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## **First trial on development of fish catch report system for fisher's community in Malaysia**

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### **[Background & Purpose]**

Community-based fishery management (CBFM) is considered an important management method for local fishery resources by both fisheries officials and fishers in Malaysia. However, presently there is no monitoring system which allows local fishers to understand the current situation of their fishery resources. In addition, to develop this system, the establishment of a reporting system of catch data by local fishers seems to be necessary. Therefore, a system in which local fishers can report their fishing operations by using a report form obtained from a website which can be accessed through their smartphone and used to report data that can be encoded on a computer automatically was expected to be developed. The purpose of this project is to confirm the entire flow of the suggested system and to clarify the difficulty of each step, from landing to encoding the data, and to evaluate if local fishers could accept this new type of reporting system.

### **[Activities]**

A trial of the reporting system collaborating with local fishers from a set-net trial fishing activity in Sungai Sembilang, Malaysia, was conducted by using a newly designed draft web report form. Type of fishing gear, species of fish captured and catch amounts of the fish were reported by species, and these were considered as the minimum requirements, and defined as question items of the report. After the trial, the system was evaluated in a review meeting with the fishers. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all the discussion activities with the fishers regarding this project were conducted online.

### **[Achievement]**

Thanks to this trial, it was clarified that fishers' catch data can be properly collected by this new system and encoded on computers manually without any problems. From the review meeting, it was determined that the fishers' impressions of the system seemed mostly acceptable and they could agree to add some additional questions depending on the difficulty of collecting data or making improvements when entering catch data was difficult. Through this activity it was clarified that fewer fishers have smartphones than expected. Therefore, a survey to determine the ratio of fisher's smartphone ownership should be conducted and considerations regarding the support system for the fishers who cooperate and join the reporting system will be necessary. Also, question items of the report, which is required for resource management in Malaysia, will be finally determined with DOF staff and fishers referring to effective examples used already in other regions of the world for implementing this suggested system.