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Survey on Fishing Regulation Understanding by Traditional Fishers in Tolosa, the Philippines for Reducing Illegal Fishing

OSAJIMA Hana (Assoc. Prof. ISHIZAKI Munechika)

[Background & Purpose]

During a preliminary survey in a project site in Tolosa, Leyte in the Philippines, the fishers, when asked about what problems they were facing, complained that illegal fishing was a main one. Illegal fishing was thought to be caused by a lack of understanding of the fishing regulation system. Thus, we decided to conduct some the activities to educate the fishers well about the system, which is thought to reduce the amount of illegal fishing. The purpose in this project was to clarify which regulations were not clearly understood by the fishers and to plan the necessary public awareness activities.

[Activities]

In the first activity, recognition of the current status of illegal fisheries was determined by conducting an interview with the Municipal Agricultural Officer in Tolosa, and studying “The Revised Municipal Basic Fisheries Ordinance of Tolosa, Leyte” regarding the Costal Fisheries Regulation System in that Municipality, which was obtained from that office. In the second activity, an interview survey was carried out on the “Balangay” fishers who are working in costal fisheries in the municipal sea area in Tolosa to clearly determine what they knew about the prohibited fishing gears and areas. From these comparisons, the fishers’ understanding of the fishing regulation system in that area were analyzed.

[Achievement]

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