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Analysis and Proposal of Fisheries System for New Set-Net Implementation in Malaysia

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[Background & Purpose]

Incomes of fishers who are living and working for small-scale fisheries in the project area of Selangor State in Malaysia are relatively lower than those in other areas. One initiative to promote resource recovery for decreasing fish catches in this area is to shift from destructive fishing gears to more environment-friendly ones. As a trial, a small-scale environment-friendly set-net was used to catch fresh fish. This gear has been implemented and it requires fishers' cooperation, which is necessary for a Community-Based Fisheries Management System (CBFM) and is known to be an effective way to manage the local resources by residential fishers. On the other hand, stationary gears like a set-net are categorized as destructive gears and not belonging to licensed gears. This project aims to clarify the fishery system in Malaysia to propose a licensing system for the set-net.

[Activities]

1. Comprehension Malaysia fishery system: The fishery system is prescribed by "FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS ACT 1971" and "FISHERIES ACT 1985" mainly. Contents of a handbook "BUKU DASAR DAN PROSEDUR PELESENAN VESEL, PERALATAN MENANGKAP IKAN DAN PENDAFTARAN NELAYAN (Book of Policy and Procedure on Licensing for Fishing vessel and gear and on Fishers Registration)" that explain the system in the working level were read and analyzed carefully and the important chapters related to this project purpose were explained at the Department of Fisheries in Malaysia (DoF). 2. Field survey: DoF staff, fishers, and middlemen were interviewed at a Malay residential fishing village and two Chinese ones in Selangor State to observe their landing slips and fisher registration cards and to know the relationship between the fishers and the middlemen and the mechanism of money flow.

[Achievement]

Thanks to this strict and well-managed fishery system, which requires 1-year renewal licenses for the use of fishing vessels and gears and a 3-year renewal license to be a fisher, it is possible to control the adequate number of the gears according to the change of resources condition monitored by the qualitatively improved landing slips system to Fisheries Development Authority of Malaysia (LKIM). An important function of the set-net is to allow the release of untargeted fish which is thought to be effective by maintaining the fishers' policies of sustainable resource use that can be implemented by the obligatory regular participation on the relative training. In conclusion, the new set-net license system in Malaysia can be said to be implemented by the systematization mentioned above.