

COUNTRY NOTE ON NATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS -- KOREA

I. Introduction

1. Korea's report is focused on reviewing the social and economic impacts of the fisheries policies on fishery communities as well as resources conditions and introducing fishery management measures to ensure the success in the long term of sustainable fisheries.

II. Background

2. Korea has vast territorial waters covering five times its land area as well as coastlines spanning about 12 000 km. As a peninsula country, three sides are surrounded by seas, which geographically and historically have made a significant contribution to national industry. Fisheries provided 39% of the public's protein consumption in 2002, even though total fishery production accounts for a comparatively small share of the domestic economy (less than 0.3% of GDP). In early developing stage from the 1950s to the 1970s, fisheries played a major role in the export industry. However, since 2001 fishery imports have exceeded fishery exports, so Korea is now a net importer of fishery products. Accordingly fisheries are treated as a secure resource of food rather than an export industry.

III. Status

3. From 1985 annual total fishery production amounted to more than 3 million tons, but since 1996 it has been decreasing. That results from harsh regulations of fishing activities caused by the declaration of United Nation on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and a general depletion of fishery resources. Aquaculture production in 2003 amounted to 826 245 tons and 33.2% of total fishery production of 2 486 617 tons. In particular, the policy "Development in nurturing fishery" has led to aquaculture being given much weight in fisheries.

Table 1. Trend of Aquaculture Production

('000 tons)

Year	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Production	3 347	2 514	2 665	2 476	2 487
Aquaculture	996	653	656	782	826
	%	30.0	26.0	24.6	31.6
		26.0	24.6	31.6	33.2

4. The number of fishermen including the crews of deep-sea fishing vessels having been decreasing sharply – 320 000 in the 1970s, 260 000 in the 1980s, 140 000 in 2000, 130 000 in 2002 - and the trend is expected to continue. That is due to the development of advanced fishing gear and methods, improvement of fishing vessels and reduction of fishery resources.

Table 2. Number of Fishermen of Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels

Year	1995	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002
Number of fishermen	260 325	211 753	176 123	139 837	136 869	127 694

5. In the coastal and offshore fisheries the main target species are anchovy, squid, hair tail and horse mackerel; in the deep-sea, squid, skipjack, and Alaska pollack.

IV. Fishery Regime

Objective

6. Depletion of fishery resources, marine pollution and diminishment in fishing area caused by the UNCLOS has driven Korean fisheries into a difficult situation. To meet these challenges, Korea is pursuing the Ministry's motto "Transition from catch fisheries to nurturing fisheries" - devising policies for both conservation and enhancement of fishery resources which will gradually increase the importance of aquaculture and lower the dependence of sea fisheries.

Conservation Policy

7. The Korean government approves only fisheries which have no negative impacts on sustainable fisheries as precautionary measures through the fishery license system. A person seeking a license for deep-sea fisheries should receive the license from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF) while for offshore fisheries a person should apply to and be authorized from the applicable head of the local government. The fishing licenses are issued by the type of fishing net and the fishing activities are regulated strictly. License forms ask for many details regarding the conditions which should be implemented.

➤ Entries in fishing license sheet:

- Name, address and other records of licensed person
- Type, name and quality of fishing vessel, kind of engine and major equipment
- Category, kind and name of fisheries, fishing methods and name of fishing gear
- Fishing period, license period, fishing area, kind of catch

8. Korea has traditionally implemented measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources in a government-led manner. With the recognition of low efficiency by control-command fisheries management, Korea has embarked on a fishermen-oriented co-management fishery as a new paradigm based on fishermen being directly beneficial to marine resources. Currently, fishermen-oriented co-management fisheries have focused on extending responsibility and rights to take in the management of fishing grounds, fishery resources and harvesting with a sense of co-ownership. The main participants are fishing villages composed of small-scale fisheries requiring government assistance. The Korean government designated 122 fishing villages as co-management fishery communities by 2003.

➤ Refer to the Case Study of Korea for further information: "Current Status and Implication of Fishermen-Oriented Co-Management Fisheries in Korea" [AGR/FI(2004)5/PART9].

9. The TAC (Total Allowable Catch) policy was introduced in 1999 as an initial step of a pilot project on 4 fishery species. As of 2003, 9 species were subjected to TACs. The species are mackerel, jack mackerel, sardine, red snow crab, purplish washington clam, pen shell, cheju top shell, snow crab and blue

crab. The management of catch performance is strengthened by designating the markets for the controlled species and operating the observer system.

10. In the short term, decommissioning schemes can be effective policy instruments. As targets of the scheme the Korean government selected fishery types experiencing intensive catches or having significant damages owing to the Korea-Japan fishery agreement of 1993, with a reduction plan of 1 512 fishing vessels by 2004.

11. Korea has restricted the use of set nets with intensive catches such as gill nets and fish traps and has introduced the rules requiring fishing gear to be marked with the owner's name.

Fishery resources enhancement

12. Decreases in fishing areas caused by individual coastal countries' declarations of EEZ, deteriorating fishing environment resulting from industrialization and depletion of coastal fishery resources have made Korean fishery production decrease. Accordingly, to ensure sustainable management of resources and a stable production system, the government has adopted fishery policies on resource restoration by creating artificial habitats for marine aquatic living species, and conducting quality seeding / release projects.

- Artificial reef project : 24 types of artificial reefs established on 173 000 hectares from 1971 to 2003
- Quality fry releasing programs: 550 million quality high-value fries were released from 1986 to 2003, considering environmental-friendly characteristics of regional fishing areas.
- Marine ranches: As a new environment-friendly aquaculture system combined with marine architectural and civil engineering, the government seeks to create five models of marine ranches fitting the individual sea environment from 1998 to 2010.

V. Relevant Law

Fisheries Act

13. The Fisheries Act deals with the various items regarding fisheries, and is regarded as the basic law on fisheries. It was established in 1990 and addresses fishing license, fishing transport, fishery processing, total allowable catches, conservation of fishery resources and fishery compensation, etc.

Other legislation

14. Exclusive of the Fisheries Act, relevant laws regarding fisheries consist of the following: Inland Water Fisheries Act, Fishery Resources Protection Act and Quality Control of Fishery Products Act and their enforcement decrees.

VI. Combating IUU fishing

15. Fishing states seek to eradicate IUU fishing worldwide, since it is a major negative factor for sustainable fisheries. Such efforts have been made in individual EEZs, sea areas within Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and the high seas. An international consensus was made to seek appropriate measures to deal with IUU fishing activities and in 2001 the IPOA-IUU (International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing) was adopted by the FAO.

16. Korea has a legal system to ensure the prevention of IUU fishing over a range that covers international waters including the high seas and waters within the EEZs. As precautionary measures, when issuing a fishery license the government limits the fishery type, fishing gear and methods and fishing period. For post-measures, fishing vessels conducting fishing activities without an appropriate license face up to 3 years imprisonment or a fine of from KW (Korean Won) 2 000 000 to KW 20 000 000.

17. Current state on the implementation of the IPOA-IUU is expected to be discussed in the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries to be held in Rome on 12 March 2005. Korea will finalize the establishment of its NPOA-IUU in 2004 and attend the ministerial meeting.

VII. Institutional set-up

18. The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF) was established in 1996 and deals with matters of maritime and port industries, marine environment and fisheries. Relevant bureaus regarding fisheries are the Fishery Resources Bureau, Fisheries Policy Bureau and International Cooperation Officer. These are responsible for making policies and for enforcement activities, Regional Maritime Affairs & Fisheries Officers, the Fisheries Supervision Office (FSO) and local governments have most of the responsibilities. The National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) conducts fishery research and the National Fisheries Products Quality Inspection Service (NFPQIS) handles investigations of fishery productions distribution and inspections of imported fishery products.

VIII. Relevant websites

The Ministry of Korean Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF) www.momaf.go.kr

National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) www.nfrdi.re.kr

National Fisheries Products Quality Inspection Service (NFPQIS) www.nfpqis.go.kr