

# FISHING GROUNDS IN THE LOWER MUN RIVER REGION OF NORTHEAST THAILAND: A STUDY OF “LUANG”

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Along the downstream region of the Mun River basin<sup>1</sup> in Northeast Thailand, the inland fisheries are prosperous and are the main economic base for villagers settled along the river. The villagers operate the fisheries using different types of fishing gear specific to the topographical features of the riverbed. More importantly, the villagers observe certain regulations in determining the fishing grounds, a widely defined concept known as *Luang*<sup>2</sup>. *Luang* is an indispensable part of the local fishery, as it also denotes a specific area established for installing fishing gear. This survey demonstrates the many ways in which *Luang* is defined and also explores customary fishery rights, cooperative fishing management, and the area of fishing gear installation. In addition, I discuss the impact of *Luang* after the 1994 construction of the Pak Mun Dam at the mouth of the Mun River.

**Keywords:** Fishing gear, Fishing ground, *Luang*, Mun River, Pak Mun Dam

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<sup>1</sup> This report concerns three districts of the Ubon Ratchatani Province, in the downstream areas of the Mun River: the Phibunmansaharn, Sirintorn, and Khongjiem districts.

<sup>2</sup> Romanization of Thai first appearing in *Ratchabandit Sathan* 1999.