No. 0508.2/2710

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## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**Subject:** Ensuring the safety of Thai fish and fishery products against the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

With the outbreak of new coronavirus disease (COVID-19), there is a growing concern that humans will be infected with this disease via fish and fishery products. The Department of Fisheries of Thailand, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, would like to clarify as follows:

The primary means of transmission of the new coronavirus are thought to be through droplet infection and contact infection. There have been no reported cases of transmission of COVID-19 through food, including fish and fishery products. Additionally, the manufacturers in Thailand are required to implement quality control systems including Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) to ensure that products are consistently produced and controlled according to quality standards and food safety. Food handlers implement good hygiene management such as managing their physical condition (wear masks, aprons and gloves) and frequent hand washing which is implemented at each stage of production.

We are making efforts to ensure that all Thai fish and fishery products are safe and the manufacturers are in compliance with the requirements in terms of hygiene and food safety. Therefore, there is no need to worry about foodborne infection by COVID-19. Please enjoy Thai fish and fishery products without fear.

Yours sincerely,

Director-General

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