

Rules and Regulations Supporting Satoumi as Social System

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In Satoumi, its bio-diversity is maintained or enhanced in spite that Satoumi is common property. In order to protect and maintain bio-diversity, the system to control and manage co-use of common property is needed. In Japan, the social system supporting Satoumi consists of Japanese traditional fishing right institution, self imposed rules formed through negotiation between users and spontaneous activities to protect the sea environment by NPOs. Details of actual systems are diverse depending on each situation and have improved along with the times.

Out of the Japanese fishing right institution, common fishing right deeply connects with Satoumi. Common fishing right is a privilege to fish exclusively within a designated area as fishing right ground. A fisherman's cooperative association (FCA) authorized by local government have rights and duties claims to control and manage there and set up rules and regulations autonomously to do so. According to them, member fishers use fishing right ground commonly. Therefore, the Japanese common fishing right institution is a proto-type of Satoumi.

While diverse use other than professional fishing had increased in the 1980th, it had become harder and harder for the common fishing right institution to control and manage them. To resolve the conflict between conventional uses and new recreational uses, voluntary self regulations were formed through negotiation among these users. The self-regulation includes rules and regulations to which are consented by relevant users improved based on common fishing right. These are called local rules of coastal zone and supported through some judicial precedents.

On the other hand, in the 2000th, some fishers and non-fishers have started voluntary initiatives as NPOs to protect the sea environment. They are interested in the sea environment itself more than fisheries resources. While FCAs and fishers have protected the value of fishing ground and fisheries resource, NPOs seem to create the value of the environment itself.

At present, more controversial issue is how to manage wider sea area like Seto-inland Sea as Satoumi. In wider Satoumi, responsibility and functions of government becomes more important differently from smaller Satoumi, where users' responsibility is heavy. In that case, an intermediary organization integrating wider Satoumi and smaller Satoumi will become more important.

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