

Problems Encountered with Fisheries Product Statistics

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Introduction

In 1993, fish production was about 3.38 million tonnes of which about 90.0 % was marine and aquaculture fisheries and the rest was freshwater fisheries. Fish were processed into various types of products depending on market demand. Most of the traditional products were supplied to the local market.

To compile the data on fish products, the survey team collected 10 items with 42 fishery products altogether. Problems encountered in collecting data were as follows:

Location of Fishery Establishment

Most freezing, cold storage and canning plants were located along coastal areas. We have no problem collecting the data from the plants although we have a coastline of 2,600 km, stretching from the Central Region to South Thailand. For traditional products, the processing plants are scattered all over the country. Moreover, the size of the plants vary from big scale to household scale. Therefore, it is impossible to get the production figures of each traditional product.

Fishery Product Category

Fishery products have been grouped into main processing items depending on the requirement. For example, in the Foreign Trade of Fishery Commodity, Department of Custom, the item fish includes whole, fillet and minced in the fresh and frozen item. Therefore, the export figure of minced fish or surimi was not available separately. For Fisheries Statistics of Thailand, Department of Fisheries, the pattern of categorising disposition fish has remained the same as in the Foreign Trade of Fishery Commodity. As a result, the production figure of value-added products of some new products is not available.