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Fisheries management in Asia

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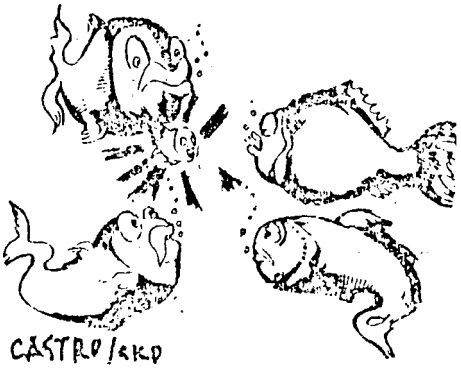
Fisheries management in Asia

Marine fisheries in Asia are dual in nature, i.e., the small-scale fishery and the commercial fishery. Due to the great difference in the type and location of the resources being exploited, a separate management system should be established for each. The small scale fishery operates in coastal waters, exploiting sedentary, shallow-water fishes, shrimps, crabs, abalone, top shell, clams, seaweeds, etc. Conversely, the commercial fishery operates in offshore and distant waters, aiming at migratory fishes.

In Asia, numerous small-scale fishing households are scattered along the coast and employ a variety of fishing gears. Under such situation, nothing can be done in terms of fisheries management unless the fisherfolk are organized at the community level. On the other hand, a fishermen's organization for the commercial fishery may be established at the state or provincial level. Fishery licenses should be issued only through the fishermen's organizations.

Management of small-scale fisheries

A fisheries management system for small-scale fisheries could be effective only if all fishermen participate. Ideally, the system should be based on the experience and ideas of fishermen. Such a system can be implemented when all fishermen are organized and if governments grant fishing property rights to the fishermen's organization. Such a system has been successfully implemented in Japan (see separate story, this issue), but modifications are required when applied to the rest of Asia.



Philippine Times Journal, 13 Feb 1991

Management of commercial fisheries

Catch limit systems without restrictions on the number of fishing boats are too costly and troublesome to implement in Asia. Individual transferable quotas are also too complex (See separate story on ITQs in developed countries.)

A feasible solution is to develop a restricted license system, by which the number and size of fishing boats, fishing area, fishing season, etc. are restricted. When a country has different sea areas, these restrictions have to be established separately for each area. For example, in Thailand these restrictions must be determined separately for the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea.

Source: T Yamamoto. 1991. *An overview of fisheries management in ASEAN countries.* In: T Yamamoto and K Short (eds.). **International Perspectives on Fisheries Management; Proceedings of the JIFRS/IIFET/ ZENGYOREN Symposium on Fisheries Management**; 26 Aug - 3 Sept 1991; Tokyo, Japan. National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations.

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