Annual Report

on SDG14 Life Below Water

14.2 Supporting aquatic ecosystems through education

14.2.3 - Does your university as a body offer educational outreach activities for local or national communities to raise awareness about overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices?

Educational Outreach on Overfishing, Illegal Fishing, and Destructive Fishing Practices

Connecting fisheries awareness with community conservation

Thaksin University engages with communities around the Songkhla Lagoon to promote understanding of responsible fisheries and the protection of aquatic habitats. Its outreach connects academic knowledge with the experience of local fishers and cooperation with relevant public agencies. The purpose is to help communities understand why fishing pressure, damaging practices, and non-compliance with management arrangements can threaten the resources on which local livelihoods depend.

The university's approach links discussion with practical conservation settings. Community meetings provide opportunities to exchange concerns and clarify responsibilities, while fish shelters and conservation areas provide tangible examples of habitat protection and limits on resource use. Together, these activities connect awareness of fisheries impacts with locally relevant management choices.

Community dialogue with fisheries enforcement representatives

The university's 2025 activity record includes a meeting involving the Ban Mai community and fisheries enforcement representatives on 22 March. This engagement provided a setting for bringing community concerns into discussion with organizations responsible for fisheries protection.

On 21 May 2025, Thaksin University, through its Academic Service Unit for Natural Resource Management in the Songkhla Lagoon Area, participated in a public consultation with the Ban Mai (Tha Sao) community, government agencies, and partner organizations, bringing together 35 participants from 17 organizations. The forum combined presentations, a site visit, and participatory discussion to strengthen understanding of fisheries conservation and community regulations. Participants learned about the importance of Fish Shelter No. 9 as a habitat and breeding ground for aquatic species and discussed the problem of unauthorized fishing within the conservation area. Discussions addressed the protection of nursery habitats, prevention of unauthorized fishing, community surveillance, and measures to prevent disturbance or damage to fish shelters. Participants jointly reviewed community rules, while agency representatives emphasized the importance of consistency with applicable laws and public participation. The meeting also agreed to publicize fishing restrictions and conservation responsibilities throughout the community. This process connected conservation knowledge with practical guidance on responsible fishing and shared stewardship of aquatic resources.











https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=740603104926066&set=pcb.740604181592625

Exchange through the fisheries network

A fisheries-network meeting on 24 April 2025 provided a further opportunity for engagement with community resource users. Networks enable participants to exchange experiences across locations and discuss challenges that extend beyond an individual fishing ground. For the university, these exchanges connect outreach with the practical concerns of local fisheries. Community observations can help identify issues requiring explanation or further investigation, while academic contributions can support discussion of the relationship between fishing activities, aquatic habitats, and resource availability.

The educational focus is on making the reasons for conservation understandable. Explaining why habitats require protection and why fishing pressure needs to be managed helps connect individual practices with their consequences for a shared resource.




A Fisheries Network Meeting in the Songkhla Lake Basin was held at Thaksin University, Phatthalung Campus, bringing together 110 participants. The meeting focused on strengthening fisheries networks, promoting collaboration among stakeholders, addressing illegal fishing practices, and discussing the impacts of climate change on fisheries and local fishing communities.

https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=10229047889116973&set=pcb.10229047905037371&locale=th_TH

https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10229047890437006&set=pcb.10229047905037371&locale=th_TH




A Small-Scale Fisheries Network Forum was held on April 24, 2025, bringing together 30 participants to exchange knowledge and perspectives on overfishing, illegal fishing, and

destructive fishing practices. The forum provided an opportunity for local fishers and stakeholders to discuss challenges and promote sustainable fisheries management and the conservation of aquatic resources.

Public evidence:
https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10230417446443641&set=pcb.10230417449443716&locale=th_TH
https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=10230417448363689&set=pcb.10230417449443716&locale=th_TH

Learning through fish shelters and conservation rules

At Ban Mai, the university's community fish-shelter activities provide a practical context for explaining the relationship between aquatic habitat and fisheries sustainability. A documented activity took place on 28 May 2025.

Fish shelters make habitat protection visible. They offer a starting point for discussion about the needs of aquatic organisms and the importance of maintaining areas where disturbance and harvesting are restricted. Their educational relevance is strengthened when construction and maintenance are connected with explanation of the community's conservation objectives.

The Ban Mai cooperation framework identifies a conservation area of approximately 384 rai, equivalent to 61.44 hectares. Its provisions address fishing restrictions, educational and research activities, maintenance, surveillance, and identification of the managed area. These arrangements provide concrete material for community learning. They help explain the purpose of protected areas, the distinction between conservation activities and harvesting, and the responsibilities shared by resource users and partner organizations. The university contributes academic support, while community members bring knowledge of local fishing practices and the practical challenges of maintaining the area.

The framework is presented as a community conservation arrangement. Its existence does not, by itself, establish that all provisions have statutory enforcement status.

Extending awareness to younger generations

The university's youth conservation activities create opportunities to introduce the relationship between aquatic resources and responsible human behaviour. The 2025 activity record includes the youth "Love the Lagoon" camp on 9–10 April. Within this wider conservation program, content addressing fishing pressure and harmful practices can help young people understand that protecting aquatic biodiversity involves decisions about how resources are used. Locally relevant examples make these issues easier to relate to the livelihoods and environments surrounding participants.





Public evidence: https://thecityleaders.com/learning-city-songkla/





Public evidence:
https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=9937177166331237&set=pcb.9937178002997820&locale=th_TH

https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=9937177566331197&set=pcb.9937178002997820&locale=th_TH

Songkhla Lake Youth Conservation Activity

The "Youth for Songkhla Lake Conservation" activity was organized to raise environmental awareness and promote understanding of sustainable aquatic resource management among young people. The program featured several interactive learning stations focusing on the natural environment and ecosystems of Songkhla Lake. These included a Songkhla Lake Ecosystem Learning Station, where participants explored the lake's characteristics, ecological systems, and biodiversity; a Fishing Practices Learning Station, which introduced traditional fishing methods and examined issues related to illegal fishing and overfishing; and a Game-Based Learning Station, where participants learned about natural resource management through educational games.

The activity brought together 60 students and 30 teachers and other stakeholders, providing opportunities for experiential learning, environmental awareness, and engagement in the conservation and sustainable management of Songkhla Lake's aquatic resources.

Educational outputs and contribution

The documented 2025 activities provide a community-based structure for fisheries outreach: engagement with enforcement representatives, fisheries-network exchange, and practical learning associated with fish shelters and conservation rules.

Their immediate contribution is the provision of opportunities to exchange knowledge, discuss conservation responsibilities, and connect fisheries practices with aquatic habitat protection. Evidence of changes in fishing behaviour or reductions in illegal practices requires separate follow-up information and is not assumed from participation alone.

Through this approach, Thaksin University supports more informed community participation in fisheries conservation. By connecting ecological explanations, local experience,

and discussion with relevant agencies, the university helps make responsible fisheries management understandable and relevant to the communities that depend on the Songkhla Lagoon.