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Title	漁業者による自主的資源管理政策に関する研究 - 八 タハタ漁のケース・スタディ -
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Citation	
Issue Date	2000-09
Туре	Thesis or Dissertation
Text version	author
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10119/702
Rights	
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Self-Managing The Sandfish Fishery off Akita, Japan

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Keywords: sandfish, fishery resource management, self-management, prohibition of fishing, consensus building

This case study investigates the work of the sandfish resource management of Akita Prefecture to which the agreement by fishermen of the whole prefecture is concluded in advance of the whole country in 1992 and overall prohibition of fishing of three years is executed.

In Akita Prefecture, it is received that the amount of the sandfish fishing recorded the lowest in the past in 1991 fiscal year. Fishermen of the whole prefecture aim at the recovery of the resource in advance of the whole country, and "Agreement of the sandfish resource management" which is the agreement of the resource management is concluded. Overall prohibition of fishing of the sandfish was executed by the self-managed restraint for three years from 1992.

It caught, and it described and this research was an analysis of the process as a regional policy as for the work of the sandfish resource management of Akita Prefecture. As a result, it aimed to make the behavior of the feature of the policy, the meaning, and each participating actor and roles come to the surface, and to search for the indicator of the fishery resource self-

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management by fishermen in the future. Moreover, the process model of a general fishery resource management policy was presented, and it compared it with this work. Open to the public document, internal material, and interview result were used as analysis material. The interview was executed from August, 1999 to April, 2000 to the Akita Prefecture public government office fishery fishing port section, the Akita Prefecture fishery promotion center, the Akita Prefecture fishery cooperative society federation, and fishermen.

It has been understood that the try to the sandfish prohibition of fishing was performed by the initiation of the prefecture though it was not possible to achieve with Akita Prefecture by this research after the amount of fishing of 74 tons in 1984 is recorded. In addition, Agreement of the sandfish resource management by fishermen is concluded in October, 1992 when all aspects are prohibited fishing. It has been understood that the sandfish resource measures conference was set up in December, 1993. Fishermen confer, and execute the resource self-management of the execution of the resource management including overall prohibition of fishing through a hierarchical organization that separates a coast fishery and an offshore fishery. The administration supported it in the business of purchase etc. of the fishing implement which became economical support and unnecessary to the income decrease such as interest-free financings.

In this research, the main finding obtained by this research was given from the aspect like the resource self-management, the information sharing, the knowledge use, and the local revitalization, etc., it paid attention to Consensus-building, and it considered it.

Moreover, the process model of the general fishery resource management policy presented beforehand was done and the work and the comparison verification of the sandfish resource self-management were done in this research. As a result, it has been understood to be able to generalize this case to the model presented as the existence of feedback from the policy evaluation stage to the policy making stage is confirmed. Moreover, some was corrected to the presented model based on finding that had been obtained from this research.

Theoretical implications obtained from this research are as follows: (1) the policy is fed back from the policy evaluation stage to the policy making stage, and it makes after the opening the second year a cycle in the distances between the policy evaluation stage and the policy making stage (plan do see cycle); (2) the administration and fishermen recognize the effect of the resource management through the policy evaluation stage and feedback is supported, making to the cycle is promoted. The following two are raised as practical implications: (1) support over the policy whole of the administration is indispensable to put it on the orbit even if the work of the resource management is a self-managed work by fishermen. Moreover, the following is requested to the administration: (a) Consistent from beginning to end attitude that execution of policy without fail; (b) the factor which becomes an obstruction of Consensus building between fishermen is excluded as much as possible; (c) offer necessary information for fishermen in various stages of the policy; (2) when the resource self-management is done by fishermen, it is effective to maintain a hierarchical decision making organization to confer on the technique etc. of the resource management. Moreover, by fishermen voluntarily participating in the policy through the organization, and actually feeling the effect through fishing. The concern for fishermen s policy increases, and the work of the resource control afterwards is promoted.

The following two points will be given as a suggestion in the research in the future: (1) it is necessary to clarify the group management of the sandfish by fishermen of Aomori Pref., Akita Prefecture, Yamagata Prefecture, and Niigata Pref. at country, prefecture, and fishery cooperative association and fishery person's levels; (2) it is necessary to do a further case study to improve the validity and the reliability of the process model of a general fishery resource management policy.