**IDENTIFICATION**

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**
Portunus pelagicus

**SPECIES NAME(S)**
Blue swimming crab, Flower crab

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**

In Thailand, *P. pelagicus* is distributed along the coasts of both the Andaman Sea (west) and the Gulf of Thailand (east) and is presently perceived and managed as a single unit. However, recent analysis of genetic diversity and population differentiation originating from Ranong, Suratthani, Prachuap Khiri Khan, and Chanthaburi suggested that BSC from these five different areas are regarded as different genetically isolated populations and should be treated as separate management units (Klinbunga, 2007). But this study only included one sample in the western coast, so one management unit is assumed given the lack of information.

This stock is part of a fishery improvement program (FIP).

**RELATED LINKS:**
- Thailand Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture (DoF-MA)
- Thailand Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture (DoF-MA)

---

**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**

- From (MRAG 2017)
  - The stock status for the offshore fishery appears to be in a reasonable condition;
  - Information systems are in place, but there is limited information on fleet structure, especially in coastal fisheries;
  - Research activities would appear to be in place, but it is unclear how comprehensive this may be across the range of the fishery;
  - There are reasonably strong engagement processes that deal with endangered, threatened or protected (ETP) species interactions and promotion of environmental awareness;
  - Governance structures are in the process of development with an amended Royal Ordinance in draft; and
  - The national fisheries strategy confirms application of the precautionary principle an ecosystem approach for fisheries management, but these have yet to be adopted in practice.

**Weaknesses**

- From (MRAG 2017)
  - Stock status is likely to be over exploited for the fishery as a whole, but heavily over exploited in coastal areas;
  - Limit and target reference points have not been set or incorporated into management;
  - There are no fishery specific harvest strategies, nor rules in place;
  - There are no fishery specific harvest strategies, nor rules in place;
  - There are no fishery specific harvest strategies, nor rules in place;
  - There are no fishery specific harvest strategies, nor rules in place;
  - There are some localized management measures in place, including crab banks and voluntary no take zones, including the preservation of crab habitat (sea grass beds). These are by no means widespread throughout the coastal communities, but evidence suggests that initiatives such as these are being encouraged;
  - There is limited information on fleet structure;
  - There is limited data on retained and bait fish species affected or applied by the two fishing methods – traps and bottom set gill nets; and
  - There is no fishery specific management plan in place nor supporting management systems that would ensure appropriate management actions would be implemented.
  - Compliance by fishers is an issue.

**SCORES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Quality:</th>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stock Health</td>
<td>Current Health</td>
<td>Future Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&lt; 6</td>
<td>&lt; 6</td>
<td>&lt; 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FIPS**

- Thailand blue swimming crab - bottom gillnet/trap:
  - Stage 4, Progress Rating A, Type: Fip, Evaluation Start Date: 31 Jan 2017

**MSC**

No related MSC fisheries

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**TAILORS & SUPPLY CHAIN**

- Participate in and promote research to determine the stock structure throughout the Thailand.
- Develop and implement a stock assessment programme to assess all stocks based on the best available science, and develop appropriate stock specific management strategies.
- Collect data to define fleet size, structure, gear and fishing effort by region.
- Press regulators to develop and implement a management plan (including a harvest strategy and reference points) and fully enforce existing regulations in all areas. The management plan should be sensitive to regional differences in the stocks, fisheries and socio-economic needs.
- Implement product specific standards and/or a Control Document to help address specific sustainability or compliance issues in the fishery (e.g. undersized or berried crabs entering the supply chain).
Establish a comprehensive data collection programme that includes bycatch and non-target species catch (both ETP and non-ETP species), as well as information on habitats and ecosystem.

Promote local participation in developing responsible crab fishing, and encourage further localised management measures, including voluntary no-take areas and the protection of crab habitat (e.g. seagrass beds).

Fully implement the revised FIP action plan from the June 2018 FIP Analysis and Review of Surat Thani Blue Swimming Crab Fishery Improvement Project.