Fisherwomen’s Contribution to the Small Scale Fisheries in Korea

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1. Introduction
Taboo for the fishery before 1970s: One of superstitious beliefs
Prohibition on board fishing vessel for the women
Capture fisheries has appropriated a male profession
No-go area for women

Traditionally No-go area for women in Korea

Ritual for a big catch of fish
Traditional women’s labor in Korean fishing village

Dig out clams
Peel oyster

Putting and Packing and in Fish house of the Cooperative Fish Market
Clean gut and dress a fish

supply of retail sales: Moving stall
Open a street stand
Recently women are becoming contributing members of fishing society
Husband and wife harmoniously manage small scale fisheries:
- coastal gill drift net
- coastal longline fisheries
- coastal trap fishery

Net trim and sewing

Operating Fishery
What happen?

- Comparison for the periods (1970s - 2010s) and region (Eastern, Western, Southern Coastal area)
- Main Issue for the Change? Fisheries Resources
  Labor turnover
  Fishing village economy

References

S.W. Oh. 2000 Process of the change in the labor shape of fishing village –Case study in Jukbyun. Historic Folklore 9, 379–400.

2. Status of Korean Fishery
Yearly change of the fisheries production in Korea

Yearly change of the fisheries production in Korea
Yearly variation by Product groups in Korean fisheries
Current Status of Korean Fisheries

- Decreasing fishery capture: 150 M/T ('70~'80) ⇒ 110 M/T ('2014)
- Increasing fishery efforts: 0.7 MHp ⇒ 16 MHp ('2013)
Main fisheries product by the periods 1970s and 2000s
Ecosystem structure in Korean waters

The ’80s : Demersals ⇒ Pelagics (mainly small size in 2005)
The ’90s : Decreased fish biodiversity
The ’00s : Drastically increasing sub-tropical noxious livings (Jellyfish)
Overfished

\[ \sim \text{decreasing adult fish composition} \]

- Adult fish abundance declined: 50% ⇒ 19%

⇒ Overfished

- Self-renewability of fisheries resources

intimated
3. Climate and Fish Distribution Change
Climate change

SST during 1982–2006

Delta SST

0.96 - 1.35
0.67 - 0.89
0.30 - 0.60
0.00 - 0.28
0.00 - 0.10

SST Trends, 1982–2006, in LMEs (Igor Belkin, 2007)
Long term change of Sea temperature in Korean waters during 1960s–2010s

Jung et al., 2008
Distributional changes of fisheries animals to oceanic warming
4. Fishery labor and Women’s Contribution in Korea
Population change in the fishing village

- Population in the Fishing village
- Working Population in the Fishing Village
Age distribution of Fishermen/women in Korea

Proportion (%)

1970

1990

2014

Age distribution over the years 1970, 1990, and 2014 for Fishermen/women in Korea.
Labor strength for the fishermen/women of the household and employed workforce in the Korean fishing village during 2010s
Number of fishing vessel by tonnage range in the Fishery household in Korea, 2014

: Above 80 % in the proportion of Small Scale Fisheries below 5 tonnage
Western area: I.H. Lee 2012
Change and continuation of the taboo for the women of Chungnam fishing village.

Eastern area: S.W. Oh. 2000
Process of the change in the labor shape of fishing village in Jukbyun

Southern area: Interview with fishermen/women in Yeosu, Samcheonpo and Tongyoung

Case Study
Factors for the change of fisherwomen’s role in the Korean fishing village

- Decreasing trend of fisheries resources
- Shortage of Labor in the fishing village
- Education and Cultural difference for the women labor in the fishing village
Recently transformation in gender roles

- It is a commonly emerging trend in the coastal long line, jigging and gill drift net fisheries of married fisher couples for husbands to drive a boat with operating fishing gear and for wives to support the netting and collecting of products on board in the fishing grounds.

- Fisherwomen are also mostly engaged in the village fishery, collecting major products such as manila clam, abalone, sea cucumber etc to the collaboration.
National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives
Adoption of the Charter on the Fisherwomen

The first meeting of the Women in fishing village by 5 Fisheries Cooperative

July 2011 The federation start off
June 2013 39 regional union include 7,702 fisherwomen

The Federation of Korean Fisherwomen hold a national conference

NFFC(Suhyup)
- develop fishing villages through a democratic and cooperative organization
- enhance the social and economic status of fishermen/women
- increase the incomes of fishing households and their capacity
- produce fishery products.
Female Farmers and Fishers Act [March 2013]

special act on the improvement of the womenfisher’s status

Support the protection of rights and interests, professional women power

State and local governments

- support the political, economic, social and cultural development of fisherwomen skills in all areas and positions
- establish a comprehensive policy to improve the quality of life, financial support.

Construction of fisherwomen’s technical training and management education training systems, training personnel successor fisherwomen, fisherwomen projects, such as training and support for producer groups

Fisherwomen's participation in decision-making processes to improve the status, career awareness / morale enforcement measures
Stock Rebuilding Plan

Environment-friendly Fisheries

**Scientist**
- Establishing rebuilding plan
- Ecosystem-based stock enhancement
- Environment-friendly fishery engineering
- Ecosystem-based aquaculture

**Government**
- Restructuring fisheries
- Rooting-out IUU
- Supporting community

**Fishermen/women**
- Law-abiding spirit
- Sharing pains
- Cooperating Gov.
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<td><strong>Catch limits, sales limits, fishing season closures</strong>, monitoring of small-scale size fish marketing, Control of production</td>
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Fisherwomen’s labor force has an indispensable important role in Korean small scale fisheries

Issues
- the women’s new perspective on the environmental, social, economic and livelihood changes from a fishing community
- the improvement of women’s socioeconomic status related to the prospects for empowerment in the Korean coastal fisheries sector.
Thank You