Acknowledgements

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

This dissertation is dedicated to my family, particularly to my mother and my father, who was an exceptional man who passed away at the end of my dissertation journey. I gratefully thank the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand, the Songkhla Provincial Fisheries Office, the Phattalung Provincial Fisheries Office and the National Institute of Coastal Aquaculture (NICA), for generously providing the data. I would like to acknowledge the Graduate School, Prince of Songkla University, for funding this study. My dissertation was made more efficient but also much more extensive through the use of several electronic resources. Thus I gladly express my gratitude to Department of Mathematics and Computer Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus, Thailand.

Finally, this dissertation would not have been possible without the guidance of my supervisor, Professor Don McNeill. Not only was he readily available for me, as he so generously is for all of his students and people in remote region of Deep South, Thailand. Thanks also to my co-supervisors, Assistant Professor Chonnein Choonpradub, Assistant Professor Yupadee Chaisuksan, Assistant Professor Sukree Hajisamae, Dr Phattawan Tongkumchum, Greig Rundle, Dr Apiradee Lin, my fellow staff and graduate students, and especially Dr Nittaya McNeil, for her kind revising, editing, encouragement and suggestions to the final version of this dissertation.

Sarawuth Chesoh