

**Intervention by Thailand**  
**Making Fisheries Sustainable and providing access for small scale artisanal**  
**fishers to marine resources and markets**  
**29 June 2022, 15.00-18.00 hrs., Tejo Hall, Altice Arena**

I am speaking on behalf of the Director General of the Department of Fisheries of Thailand,

Small scale fisheries connect to way-of-life, livelihoods, work, income, health and food security of coastal small-scale fisher-folk communities. Small Scale/artisanal fisheries is deemed to be vulnerable sector in many countries. FAO Voluntary Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines is the key and our hope there would be strong commitment from both governments and civil society to bring about positive change in small-scale fisheries that they would make livelihoods along the small-scale fisheries value chain sustainable for people and the planet.

Allow me to share with you the initiatives and actions taken by the Government of Thailand to support the Small scale fisheries to access the marine fishery resources and markets.

80% of fishing vessels in Thailand is classified as the small scale/ artisanal fisheries. They have been promoted their participation in building strategy and making decision of fisheries management at local and national level through local fishing organizations. Currently, we have more than 2,000 registered organizations of local fishing community which are almost 100,000 members throughout the nation.

Artisanal Fisheries is allocated fish stock at first priority followed by the commercial fisheries. Important approach is to define coastal seas extending up to three nautical miles from baselines are reserved for only artisanal fisheries.

Regarding market access, Thailand has issued the **certification for standard on sustainable artisanal fisheries and its processed products** since 2020 to enhance artisanal fisheries products in domestic and global market. Recently, we launched the **Fishers Shops** to provide market access for small-scale artisanal fishers and local communities in all 77 provinces of Thailand as new market channels where food and products from small-scale artisanal fishers can be sold online and offline to customers. This can strengthen the food security and economic recovery in response to post COVID-19 pandemic.