



Department of Fisheries Issues Exclusive Measures to Assure Consumer's Confidence and Strengthen Control of COVID-19 Starting from Farm to Table

On December 30, 2020 at 10.00 hrs at Siam Makro Public Co., Ltd., Nakorn-In branch, Mr. Meesak Pakdeekong, Director-General of Department of Fisheries (DOF) paid a visit and presented the Certificate of Compliance for Modern Trade to the company. The Certificate issued by the Department exhibits that Siam Makro is in compliance with the Guideline on Public Health Practice regulated under Section 9 of the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations B.E. 2548 (2005) (No.1) of the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH). The company is also found to comply with the preventive measures for COVID-19 contamination in Modern Trade established by DOF. The activities were held as part of the opening ceremony of the Shrimp Farmer Assistance Program for the years 2020/2021, presided over by Mr. Jurin Laksanawisit, Minister of Commerce and Dr. Chalermchai Sri-on, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives.



Mr. Meesak Pakdeekong, DG of DOF, said that people's concern over COVID-19 pandemic undermined the confidence in seafood consumption. As a result, the fishery community has been adversely affected both economically and socially throughout the supply chain. Though DOF has reassured the public that it was safe to consume fish and fishery products as they were not a vector for the virus. The regulation on epidemic control and sanitation requirements issued by MOPH have been enforced starting from transportation from farms and catching areas to distribution centers and finally to the markets. Nevertheless, consumers are still worried about the risk of virus spreading in logistics. In order to ensure consumer's confidence in seafood consumption, DOF established immediate measures to prevent contamination of COVID-19 in fish and fishery products. The measures are enforced towards 5 sectors including 1) Producers (aquaculture farmers and fishermen/fishing vessels) 2) Fishery transporters 3) Fish market operators 4) Modern trade vendors and 5) Fish processors and exporters. The entrepreneurs found to comply with the general requirements issued by MOPH and additional measures established by DOF will be awarded the Certificate of Compliance in preventing COVID-19 pandemic from DOF.

The Modern Trade operator, Siam Makro Public Co., Ltd. is the first business applied to be audited by DOF. The Department has dispatched a team of inspectors from the Fishery Technological Research and Development Division to audit the facilities on December 25th, 2020. The company was found to possess satisfactory control and implementation of preventive measures for COVID-19 contamination at the point of sale. The source of fish and fishery products are properly controlled and identified. Most of the suppliers are registered with DOF and have been randomly sampled for SARS-CoV-2 testing. There are measures to control possible contamination from transportation vessels for fish obtained from wholesalers. Proper managements and arrangements by species are in place at the point of sales. The stores are adequately cleaned and sanitized. Measures to prevent contamination from consumers are established and applied. Siam Makro, Nakorn-In Branch, was then approved and issued the Certificate from DOF.

For entrepreneurs wishing to request for an audit should contact DOF at Tel. No. 0 2562 0600 or any Provincial Fishery Offices throughout the country. The DG concluded that DOF was determined to ensure confidence of the Thai people in any way possible. He urged Thai people to help aquaculture farmers and fishermen by purchasing fish and fishery products. He stressed that Thai aquatic animals, particularly seawater shrimps are safe and not possible to host COVID-9 virus. However, make sure to wash with clean water and fully cook them before eating.

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