

Aquaculture Activity Management in a Coastal Lagoon Ecosystem of Central Vietnam

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The increasing aquaculture activities throughout the country are causing their detrimental impacts to the ecosystems of coastal lagoons and submerged forests. The report presents how the aquaculture introduced to the largest and typical lagoon of Vietnam and how it threatens the stability of the lagoon ecosystem. The government has played an important role in the development of the aquaculture activities in the lagoon and the fishermen have successfully acquired necessary knowledge to practise a new career of aquaculture, which has changed basically the life and the image of the fishers' community. The aquaculture has also helped reduce the pressure of exploitation activities on the lagoon environment. Besides, the report has some analyses of the detrimental effects of the aquaculture activities on the natural and social environment. The most pressing are epidemics among cultured species and the degeneration of the seagrasses system - the habitat of natural fries for aquaculture. The report also touches the reduction of fishing ground for exploitation and the extinction of certain traditional fishing trades, with an emphasis set on the lack of equity in sharing the natural resources, as well as the causes of conflicts between minor-gear mobile fishers and aquaculturists. The mechanism of aquaculture activity management and policy of water surface use has proved to be an unsuitable for the development of aquaculture here, which may be considered as a factor leading to the spontaneous development of a system of rearing ponds technically in inappropriate. Some action programs serving the improvement of aquaculture environment have been introduced in the report, in which CBCRM (Community Based Coastal Resources Management) is highly valued as an appropriate and affective management solution, which is based on the participation of community members. Last but not least a sustainable development strategy for the lagoon aquaculture activities is discussed.