

Project Update: February 2011

Fishing in the Sre Ambel lagoon has three types of scale: small, large and medium. Small scale fishing was predominant during the last 5 years, followed by medium scale fishing. Few fishers were involved in large scale fishing in the lagoon, and most of them are foreign vessels that fished in the lagoon but landed in areas outside the lagoon, some exported directly to neighbouring countries. Many types of fishing gear were found in the area and there are 12 common fishing gears in the Sre Ambel Lagoon. The most common fishing gears were anchovy encircling seine, encircling seine and gill net. Shrimp gill net and crab gill net comprise about 15% of the total 210 fishing gears in the area. Although the government has already banned the use of certain types of fishing gear such as trawl and purse seine net and other explosive materials, these were still found in the area, especially in the offshore where water depth is less than 20 m. The illegal fishing gears still being used in the area comprise 2% to 5% of the total number of fishing gears used. Notwithstanding its seemingly negligible number, such illegal gears affected the supply of fish in the whole lagoon. One of the main factors that affect fish catch is the style of fisheries management. Currently, several guidelines and regulations are being enforced inside and around the areas of the lagoon. Nonetheless, these guidelines and regulations did little to improve the volume of fish catch in the area. As a result, the volume of fish landings has steadily declined from year to year, according to government records.

