption, for example shrimps, fish, squids, and crabs.

During 1976-1978 the number of the catches increased by 30 per cent each year due to the modernized fishing technology. However, since 1979 the annual increase rate is only 10 per cent. During 1993-1994 the joint fisheries venture with Indonesia increased the catches by 12 per cent per annum (The Southern Development Centre of ONESDB, 1995:40).

The following information indicates the changing trend of southern Thai fisheries that small-scale fisherfolks have to invest more in fishing boats. An increasing number of them turn to aquaculture due to the rapid depletion of the marine resources and the deterioration of coastal resources in the south.

According to the 1990 fisheries census, there were 63,091 fishing households in the southern region which accounted for about 68 per cent of all Thai fishing households. Within 5 years the fishing households increased by 7,335 units which mainly included aquaculturing and fishery laboring households. Southern fisheries tends to shift their direction from natural fishing to aquaculturing for exports.

In 1991 the number of southern registered fishing boat was 12,154 units which accounted for 54 percent of the national total. The highest numbers of fishing boats were in Nakorn Si Thammarat (2,543), Songkhla (1,779) and Surat Thani (1,396) respectively (The Southern Development Centre of NESDB, 1995:29).

The analysis results of the 1990 marine fisheries census are as follows:

- The number of more than 60,000 fishing households with 498,929 members accounted for about 1 per cent of the national population. Seventy-three per cent of the fisherfolks were small-scale ones with off-board-engined boats. Eighty-five per cent of them or about 30,000 households of small-scale fisherfolks lived in the south.

- In 1990 the number of fisherfolks without fishing boats decreased 50 per cent from 1985 (from 3,208 cases to be 1,595 ones), while the number of those with off-board-engined boats increased 7 per cent (from 26,891 cases to be 28,814 ones)

- The number of trawlers in the south accounted for 54 per cent of all in Thailand (3,857 vessels), while ones with push nets accounted for 53 per cent (790 vessels) of those in the country (Naweeya, N. , 1993 : 19 - 21).

The decrease of the catches in Thai waters directly affects many thousands of small-scale fisherfolks and their families. The modernized fisheries not only reduce the fish numbers, but also invade into the fishing areas of the small-scale fisherfolks who use simple fishing gears for their subsistence and income earning.

Moreover, the southern small-scale fisherfolks are also affected by the decrease of mangrove forests. The exploitation of mangrove forests for various activities, especially for shrimp farming during the last 10 years, is a major cause of the forest depletion in this region. At present the 1 million rai of the remaining mangrove forest area accounts for about 12 per cent of the southern forest land, but accounts for about 93 per cent of the mangrove forests in Thailand. Most of the southern mangrove forests (91 per cent) is in the western coastal provinces of Pangna, Krabi, and Satun. The other 8 per cent is located in the eastern coastal provinces : Nakorn Si Thammarat, Surat Thani and Pattani.

Within the last 13 years, the mangrove forests were rapidly depleted. Before 1979 the depletion was caused by charcoal concessions, and during 1979-1987 by several development projects including infrastructural construction, aquaculture, expansion of settlements, and mining. But since 1987 the major cause has been shrimp farming which also brings about conflicts in community resource uses, particularly among rice farmers and fisherfolks who originally live in the southern communities. During 1979-1993 about three hundred thousand rai of mangrove forests were depleted at the rate of 23,000 rai per year. The mangrove forests in Pangna were depleted most at the rate of 6,614 rai per year, compared to those in Satun (3,517 rai per year) and Chumporn (2,608 rai per year) respectively (the Southern Development Centre of ONESDB, 1995:21).

After 1990 the dense areas of shrimp farms in the eastern coast were polluted, particularly in Nakorn Si Thammarat and Surat Thani. Therefore, the shrimp farming businesses have been transferred to the western coast including Kan Tang, Pa Lien, and Yan Takao districts of Trang province; then, Satun, Pangna, Krabi and Phuket respectively (the Southern Development Centre of ONESDB, 1995:50).

The above-mentioned changes in the southern Thailand fisheries are also reflected in the following part of the changing phenomena in some small-scale fishing villages.

Southern Small-scale Fishing Communities : Amidst the Waves

According to some fisherfolks in Surat Thani and Trang provinces, before the last 30 years catches were abundant, but the market was uncertain and prices were low. Therefore, it was not economically rational to invest in modern fishing gears. Within the last twenty years fishery technologies have been rapidly developed in the villages, and the price of fish has also gone up rapidly. Since then, small-scale fisherfolks have conflicts acutely with the trawlers and push nets which illegally invade the 3 km near-shore areas. Since 1972 the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has proclaimed to prohibit push nets and trawlers fishing within the 3 kilometre near-shore areas because their fishing equipments would destroy seagrass bed and coral reefs which are marine spawning grounds. However, the uncontrollable invasions drastically diminish the catches. Despite the law regulation, the enforcement is still far from reality. Thus, the small-scale fisherfolks livelihoods are severely affected.

Table 1 gives an overview of changes of natural resources and the use of fishing gears in 7 villages affected by macro-level changes in Thai society. Data were collected from a). three villages in Trang province : Ban Chao Mai, Ban Pra Muang, and Ban Mod Tanoy in Kan Tang district, b). four villages in Surat Thani province : Ban Pak Nam Tha Krajai, Ban Nong Prue, and Ban Pak Kew in Tha Chana district; and Ban Klong Rang in Phoon Phin district, and c).one village in Nakorn Si Thammarat province : Ban Hua Thanon Chai Thale in Pak Phanang district.

Table 1 An overview of changes of natural resources and the uses of fishing gears

Time	Phenomena
<u>Before 1957-1967</u>	<p>Natural resources both onshores and offshores were abundant. Villagers used simple fishing gears for subsistence and sale or exchange for other goods with outsiders. there were different occupations apart from fishing in some villages, for example, Ban Hua Thanon Chai Thale, and Ban Nong Prue villagers did rice farming, Ban Pak Kew made palm sugar, Ban Nong Prue had coconut plantation and raised cattle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In villages with mangrove forests, the villagers worked for charcoal concessionaries (Ban Mod Tanoy, Ban Chao Mai and Ban Pra Muang). - Some villages began to use shrimp gill nets (Ban Pak Kew).
<u>1968-1977</u> (1967) (1972) (1973) (1975)	<p>An increasing number of villagers began to use modern fishing gears to get more catches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The off-board-engined boats were widely used. Fisherfolks could go fishing further. - Hand-made nets were substituted by nylon nets bought from market in Ban Hua Thanon. - Multifilament thine nets were substituted by monofilament thine nets in Ban Bak Kew and Ban Hua Thanon. - Villagers in Ban Pak Kew and Ban Hua Thanon Chai Thale got crab gill nets and sold fresh crabs not the meat. - There were push nets in Ban Klong Rang, Ban Nong Prue and Ban Pak Nam Tha Krajai.
<u>1978-1987</u> (1980) (1982)	<p>Coastal resources were degraded due to exploitative fishing gears.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Push nets and trawlers proliferated in Ban Chao Mai and Ban Mod Tanoy. - There were clam dredges in Ban Hua Thanon Chai Thale. Its degrading results were so severe that the villagers went to protest at the district office. Then, the clam dredges had to give up.

Time	Phenomena
(1985)	- Some species of fish became extinct in Ban Hua Thanon Chai Thale. Then, farmers had to stop farming due to an influx of sea water into the canal.
(1985)	- The villagers in some villages began to sell crab meat rather than fresh crabs because of the higher incomes. The Ban Pak Kew people stopped farming rice due to time constraints.
(1985)	- There were mackerel gill nets in Ban Pak Kew, Ban Mod Tanoy.
<u>1988 to the present</u>	<p>Many villagers have been seriously affected by the problems of coastal resource degradations, so that they had to seek different alternatives.</p>
(1988)	- The rapid increase of push nets drastically decreased the catches. Therefore, the villagers went to protest against the push nets at the district office, but their success was minimal.
(1989)	<p>- Shrimp farms have proliferated in Ban Hua Thanon Chai Thale, Ban Klong Rong, Ban Pak Kew, and Ban Pra Muang, invested by large - scale business and local villagers.</p> <p>- A number of Ban Pak Kew had to sell their boats to become shrimp farm labourers because of the decreasing catches caused by trawlers and push nets.</p>
(1990)	- Fresh water in Ban Hua Thanon Chai Thale was too polluted by shrimp farming to be used for either planting or consuming. Nipa palm and mangrove forests were also deteriorated. The villages who relied on these forests for subsistence were directly affected.
(1992)	- The Ban Pra Muang, Ban Chao Mai and Ban Mod Tanoy villagers began to initiate coastal resource conservation activities. Their 1993 implementations including zoning conservation areas and mangrove reforestation, supported by Yad Fon Association. The projects finally brought about the coastal fertility again.
(1993)	- The villagers in Tha Chana district were organized to implement an artificial reef project, supported by the People's Organization

Time	Phenomena
(1994)	<p>Development Project, to rehabilitate coastal resources and to stop the invading push nets. After a few months of the project, the coastal resources were substantially restored.</p> <p>- The Ban Klong Rang villagers were organized for community mangrove reforestation project.</p>
(1994)	<p>- The Ban Hua Thanon Chai Thale villagers initiated an artificial reef project and have been organized for a saving group ever since.</p>

Note: Ban Chao Mai, Ban Pra Muang, Ban Mod Tanoy, Ban Pak Nam Tha Krajai and Ban Nong Prue are Moslem villages ; while Ban Pak Kew, Ban Klong Rang, and Ban Hua Thanon Chai Thale are Buddhist ones.

The above-mentioned phenomena roughly indicate the changes in some fishing villages caused by their involvements in the market economy since 1970s. Since 1961 Thailand's marine product exports increased constantly. Thailand has become an outstanding marine product exporter ever since. As a result, the fishery commercialization accelerated investments in modern fishery technologies in all groups of fisherfolks. They competed in capturing more fish for higher incomes. The fisherfolks with least capital had to get loans for investments from village fish brokers so that they could get more catches. Fishing for subsistence was not viable any longer. Their fishing earning had to cover specific expenses, for example loan payment, production costs, and payments for modern household necessities : radio, television, refrigerator, and electric fan (Fishing Community Integrated Development Project , 1993 : 80). In addition, due to the enforcement of the 1970 United Nations Marine Pact, Thailand lost its benefit in international waters which accounted for 300,000 square miles. Thus, some fishing boats had to illegally intrude into the 3 km near-shore areas and destroyed the coastal resources. Moreover, the production costs, particularly petroleum, were much higher since 1983. Therefore, many fisherfolks tried to reduce the costs and make more profits by illegal fishing. These factors substantially deteriorated coastal resources and decreased the catches. In 1980 about 30 per cent of trawlers had to give up fishing due to the failure to cover the costs (Fishing Community

this may be explained by airports + use of women labour

Integrated Development Project, 1993: 69 - 71). But for the fisherfolks with least capital, some of them have to migrate to work as labourers. Other could hardly turn to other alternatives, but put more efforts into fishing. Then, they have to financially depend on village fish brokers.

The underprivileged fisherfolks in a number of southern Thai small-scale fishing communities have tried to organize to tackle their own problems with support from local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). However, the degrees of organizing strength are varied due to different internal factors including the capabilities of leaders and the extent to which the village is exposed to capitalism. Villages with convenient transportation systems, land speculations and shrimp farming business are complicated with internal conflicts and difficult to be organized. Additionally, local NGOs are also a significant factor contributing to community organization's strength. Although the villagers initiated their own conservation activities due to particular pressures of their livelihoods, the budding community organizations could not gradually grow up unless the local NGOs played an active role in supporting them for a certain period of time. Otherwise, the villager groups would temporarily exist only to tackle urgent problems from time to time. Nevertheless, the significant learning experiences the community organizations gained from their collective activities would enable them to gradually develop themselves to be people's organizations in the long run.

Fish Brokers : the Route of Catches from Villages to Cities

Cities and villages are closely connected. In general, villages supply natural resources for urban consumption. The globalized networks of resource supplies are complexly linked not only from villages to cities in developing countries, but also from communities in developing countries to those in developed countries. Table 2 shows the catch transfer linkages from fishing villages to consumers. Data were collected from 5 town fish brokers in 3 districts : Kan Tang in Trang province, Phoom Rieng in Surat Thani province, and Pak Phanang in Nakorn Si Thammarat.

Table 2 Town fish brokers

Issue	Enterprise	Kantang	Phoom Rieng	Pak Phanang
<u>Supplied catches</u>	(Beginning in 1957) - All kinds	(Beginning in 1972) - Shrimps - Crabs - Breems - Sea basses - Mackerels	(Beginning in 1975) - Shrimps - Squids - Breems	
<u>Type and source of Suppliers</u>	1. Village fish brokers 2. Fisherfolks who loan fishing gears 3. The enterprise's own medium-scale fishing boats	1. Village fish brokers 2. All fisherfolks	1. Village fish brokers 2. All fisherfolks	
<u>Market destination</u>	<u>Swimming Crabs</u> : - Big-sized ones are frozen and sent to Hat Yai and Bangkok. - Small-sized ones are boiled and extracted meat to be sent to Malaysia (by quota). <u>Squids</u> : Large-sized ones are cut and sent to Japan	- Markets in Bangkok - Factories : Songkhla Canning, Surat Canning, Pattaya Sea Food (according to order).	- Bangkok	

Table 2 (Continued)

Enterprise	Kantang	Phoom Rieng	Pak Phanang
<p><u>Issue</u></p>			
<p><u>Note</u></p>	<p>In the past they provided money to village fish brokers to buy catches for them. Later on, they loaned fishing gears to fisherfolks. But the trend changed because they have their own fishing boats to supply catches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since 1982 the number of customers increased because of increasing fisheries. - Village fish brokers get 5 Baht/kg. more than other customers. - Village fish brokers get credits or commissions for supplying catches. 	<p>- Prices are varied according to quality.</p>

Village Fish Brokers

According to a survey of 18 cases of village fish brokers in Ban chao Mai, Ban Pra Muang, Ban Mod Tanoy in Kan Tang district, Trang province; Ban Nong Prue, Ban Pak Nam Tha Krajai, and Ban Pak Kew in Tha Chana district, Surat Thani :

- Supplies catches : crabs, shrimps, squids, breams, threadfins.
- Market destinations and supplies :
 - District fish brokers: Shrimps, crabs, squids, (in 3 provinces).
 - Cold storages in Bangkok : Breams (Trang).
 - Vendors in district markets : Mackerels (Surat Thani).

- Debts : Most of the debts are in kind rather than in cash. The fisherfolks gained fishing nets, especially crab nets and shrimp nets or boat petrol and boat engine from the village fish brokers and pay back later by deducting the money they earn from selling catches to the same broker.

The amount of debt varied from 2,000 Baht (US\$ 80) to more than 10,000 Baht (US\$ 400) per person. When the amount of debts of Andaman fisheries households is compared with the one of those in the Gulf of Thailand area, most of the first group's debt is less than 5,000 Baht per household, while the latter group's debt is more than 10,000 Baht per household. There are a few reasons of why the fisherfolks in the Gulf of Thailand area owe a higher amount of debt than those in the Andaman Coastal area. Firstly, the history of its coastal resource exploitation, particularly shrimp farming, began earlier than the Andaman one. Secondly, after depletion its resource restoring process takes longer time due to its geographical features, when compared to the Andaman area where islands are located.

The financial provision of village fish brokers is also different from 30,000 Baht to more than 20,000 Baht per case. Some are branches of the district fish brokers or gain their credits. But most of them are small-scale entrepreneurs.

The village fish broker is a crucial mechanism endlessly activating the small-scale fishing village daily life due to its client-patron system loaning the fisherfolks with various supplies : fishing gears, appliances and cash. According to the estimations of the local NGOs' staff , about 70-80 per cent of the fisherfolks in each village have been tightly chained by such a debt system. However, the degrees of exploitation are

different from case to case depending on certain factors. Some are quite flexible and negotiable to their in-debted customers depending on the availability of the catches. In fact, a number of the in-debted customers are also their relatives or neighbours

This finding is also in accordance with the 1990 marine fisheries census that 53 per cent of the in-debted fisherfolks owe their money to the fish brokers and money loaners (Naweeya, N., 1993:19).

- Saving Most of the fisherfolks save their money by putting it in an informal banking system operated by the villagers themselves which they could both earn interests from other share-holders' loans and loan the money themselves. A few villagers deposit money in banks. Many households tend to hide money for household uses in their houses. Women are usually money keepers and primary decision-makers in household expenses. They also give money to men when asked.

Division of Labour between Women and Men in Fishing Communities

Fishing activities are categorized into 3 stages as follows : pre-harvesting, harvesting, and post-harvesting. The different participations between women and men in each stage are presented in Table 3.

Table 3 Division of Labour between women and men in village fishing activities

Activity	Twenty years ago		At present		Note
	women	men	women	men	
Pre-harvesting	◐	●	◐	●	
Buying boat/ boat engine	rowing boat				
Buying petrol	●	◐	●	◐	Because women spend longer time at home than men.
Buying nets	●	●	●	◐	Because women spend longer time at home than men.
Cooking food	●	◐	●	◐	Sometimes men cook in the boat.
Binding nets	●	●	●	●	Not very different.
Mending nets	●	●	●	●	Not very different.
Worshipping boat spirits	◐	●	◐	●	Women prepare food, fragrant powder, 3 kinds of fragrant flowers, while men go to invite male neighbours and spiritual intermediaries.
Harvesting					
Going fishing	●	●	◐	●	Depending on types of fishing gears and family conditions
Netting	●	●	◐	●	
steering		●	◐	●	Boat engine is quite heavy for woman.
Post-harvesting					
Taking catches out of the nets	●	●	●	●	- If fishing boat returns to shore after fishing, women and men have to work together as fast as possible to go fishing again.

Activity	Twenty years ago		At present		Note
	women	men	women	men	
Catch processing	●		●		
Selling catches	●	◐	●	◐	- Men go to sell catches in the district before boating back home - Women sell catches to villiage fish brokers.
Money managing	●	◐	●	◐	women and men tend to share decision making in big expenses.

Note The size of dark circle represents the degree of the activity.

According to the above-mentioned table, the roles of women in village fishing activities could be discussed as follows:

1. Pre-harvesting The roles of women in twenty years ago and at present are not obviously different. Mothers or grown-up daughters cook food for family members, buy petrol for going fishing in the next day, and bind nets (by combining nets, strings and metal together to be a complete fishing gear). These activities either reduce expenses or earn extra income. Women also mend used nets and prepare supplies for worshipping boat spirits. Nevertheless, women bind and mend nets less than before. It may be because fisherfolks tend to use more ready-made fishing nets and because some kinds of nets - including crab gill nets - cannot be mended after they are torn.

2. Harvesting : Women go fishing more than before. The fisherfolks have to compete in extracting the depleting marine resources to earn most incomes and cover the higher costs. Meanwhile, household labour is also decreasing because younger people move out to seek for other jobs. In this respect, the roles of women are determined by various factors including types of fishing gears (Table 4), the number of household labour and the household economic condition.

Table 4 Types of fishing gears and users

The fishing gears which are widely used among the southern small-scale fisherfolks both in the Andaman Coastal and the Gulf of Thailand areas are as follows:

Fish gears	Female users	Male users	Note
- Crab gill net	✓	✓	- Most popular, men steering women netting
- Shrimp trammel net	✓	✓	
- Bream long line	✓	✓	
- Bream gill net	✓	✓	
- Squid trap	-	✓	
- Squid cast net	✓	✓	
- Shrimp push net	✓	✓	- Men steering
- Mackerel gill net	✓	✓	
- Stow net	-	✓	
- Seabass encircling net	-	✓	

Note: The couple tend to go fishing together to reduce fishing wages, or sometimes because of lack of male labour in the family. A mother may go fishing with her son. For couples with young children, their neighbours or parents would help take care of the children.

3. Post-harvesting : The present roles of women are not different from the ones in the past, particularly in managing the earnings from the catches. Women are in charge of saving and taking care of expenses. However, we should not conclude that women are more influential than men in making decisions on household expenses. Although women tend to decide what to buy for household consumptions and for children, and women keep the money, the decisions on a large amount of expenses are primarily and mutually made by both women and men.

Moreover, the livelihoods of the small-scale fisherfolks mainly rely upon the natural environment. The decision making and the division of labour between women

and men in fishing activities are closely related to environmental factors. Thus, the study of power in decision making between women and men should focus on household phenomena caused by external situations affecting the prevalent life styles.

In addition, the data confirm the existing perception in Thai society that women are the ones who manage household expenses. Therefore, the crucial issue in promoting women's roles in the long run is how to alert them to the dangers of the mainstream consumerist ideology which subtly degrades environments at all levels. Once alerted, women as the regulators of household consumption could play a significant role in all aspects of environmental conservation.

Moreover, according to an academic who has been actively involved in community-based project activities to prevent and solve drug addiction problems in the southern small-scale fishing villages, drug addiction is a serious problem threatening almost all fishing villages. At least ten to a hundred of young male teenagers and men in each fishing village are addicted to different kinds of drug ranging from marijuana to heroin. A solution is possible only when their mothers and families accept the problem and cooperate in tackling it. The important issue is how to promote women's roles as mothers and sisters together with men to solve this problem in the communities.

In summary, women in southern small-scale fishing villages have been actively playing many roles for a long time. When they are young, the girls help their mothers do household chores and look after the younger brothers and sisters. As single women, they help take care of household livelihoods and share their mothers' burdens. Women also help bind and mend nets, and go fishing with men. Then, when married, they have to add the burdens of being wives and mothers on their shoulders. Within the acute situations of marine and coastal resource deteriorations, and competition for the limited resources among small-scale fisherfolks themselves and among the small-scale and medium-scale fisherfolks, the poor small-scale fisherfolks with debts and simple fishing gears are pushed into a corner. As such, women in these deprived families have to take part in solving these problems shoulder to shoulder with men.

Additionally, it is necessary to conduct case studies by village to identify changes in the roles of women and men in the 3 stages of fishing activities by focussing on specific fishing gears in relation to the changes of coastal and marine resources and

socio-economic development of the village.

There should be case studies of women with more than fifty years of age in fishing families with different economic statuses. The study should focus on the changes of their fishing activities during the last thirty years in relation to the family and community contexts, and emphasize on the changes of the household division of labour between women and men in a variety of fishing families.

Table 5 illustrates an overview of household division of labour between women and men in southern small-scale fishing villages.

An Overview of Household Division of Labour between Women and Men

The data are collected from 16 households in 3 villages of Kan Tang district in Trang province and an outcome of a women's group meeting comprising women from Koh Yao subdistrict of Koh Yao district in Pangna province, Koh Poo subdistrict of Muang district in Krabi province, and Ban Pa Klog in Muang district of Phuket province.

Table 5.1 The household division of labour between women and men in the Andaman coastal villages.

Dry season (October-April)		Monsoon season (May-September)	
women	Men	women	men
Morning to noon		Morning to noon	
- Washing clothes - Cleaning house - Cooking food - Preparing for children to go to school.	- Going to the sea to collect crab nets at 3-4 a.m.	- Washing clothes - Cleaning house - Cooking food - Preparing for children to go to school.	- Going to collect crab gill nets (if not too stormy). - Staying at home, no fishing due to storm. - Working as labourers in fishing vessels.
← Taking crabs	out of nets →	- Boiling and getting crab meat (with less amount than in the dry season)	
- Boiling crabs and getting crab meat. * Rubber plantation owners going to collect rubber juice in early morning.	- Going to the sea to leave crab gill nets again. * Going fishing by lines (cooking in the boat). * Go squid trapping. * Go shrimp trammel netting. - Socializing in coffee shops after fishing.	- Binding nets - Mending nets <u>Earning extra incomes</u> * Selling dissert	
		* ← Going bream	longlining →
		* collecting shell fish (on rocks)	
		* Going fishing in ←	canals →
		* ← Going shell fishing	→

* means some households.

← → means both women and men in the same household.

Table 5.1 (continued)

Dry season (October-April)		Monsoon season (May-September)	
women	Men	women	men
Afternoon to night		Afternoon to night	
- Taking care of children	- Taking a rest	- Taking care of children	
- Cooking food	- chatting with neighbours	- Cooking food	
- Selling crab meat		← Going fishing, fishing nets →	collecting
- Buying petrol		- Selling catches	- Watching TV.
- Chatting with neighbours		- Watching TV.	- Chatting with neighbours.
* ← Going to the sea to crab gill nets. →	leave	- chatting with neighbours.	
* ← Going fishing in	canals →		
* Preparing supplies for gillnet crews.	* Going fishing		
<p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Squid trapping has a break of 2-3 days a month during the 2nd and 3rd nights of the full moon and dark moon, according to the lunar calendar. - Bream longlining for only 1 month, not much fish. - women go to help cooking in social functions. - More expenses in the dry season due to more social functions and fairs. 		<p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fishing costs are higher due to more damages in this season. - If no storm, villagers go longlining. - If no storm, villagers earn more incomes because they could use different kinds of fishing gears. - Fisherfolks go shrimp trammel netting for 10 days a month with a daily income of 400 Baht - Mackerel gill netting is done at night during the 5th-12th nights of full and dark moon in the eleventh and twelve months, and the first and the second months. 	

* means some households.

← → means both women and men in the same household.

Table 5.2 The household division of labour between women and men in the Gulf of Thailand area (concentrating on Surat Thani).

Dry season (February-September)		Monsoon season (October-January)	
Women	Men	Woman	Men
Morning to noon		Morning to night	
- Washing clothes - Cleaning house - Cooking food - Preparing for children to go to school.	- Going to the sea to collect crab gill nets.	- Washing clothes - Cleaning house - Cooking food - Preparing for children to go to school	
← Taking catches	out of the nets →	← Collecting strings, plastic left on the beach (3 Baht per kg.).	bamboos and for sale
- Selling catches - Boiling crabs and getting crab meat.	- Going to the sea to leave nets.	* ← Growing mushrooms →	
* ← Going fishing	in the sea →	* ← Growing vegetables →	
* ← Collecting	shell fish →	<u>Note</u> - Going fishing sometimes if no storm. - Going fishing at nearby Samui Island. - Making dry coconut meat, raising cattle as extra jobs in some villages. - Most men move out to seek for jobs or become middle men selling goods in other provinces.	
* Playing cards.			
Afternoon to night			
- Selling crab meat - Cooking food - Taking a rest	- Going fishing - Staying in the boat at night.		
← Going fishing	in the sea →		
* Playing cards			
← Collecting shell	fish →		

* means some households.

← → means both women and men in the same household.

In summary, women work very hard in the dry season, particularly when crabs are abundant. Some days they have to work from morning to midnight. In the monsoon season, even though they cannot go fishing, women still work as hard in their households as in the dry season.

However, it is necessary to quantify working hours and financial contributions of women and men in fishing families with different kinds of fishing gears over a long period of time to gain a systematic understanding of the sexual division of labour between women and men.

The Andaman coast has more mangrove forests and more islands with variegated resources than the western coast. This difference allows fisherfolks to use more kinds of fishing gears than those in the Gulf of Thailand in both the dry and the monsoon seasons. Both men and women could earn their living or reduce their expenses by using simple fishing gears in mangrove forests or canals. Meanwhile, the fisherfolks in the Gulf of Thailand areas are severely constrained by geographical limitations and degradation of coastal resources. A large number of them have to move out to seek for jobs in the monsoon season and to work as wage labourers in shrimp farms. That is why the level of debts of the fisherfolks in the Gulf of Thailand areas is higher than the one of those in the Andaman coastal areas.

In addition, young women in some fishing villages work as wage earners in canneries or cold storage factories due to the regular incomes. Moreover, they could hardly financially rely on fishing any longer. There are certain aspects of social changes in fishing communities affected by daily waging life styles which necessitate further studies.

There is only one research studying about Moslem women in Pattani province who work in factories. It found that the small-scale fishing households suffer economic problems due to the drastic fishing decrease in the Pattani Bay caused by trawlers. Therefore, the women have to commute to work in the urban factories. They also adopt urban culture into their daily activities which bring about some changes in life styles. Yet, the changes have not seriously affected the social norms of the Moslem village (Lerdrit, 1991: 103).

The Role of Women in Shrimp Farming : Basic Observation

The rapidly increasing number of aquaculturing fisherfolks is evident in the 1990 and the 1995 marine fisheries census (Matichon 13 January 1996)

The spread of shrimp farming in the villages has brought about several community changes. Shrimp farm labourers move into the villages. The shrimp farmers have to spend most time concentrating on shrimp farming, not actively participating in village functions or activities as before. In addition, sewage drained from shrimp farms degrades nipa plam and mangrove forests, and pollutes fresh water in the adjacent areas. The village cannot use the water for consumption any longer.

In fact, the division of labour between women and men in shrimp farming in Table 6 is not yet clear and complete. The data are collected from eleven shrimp farmers in 9 villages in Tha Chana district of Surat Thani province, Pak Phanang district of Nakorn Si Thammarat province, and Kan Tang district of Trang province.

Table 6 The division of labour between women and men in shrimp farming

Women	Men
- Buying shrimp feed, preparing the feed and feeding.	- Building shrimp pond
- Medicating shrimps	- Operating aerator
- Catching shrimps	- Buying shrimp feed
- Selling shrimps	- Contacting fish brokers.
- Contacting shrimp consultants	- Taking care of shrimp farm
	- Catching shrimps
	- Spreading lime in shrimp
	- Checking shrimp growth
	- Checking water acidity
	- Loaning
	- Participating in meetings concerning shrimp farming
<u>Note</u>	
- Most women are men's assistants.	
- Only one woman is in charge of all steps excluding operating aerator, spreading lime and pumping water into the pond.	

It is necessary to focus a study on the division of labour between women and men in shrimp farming by categorizing levels of entrepreneurs according to the sources and costs of investment, and differentiating the farming areas according to the geographical features and the business development.

The Role of Women in Conserving Coastal Resources in Southern Small-Scale Fishing Villages

Southern small-scale fishing villages have been seriously affected by mainstream development. The deterioration of coastal resources include mangrove forests, seagrass beds, coral reefs, and marine organisms. The deterioration is caused by exploitative fishing gears and uncontrollable expansions of shrimp farms. All the kinds of catches are transferred from village fish brokers to the town brokers. Then, they are sent to both urban consumers and processing factories to be finally exported. Like the catches entangled in the nets, the fisherfolks are endlessly trapped in a spiral of debts with the village fish broker. Meanwhile, women themselves have to shoulder three types of burdens : In production work, they work hard along with men in all steps of fishing activities. Women are also in charge of reproduction work by taking care of children and the old in their families, laundering, cleaning houses, and cooking like women in almost all societies. Moreover, they have been involved in the process of community organizing to tackle the problems of livelihoods for their families and communities.

Three women's group meetings were held as follows : a). a meeting of 45 women from Ban Toh Ban, Si Kow district, Ban Chao Mai, Ban Mod Tanoy, and Ban Pra Muang in Kan Tang district, Trang province; b). another meeting of 25 women from 5 villages in Tha Chana district, Surat Thani province; and c). a meeting of 30 women from 2 villages in Thalang district, Phuket province, 3 villages in Koh Yao district, 1 village in Muang district of Pangna province, and 2 villages in Aow Luek district and Nue Klong branch district of Krabi province.

Women agreed that the families and the community could get by using only the fertility of coastal resources because the more catches they could get, the more

earnings they could gain for their families. The women were concerned with the problems of coastal resource deterioration which directly affected their families' livelihoods. Therefore, they concluded that men and women in all families had to be organized to solve these problems. People either had to take action themselves, such as placing artificial reefs in the sea, or they had to request that government agencies solve the problems such as by submitting an official appeal to the chief of district to direct the police to arrest the illegally encroaching trawlers and push nets.

Nevertheless, the women regard the duty of taking care of the family members' daily lives as their primary responsibility to be fulfilled before participating in community activities. They also relate this significant role to the sustainability of the community. However, when crisis call for prompt actions, they would temporarily leave their families behind to take part in the community activities. Additionally, the women regard working shoulder to shoulder with men in the family as pleasure and pride.

From the SNWIF project experiences in coordinating with local NGOs, we could see that the southern small-scale fishing community organizations have implemented a variety of projects to tackle the problems of coastal resource deterioration. The projects are as follows :

1. The protection of rights in using coastal resources

There are different cases in this respect : The Chao Mai villagers protested against the national park land designation over their preoccupied land in 1993. The Tha Chana fisherfolks were organized to submit an official appeal to the high-ranking officers to prohibit illegal trawling and push nets within 3 km offshore in 1994. The fisherfolks also produced and placed artificial reefs to protect the encroachment of trawlers and push nets.

2. The rehabilitation and conservation of degraded coastal resources

The examples of this category are as follows: The Chao Mai villagers implemented the seagrass bed and dugong conservation project in 1992-1995. The artificial reef project of Tha Chana fisherfolks was to both protect their rights in coastal resource using and to rehabilitate the resources at the same time. The mangrove reforestation project of Ban Pra Muang and Ban Mod Tanoy villagers in 1993 and the one in Ban Klong Rang in 1994 are also the cases.

3. The development of quality of life

Saving groups, petrol cooperatives, income generating groups and religious group for community voluntary development are included in this category due to their aims of developing the villagers quality of life for self reliance and solidarity. There are such projects in almost all villages but with different degrees of strength and achievement.

In fact, these three categories of projects are interrelated in a process of community organizing to strengthen itself in the long run. The community organizations have gradually grown up due to their learning experiences and the support of local NGOs. They are connected into networks of small-scale fishing organizations at district and provincial levels, then set up into the Federation of Southern Small-scale Fisherfolks in 1994. The executive committee of the Federation comprises 30 members who are representatives from fishing community organizations in 10 provinces. During these two years the Federation has been developing its work strategies by coordinating with different organizations in government and private sectors. Since 1996 the Federation has been granted 13 million Baht by DANCED (the Danish government agency) for developing and strengthening the southern small-scale fisherfolk organizations for two years and a half.

Throughout the consolidating process of the community organizations, women have been playing several roles as follows:

1. Leader

Only one woman leader is evident in the community organization of Ban Chao Mai in Kan Tang district, Trang province. She played a crucial role in initiating and implementing conservation and development projects in the village. She was the only woman who was involved in all steps of the village protest when the government attempted to designate the villagers' occupied land to be national park land in 1993.

However, despite her outstanding potential and comprehensive understanding of conservation issues, the development of the community organization and her role are limited due to the village conflicts of interests caused by business investments from outsiders.

2. Core group

Women are essential components in the core group of community organization in almost all villages. They actively take part in planning, preparing and implementing any activity of the community organization. Women of some villages in Tha Chana district were so upset with the difficulties caused by illegal encroachment of trawlers and push nets that they led the villagers to make a request to the government officers. In addition, some core group members, men and women alike, agreed that having women to negotiate with the counterparts could decrease the degrees of violence and confrontation.

3. Participant

There were as many women as men who helped mix cement and sand together for producing artificial reefs and dumping them into the sea. Women also worked side by side with men in the mangrove reforestation projects for community forests. Additionally, those who prepared food and served water were always women. In this respect, women energetically played different roles both in front of and behind the scenes.

4. Supporter

Although women are sometimes too obliged by their daily household chores to participate in the community activities, they are influential in persuading (or forcing) men to take part in the projects. Apart from this, women also provide support in cash or kind. In some families, men were quite indifferent to the projects. But they could not resist women's influence so that they had to participate in the activities.

Women play a crucial role in community conservation projects because they are concerned with the hardship their families and communities have to experience due to pressures and conflicts in natural resource uses and deterioration of coastal resources. The women are also worried about their children's future and want to conserve community resources for the next generations. This kind of caring motivates Thai women in several underprivileged social groups to become the forefront of the current Thai environmental movement (Atiphodi, k., 1995: 198).

However, within Thai social constraints of sexual inequities, the above-mentioned outstanding women's roles in fishing communities are certainly attributed to specific factors to be identified.

Factors Contributive to Women's Prominent Roles in Small-scale Fishing Communities

According to the interviews of leading women in community organizations, the factors that contribute to women's prominent roles in the small-scale fishing communities are as follows:

1. The accumulation of participating experiences in social activities.

The leading women in the fishing community organizations have experiences in participating in community organizations initiated by governmental agencies i.e. housewives' group organized by the Department of Agricultural Extension in 1987, voluntary women's group for rural development organized by the Department of Community Development in 1991, and voluntary group for village public health organized by the Ministry of Public Health in 1977.

Some villagers complain that these women's groups are mandatorily set up without taking village needs and conditions into account. The women members are always ordered to serve the officers in governmental functions. However, these activities provide chances for women to leave their limited household areas to broaden their horizons, to learn about group expressions, and to expose to various information; which are significant in developing their self-confidence and expressive capabilities.

In addition, these leading women also gain experiences from other social activities i.e. selling, managing family's small business, and etc.. Their skills and personalities developed from interactions with society outside the household are somehow related to their outstanding roles in community organizations. In particular, the woman leader in Ban Chao Mai spent almost two years working with an academic as a research assistant in her village before she became an outstanding leader.

2. The support of men in the family

These leading women are all supported by their husbands or fathers, who are also involved in community activities, to play an active role in the community organizations. Some women have their husbands to help them doing household chores or taking care of children while they are away for community activities. Other couples with grown-up children accompany each other for public participations. Such support

renders women self-confident to work for public betterment without fear of being unaccepted by family and community.

Women's Constraints in Playing an Active Role in Fishing Communities

However, despite their strong intention to contribute to community betterment, a great number of women could not actively participate in the community organizations due to the following constraints:

1. Women's overburdening

As mentioned before, women are always in charge of household chores and earn money for their families, so that they are overwhelmed with different kinds of work all day, especially in the dry season. Therefore, they could hardly play an active role in the community organizations.

The critical question is how to manage conservation projects without adding more burdens to the women's overloaded shoulders. In other words, how could men help share women's household loads so that both men and women could equally and cooperatively participate in conservation activities ?

2. Women's lack of self-confidence

In general, women are less confident in public expression than men due to their specific socialization. Most rural women never speak in public get-togethers. Even when they strongly want to express their ideas or to ask questions, they could hardly do so.

Nevertheless, once women begin to learn from introducing themselves in a meeting, then they gradually practice expressing ideas about their project and other issues. By this way, they come to gain self-confidence through the process. Some women eventually develop into articulate speakers.

Self development for women best begins with small-group activities with appropriate styles before the women are exposed to other larger-scale meetings. The role models of woman leaders at different levels of forums are also very significant in

this process. It is concluded from the SNWIF project experiences and those of other NGOs that group process is an important condition for women's self development.

3. Women's lack of power

A great number of women have to comply with their husbands' decision in spite of their own wills. Some women in the small-scale fishing villages were originally active to initiate or participate in community projects. But when their husbands disagreed, they had to give up the ideas and limit themselves merely to household work as before.

The issue is how to educate men to understand and accept that women also have an equal chance to participate in community activities. In this respect, men in NGOs and community organizations have to include gender issues into their project activities.

Policy Implications

The above-mentioned issues lead to specific suggestions :

1. Women's learning opportunities

It is necessary that women be organized into groups concentrating on particular issues to develop team working and leading skills. Moser, c. (1993) suggested that grassroots women need a space of their own. "...This space, both physical and conceptual, is the prerequisite for identifying needs and then mobilising to meet them. Women's groups offer a legitimate forum beyond the private, domestic world ; membership of an organization offers an initial substitute for lack of bureaucratic know-how, and inexperience with public discourse...." (Moser, C., 1993:183).

Nevertheless, it is crucial that this group organizing not repeat the same mistakes of the ones organized by the governmental agencies.

Moreover, the group organizing should not be limited to women only because community betterment will be achieved by collaborations of both men and women.

2. To promote men's understanding and acceptance of women's roles.

It is important that men share women's burdens and support women to play an active role in the community organizations. In addition, men in the community organizations should keep their family members, especially their wives, informed of project activities as well as to encourage women's participation.

3. To strengthen community organizations and encourage women's participation in all steps.

Men and women need to learn to develop the community organizations together throughout its prolonged process. On the other hand, the strength of community organization is mutually interrelated to the one of women's group. According to the SNWIF project experience, we find potential women's groups in the communities only where the community organizations are relatively strong.

4. To formulate a long-term policy and plans in promoting women's roles.

It is necessary that the networks of small-scale fishing community organizations and the Federation of Southern Small-scale Fisherfolks formulate long-term policy and plans to systematically promote women's roles in community organizations. It is hoped that a larger number of women will actively participate in the small-scale fishing organizations and the networks in the future.

5. To begin women development projects in local NGOs

According to the final project meeting with the few NGO staff members who had a long-standing coordination with the project, it is necessary that local NGOs assign specific female staff to work specifically in promoting women's roles in fishing communities and developing the existing networks of women's groups. The female staff have to closely collaborate with their colleagues who are already too overburdened with many project activities to implement the women development policy originally stated in their plan.

However, provided that it is not yet likely for NGOs to employ particular staff for women development project for the time being, they should begin with identifying potential staff to play an active role in this area of work. Then, the staff should have a chance to develop their skills and gender perspectives for future activities when chances rise. In addition, the local NGOs should closely coordinate with women development

NGOs in Bangkok to initiate some activities for women's groups and women's group networks.

Indeed, the process of strengthening community organizations and women's groups, and of building up their networks consumes great time and effort for all concerned parties. Yet, amidst the surging waves over the southern small-scale fishing villages, women and men of the communities have already collaboratively steered their boat towards their destinations, regardless of the distance and obstacles.

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Appendix A

Final Report
Support Network for Women in Fisheries
(SNWIF) Project
July 1994 - December 1995

Objectives : The objectives of the SNWIF project were originally as follows :

1. To promote and strengthen networks of women's groups in fishing communities as part of a general movement for sustainable development.
2. To study the roles of women and women's groups in the Thai social context using modern ideas about gender.
3. To return knowledge gained from item 2 to women and women's groups in order to sensitize and empower women for gender equity.

Project Activities:

1. The project officers coordinated with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Trang, Pattani and Surat Thani to :
 - gain information on the target villages,
 - provide activities for the target women's groups, and
 - pursue development approaches for the target women's groups.
2. The project officers visited the target villages regularly to familiarize themselves with the villagers and to collect data.
3. Forums and study trips for women's groups were organized for the target women's groups in the target areas.
4. Data from the target villages were collected, analysed and then synthesized to complete research on the role of women in fishing villages.

Project Implementations : The project was implemented as follows-

1. *Implementations in the target areas :*

1.1 The following two meetings were held cooperatively by the project and the local NGOs :

- *Trang* : About 50 participants from the women's groups of Ban Chao Mai, Ban Pra Muang and Ban Mod Tanoy in Kan Tang district, and Ban Toh Ban in Si Kao district attended the meeting at Ban Mod Tanoy on August 20, 1994.

- *Surat Thani* : About 30 participants from 5 villages of Tha Chana district attended the meeting in Tha Chana School on October 8, 1994.

- *Phuket* : About 30 participants from 8 villages in Tanbon (subdistrict) Pa Klong in Thalang district, Phuket, Tambon Koh Yoa Noi in Koh Yao district and Tambon Bang Toey Tai in Muang district, Pangna, and Tambon Si Bor Ya in Nue Klong branch-district, Krabi attended the meeting in Nai Yang National Park, Phuket during November 29-December 1, 1995.

This last meeting was organized as a substitute for the forum aimed to return research outcomes on the roles of women in coastal resource conservation in southern fishing villages to the target women's groups which was originally planned in the project proposal. However, after a discussion with experienced NGO workers, the project decision was to hold a meeting for active women and women's groups in the Andaman coastal area due to its prospects in community organization development and the activeness of the local NGOs. The first women's group meeting in this area is a starting point for building up women's group networks in the future.

2. *Coordinating activities to create networks between women's groups and other organizations :*

2.1 Ten representatives of women's groups from Trang and Surat Thani attended an annual meeting of the Federation of Southern Small-scale Fisherfolks Songkhla during September 13-15, 1994. There were approximately 150 participants in the meeting.

2.2 Two representatives from women's groups in Trang and Surat Thani participated in a nationwide seminar on "Thai women in the Next Decade", a part of national NGOs preparation for the Beijing UN Conference on Women, during October 28-29, 1994 in Bangkok. The 200 participants were women representatives from regional, local and grass-roots levels.

2.3 The issue of women in fishing villages was publicized by journalists in The Bangkok Post and The Nation. It was the first time that awareness of the role and problems of women in fishing villages was promoted.

2.4 Cooperations to promote activities concerning women's groups in fishing villages was initiated among feminists in universities and women's organizations, particularly the Friends for Women Foundation and the Consortium for Youth and Women's Studies at Thammasart University.

3. *Activities to create the state of knowledge concerning the role of women in coastal resource management in fishing villages :*

A meeting to analyse and synthesize data from field research was held in Songkhla province during June 24-25, 1995. Six feminists and concerned people were invited to share and discuss on the issues.

Moreover, two project officers participated in the 6th Asian Fisherfolks Consultation, organized by Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD), during August 18-21, 1995 in Ban Bueng, Chonburi province in the east of Thailand. About 40 participants from different Asian countries attended in the meeting. The presentation and discussion concerning an overview of the role of women in small-scale fishing communities in southern Thailand by the project coordinator rendered a better understanding of this issue.

Evaluation

According to its objectives, the project outcomes were evaluated as follows :

1. The promotion and strengthening of networks of women's groups in fishing villages.

This objective could be achieved only through two necessary conditions. The first condition is the effectiveness of the local NGOs in strengthening community organizations and women's groups which are also included in the community organization. The other condition is close coordination between the project and the local NGOs in the target provinces.

However, during the time there were particular constraints in each area as follows

- Pattani : The local NGOs had to concentrate on the basic step of organizing communities. They could hardly emphasize on promoting women or women's groups' significant role in the villages. In addition, the NGO staff had certain limitations and responsibilities so that they could not coordinate with the project as planned.

- Surat Thani : In the beginning, the staff of the People's Organization Development Project (PODP) actively coordinated with the project in organizing some activities, though they were quite overloaded with the high number of target villages and had limited coordinating skills. Unfortunately, the project coordination was disrupted because the PODP ceased for a long while in 1995 due to its own internal problems.

- Trang : The Yad Fon Association had consistently coordinated with the project in planning for activities in target villages. Nevertheless, the Association has a small number of staff with different target areas. Consequently, the coordination is limited to a minimal degree since early 1995.

Since the project had one full-time and one part-time staff for about one year and only one part-time staff in the last six months, it could hardly coordinate with the target women's groups in the villages on a close and regular basis. Thus, the project implementations in relation to the village activities significantly depended on the effectiveness and capabilities of the local NGOs.

After having been involved with the target fishing villages with women's groups recommended by the local NGOs, it could be concluded that the villages have their own specific conditions leading to different levels of the formation of community organizations and 'women's groups'. This condition varied from the project's original understanding of the situations. Therefore, the project had to shift from some of its target villages to other ones. In general, despite the community collectivities with a substantial number of women participating in environmental conservation activities (caused by severe ecological pressures and acute conflicts in coastal resource utilization), community organization have not yet significantly been strengthened. In other words, given that the definition of 'group' includes collective goals and objectives with consistency and solidarity in planning and implementations, the 'women's groups' have not yet evidently developed in the target villages.

The process of strengthening the community organizations and women's groups, which is a primary condition for networking, depends upon close and consistent coordinations between the project and other women development organizations and the local NGOs with gender awareness and long-term strategies in promoting women's roles. In this respect, the NGOs' setbacks have unavoidably affected the possibilities in promoting networks of women and women's groups in the fishing villages.

However, the project implementations, more or less, provided various opportunities for women in the target villages to be exposed to the 'public sphere' by participating in meetings and other activities supported by the project. Certain issues including the awareness of the role and problems of women in family/community/society, the importance and process of organizing women's and community organizations, and coastal resource conservation approaches are gradually shared and learned among participants-women and men who are supportive to women's roles. Furthermore, the project activities have linked a number of 'women's groups' and women leaders to other NGOs at different levels as well as to the mass media. As a result of the linkages, 1995 saw the first time that two women leaders were elected as members out of the 30 committee members of the Federation of Southern Small-scale

Fisherfolks (which is the regional level collectivity of small-scale fishing organizations from 10 coastal provinces in the south).

2. To study the role of women in coastal resources management in fishing villages.

The state of knowledge of the women's issues, especially the role of women in coastal resource management in fishing villages, is not yet available in Thai society. As such, this aspect of the project implementation was a process of trial and error undertaken by the project officers who have limited skills and experiences in such field research despite some basic understanding of women's issues and research skills. Nevertheless, a conceptual guideline, which was designed as a rough draft prior to the study, was used for field data collection throughout one year of project implementations mentioned in item 1.

In addition, the project also temporarily employed the local NGO staff to collect data related to the division of labour between men and women in the following fishing villages : Ban Pa Gew and Ban Klong Rang in Tha Chana district, Surat Thani, and Ban Hau Thanon in Pak Panang district, Nakorn Sri Thammarat, and Ban Mod Tanoy in Kan Tang district, Trang. However, the field data are very fragmented due to the staff's limitations.

The meeting for analysis and synthesis of the field research data rendered a clearer and more comprehensive conceptual framework for a study of the role of women in coastal resource management in fishing villages. Such a framework also substantially contributes to the study of this issue in the future.

The brief paper on the roles of women in southern small-scale fishing villages is an initial effort to present an overview situation of the fishing communities in which women have been playing different important roles.

It is concluded that the achievement of this objective is still some distance away.

3. To return the obtained knowledge in item 2 to the women and women's groups by organizing a forum.

After the analysis and synthesis meeting in June 1995, the project officers visited the target villages to share the meeting results and plan for the forum with the

leaders of women's group and community organizations. Unfortunately, all cases were found in different chaotic situations due to the prolonged setbacks and internal conflicts, partly related to the constraints of the local NGOs. Therefore, the project had to decide to substitute the forum with the meeting for the Andaman fisherwomen.

As such, this objective is not yet fulfilled.

In summary, the project which was mainly implemented by one full-time and one part-time staff is a trial and error undertaken upon the issue without available information in Thai society. It has initiated building up networks of women and women's groups in some fishing villages both in the areas of the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea by linking them together and to NGOs, academics, mass media and policy-making organizations in order to promote the significant roles of women in coastal resource management in small-scale fishing villages. Its achievements require time as well as close and consistent coordinations of various parties. It is hoped that the lessons and knowledge gained by the project will be of use to all interested people for further study in the issues of women in fishing communities and the promotion of networks of community and women's organizations in fishing villages in the long run.

Jawanit Kittitornkook

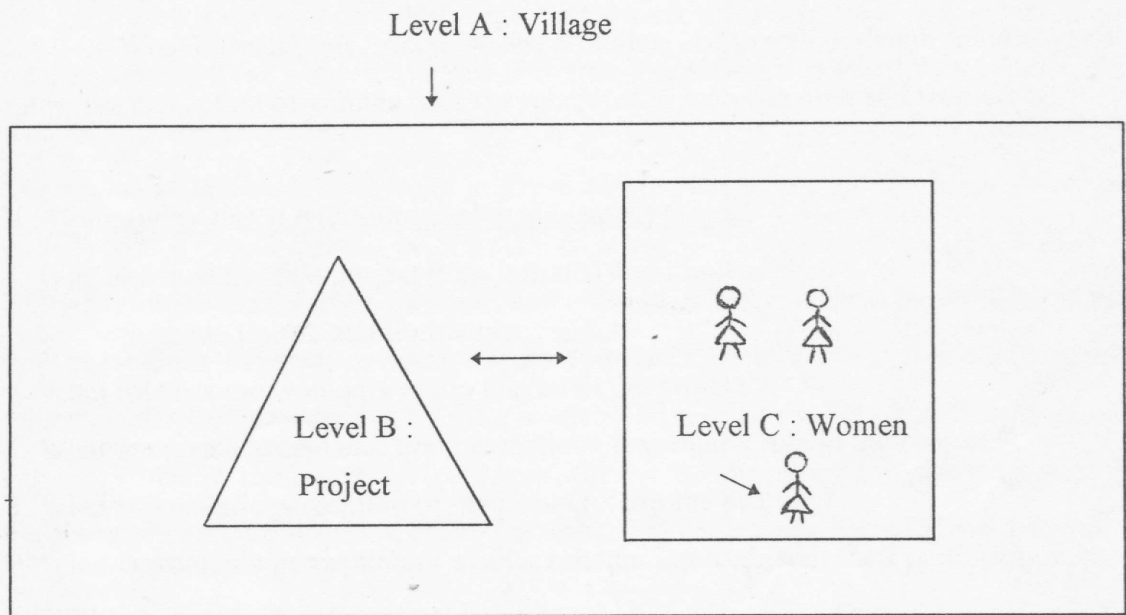
SNWIF Coordinator

6 January 1996

Appendix B

Conceptual Framework of Gender Study :

Designed in the beginning of the SNWIF project in June 1994.



A : Village Level

1. Historical change : Political, socio-economic, technological development of the community.
 - Have women played any traditional role as natural resource managers ?
 - What is the different perception of women and men on environment, ecology?
2. Impacts of changes on men and women :
 - What is the different impact of environmental degradation on men and women ?

- Is there any inequity of access and control of resources between men and women ?

3. Women's roles in community organizations - traditional, formal, informal organizations:

- To what degree of participation, and limitations, do women have in their participation ?
- How and Why ?

4. Ideological structure :

- What are religious, social values, attitudes, and practices determining women's roles, the perception of women, and the relationship between men and women ?

B : Community-based environmental management project

5. Why and how has this project been initiated and implemented ?

- Success, failure and limitations

6. What role has the women's group played in the project ?

7. What are men's acceptance and perception of women's role in the project ?

8. What is women's perception of their own role in the project ?

9. What is women's perception of gender relation induced from their participation in the project and related to social level ?

10. What is women's perception of environmental problems and their relation to larger scale of causes and effects ?

C : Case studies - two women in each target area with different characteristics e.g. age, social status)

11. Life history

12. Sexual division of labour in the household:

- What are the activities of women and men (separately) : in production in reproduction?

- Time allocation : How do men and women divide their time ?

- Family income : Who contributes and how much ?
 How is family income spent ?
 How are decisions made regarding expenditure ?
 - Capital and labour :
 What are ownership relations between men and women in the family ?
 What are production relations within the family ?
13. Perception of gender relations :
- What are women's roles in production and reproduction ?
 - What are women's limitations in society : what and why ?
 - What are the differences between men and women in Thai society ?

Studying Strategies

The following studying strategies are considered as both a reciprocal learning process for the project officers, local NGO staff and male and female fisher villagers; and a data collecting method :

- (1) Formulating concrete, comprehensive, and tentative questions from the conceptual framework, as many as possible.
- (2) Identify how to get the answers with in a particular time frame.
- (3) Share these questions with local NGO staff, village leaders, and women's groups with appropriate techniques to relate them in the research process.
- (4) Collecting the answers by asking or observing or sharing with local NGO staff, villagers and women.
- (5) Sharing the collected data with all involved parties on regular basis to check the completeness and accuracy of the data, as well as to encourage self reflection among villagers, particularly women.
- (6) Assessing the process (1-5) to make adjustments accordingly.

Appendix C

**Report on Meeting for Field Research Analysis and Synthesis
Support Network for Women in Fisheries (SNWIF) Project
June 24-25, 1995
at Institute for Southern Thai Studies, Songkhla, Thailand**

List of Participants :

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Asst.Prof.Dr.Ubolrat Siriyuwasak | Faculty of Mass Communication, Chulalongkorn
University |
| 2. Ms.Sinit Sittirak | Consortium for Youth & Women's Studies,
Thammasart University |
| 3. Aj.Nongyao Naowarat | Lanna Women's Studies for Development Center,
Chiangmai University |
| 4. Ms.Wanee Bangprabha | Friends of Women Foundation |
| 5. Ms.Sasidhorn Wongsa | Freelance trainer |
| 6. Ms.Jittraporn Wanassapong | Siamrat Subda Wijarn (Thai political weekly
magazine) |
| 7. Ms.Ratchada Tharabhak | Krungthep Thurakit (Thai newspaper) |
| 8. Asst.Prof.Niti Rittibhornbhan | SNWIF project advisor |
| 9. Aj.Jawanit Kittitornkool | SNWIF Coordinator |
| 10. Ms.Kua Trakulkumjai | SNWIF Assisstant Coordinator |

Meeting Procedure :

The SNWIF project details including its background, objectives and activities were clearly explained to the participants. A framework was formulated as a conceptual

guideline for analysing the field research outcomes with an emphasis on the community organization level and other related information i.e. organization's leaders, women leaders and community contexts. The analysis was undertaken village by village starting from Ban Chao Mai, Ban Pra Muang in Kantang district, Trang province and Ban Nong Prue, Ban Pak Nam Tha Krajai in Tha Chana district, Surat Thani province respectively. Additional issues to be studied and analysed further were also suggested. At the end of the meeting, particular conclusions and further tasks were elaborated.

Conclusions :

(1) More studies to be undertaken further :

a. Macro level

- Fishery policies
 - Historical development of the policies from past to present
 - Development of fishery technologies
 - Economy of small-scale fisheries at the national level
- Government policy in developing community organizations
 - Village council
 - Housewives' group
 - Women volunteers' group for rural development
 - Public health volunteers' group

The gained data will be related to the micro-level situations to illustrate the impacts of external factors (eg development policy, socio-economic structures) on the villages in terms of their changes of natural resources, methods of resource uses and socio-economic relation in the communities.

b. Micro level

- Division of labour in fishing activities in 4 villages both in the dry and monsoon seasons.

Activities	30 years ago		At present		Note
	Women	Men	Women	Men	
Pre-harvesting					
1.					
2.					
Harvesting					
Post-harvesting					

- Division of household labour between men and women

During the dry and monsoon seasons

Period	Activities		Note
	Women	Men	
Morning-Noon			
Noon-Evening			

3. Changes of natural resources and fishery technologies in the village during the last 30 years.

4. Three levels of analysis of women's participation in coastal resource management are categorized as follows:

- Leaders of community organizations-only 1 case in Ban Chao Mai.
- Members of core group in community organizations-very few in Ban Pra Muang, Ban Nong Prue and Ban Pak Nam Tha Krajai.
- Participants in activities initiated by community organizations-sufficient numbers in all villages.

In addition, there are three different kinds of 'community organization' as follows :

- Organizations with women members only - housewives' groups, voluntary women's group for rural development and savings group.
- Organizations with men and women members - communal forest group, petrol cooperative group (Ban Pra Muang), coastal resource conservation group (artificial reef group), fishsauce group (Ban Pak Nam Tha Krajai and Ban Nong Prue), voluntary group for religious development (Ban Pra Muang) and village council.
- Activities for solving community's problems - protesting against national park designation of preoccupied land, staking posts to mark the boundary of communal forest in Ban Chao Mai, and protesting against coal mining in Ban Pra Muang.

However, it should be noted that there are two styles of village collectivities:

- Modernized style - in which a committee is formed.
- Traditional style - in which there is a mobilization of local networks.

It is necessary to study :

- How the community organization has been organized by a mixture of both styles, how this affects women's participation, and what strategies women use for organizing village collectivities.
- How villagers define the terms "group" "community" and "activity".

- Those who do not participate in community organization belong to what groups and with what kinds of backgrounds e.g. class, religion, interest, kinship, occupation etc.

5. Resources and capital ownership, compared between men and women in the village, as well as economic linkages from village fisherfolks to fish brokers to processing factories should also be investigated as basic conditions of power in economic decision making.

6. It is vital to identify contexts or factors in promoting women's participation by concentrating on case studies of men who support women's leading role in those four villages.

(2) Recommendations for further project activities :

a. Certain research issues mentioned in item (1) are to be conducted in the same villages. The meeting outcome will also be conveyed to the concerned people in each village as inputs for discussions to identify goals and means for their sustainable community and community organizations. It is hoped that such discussions will lead to sustainable development in the communities.

b. Documents concerning the role of women in coastal resource management, as research outcomes, will be presented to the public both at the community level and at the level of policy makers . It is expected that the information will be of use to strengthen community and women's organizations in small-scale fishing villages in the long run.

Some western perspectives on the issue of women and the environment (e.g. Eco-feminism) may not be applicable within Thai social contexts. Furthermore, the conditions of women in Thai small-scale fishing villages and the villages themselves are different from those of Indian and Filipino villages whose relentless struggles are caused by threats to basic livelihoods. Therefore, it is necessary that knowledge be gradually built up by studying situations of the communities and women in Thai social contexts. The meeting, comprising feminists and concerned people with different backgrounds, is regarded as the first step rendering a primary conceptual framework for studying the role of women in fishing villages, a topic with no current knowledge for

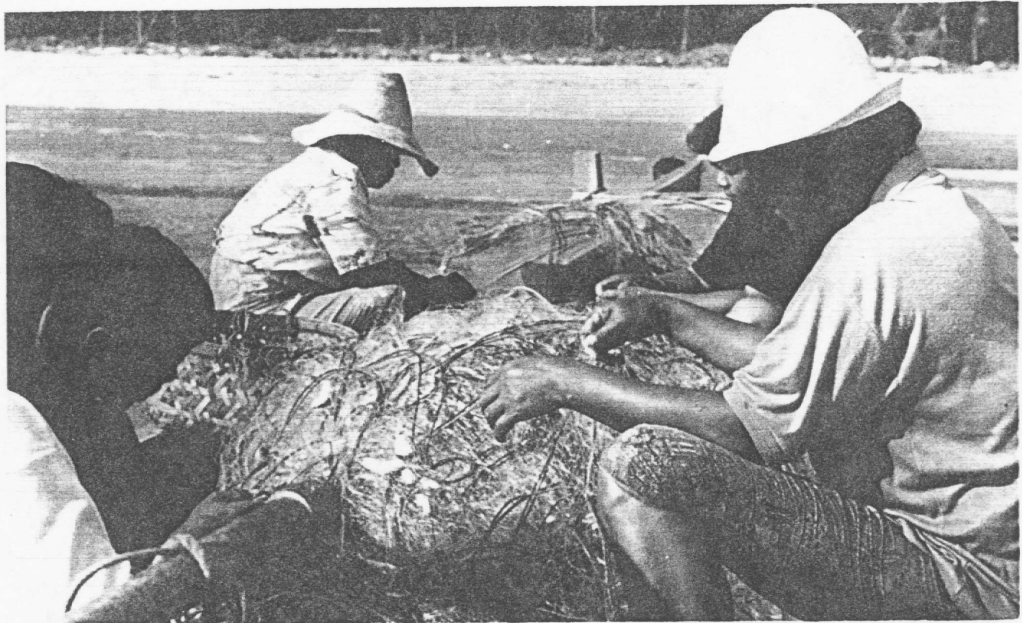
Thai society, After the additional research is completed, there will be an increase in the understanding of the role of women in coastal resource management in fishing villages. It may contribute to a body of knowledge on the issue of women and the environment in Thai society in the long run.

Appendix D

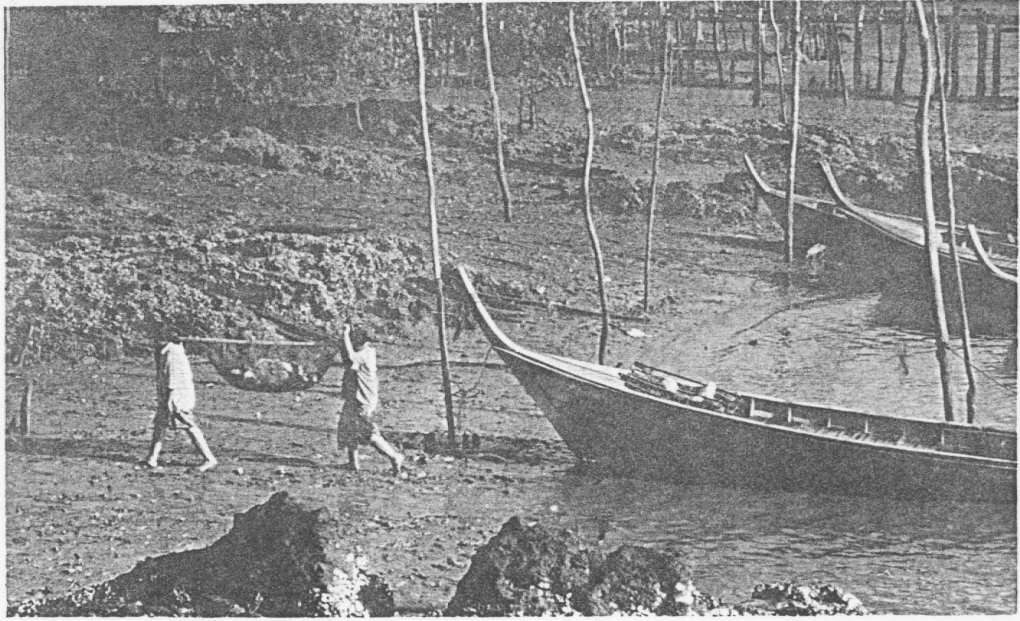
Activities of Women in Southern Small-scale Fishing Villages



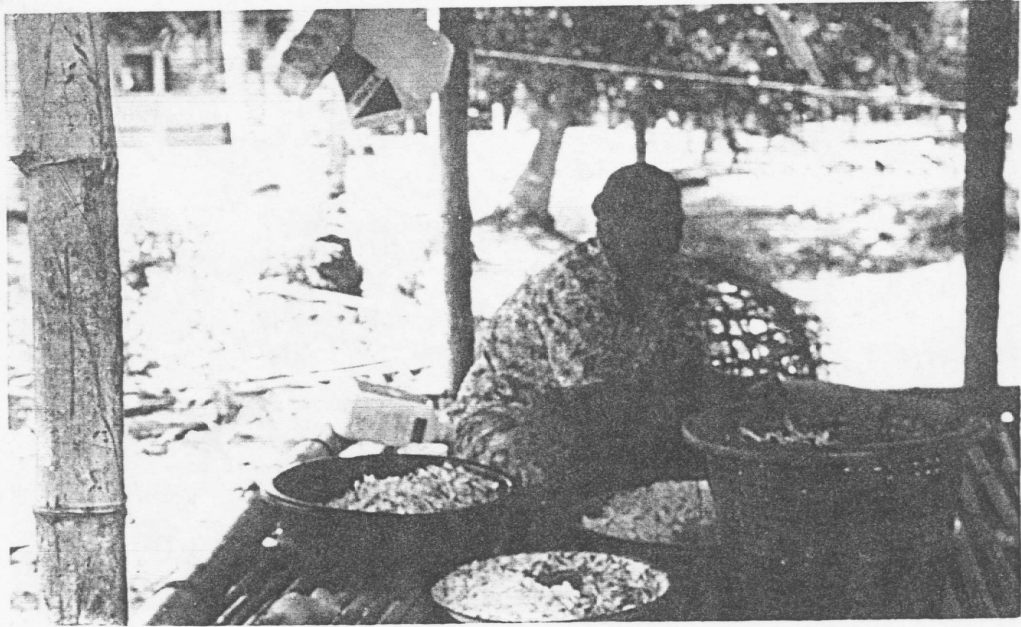
Binding net



Getting catches out of net



Carrying catches onshore



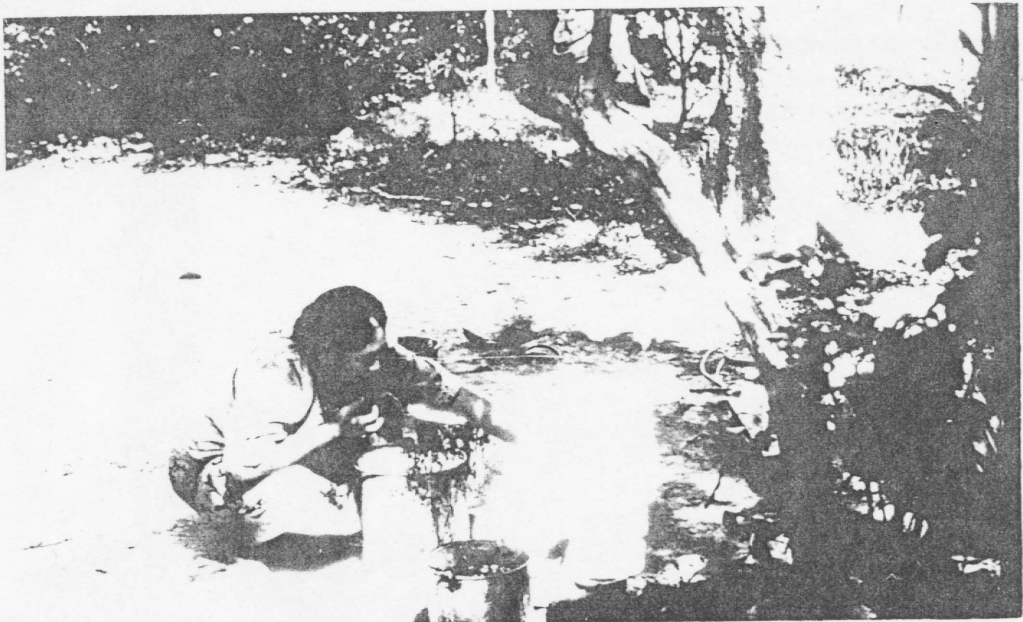
Getting crab meat



Shoreline fishing



Collecting shell fish on rock



Solidifying rubber juice



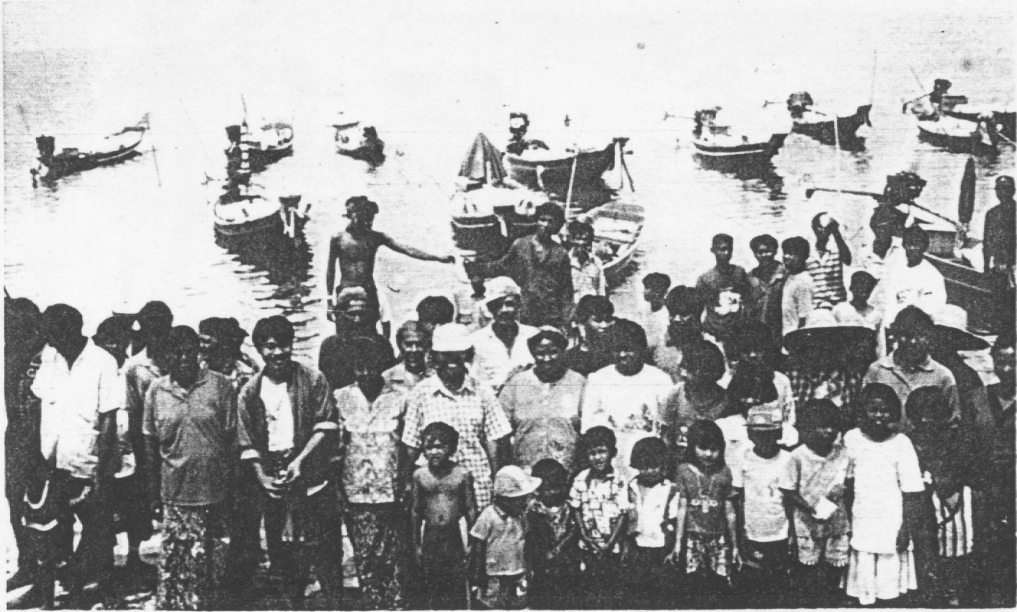
Making
shrimp paste



Weaving a mat from reeds



Weaving thatch roof from nipa palm leaves



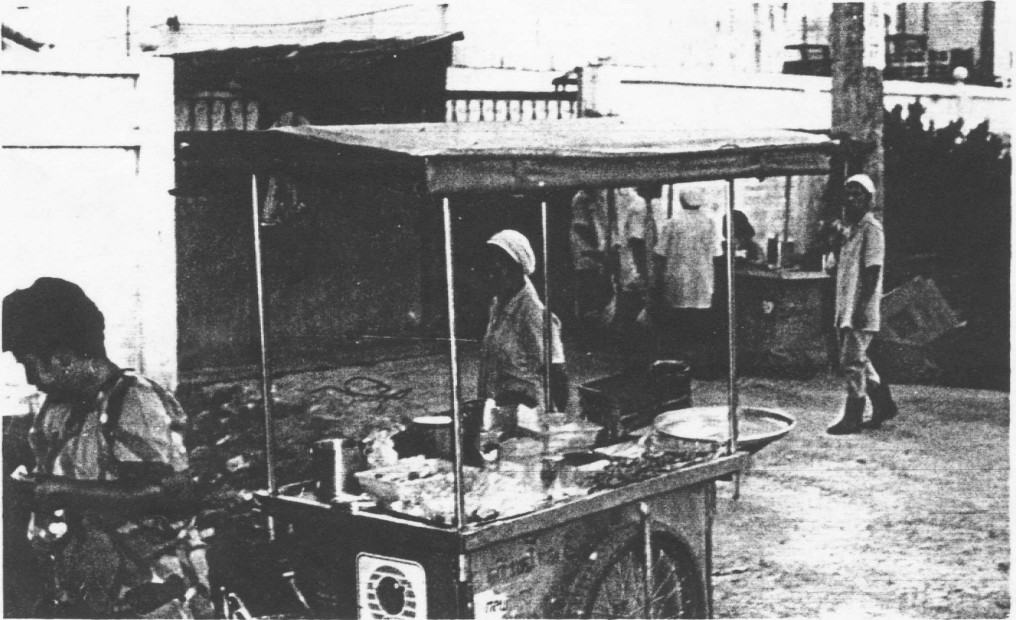
Collaborating in an artificial reef project



Participating in a women's group meeting



Working as wage labourers sorting shrimps



Working in a fish processing factory

Appendix E

The Map of Thailand



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DATE: 05/11/2018