



Addressing the Implications of an Ageing Fisheries Labor Forces in Japan

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Figure 1: The Number of Male Fishery Workforces in Japan (by Age Group)

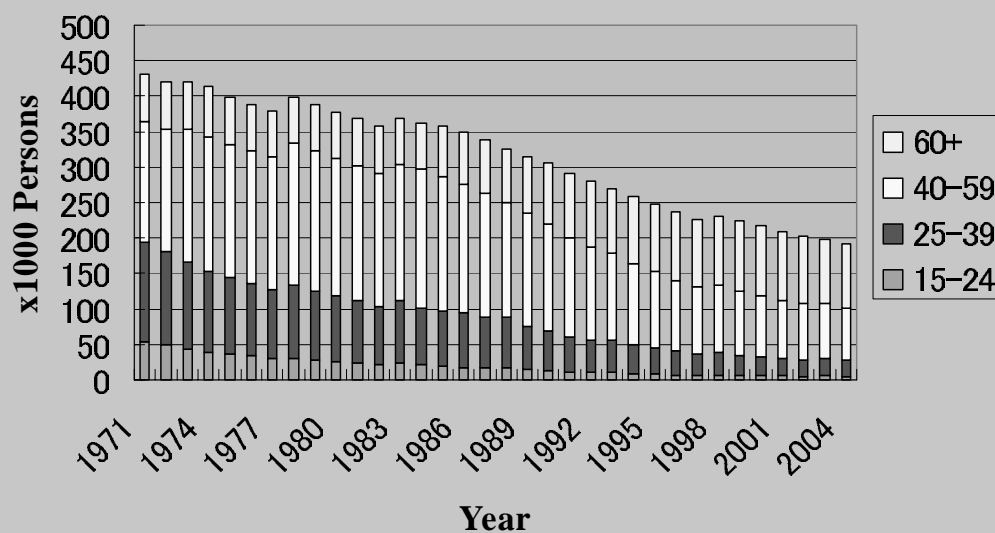
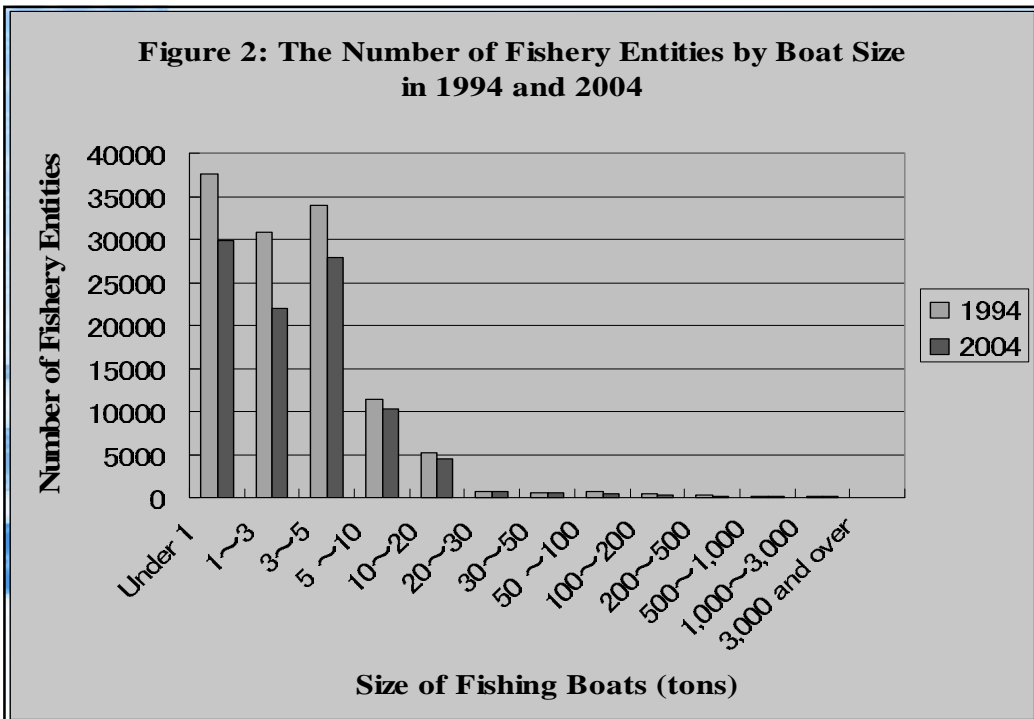


Figure 2: The Number of Fishery Entities by Boat Size in 1994 and 2004





About 6,200 fishing village exist along Japan's coastlines, which extend for 35,000 km.

Figure 3. Average Sales, Cost, and Revenue of a Fishing Family

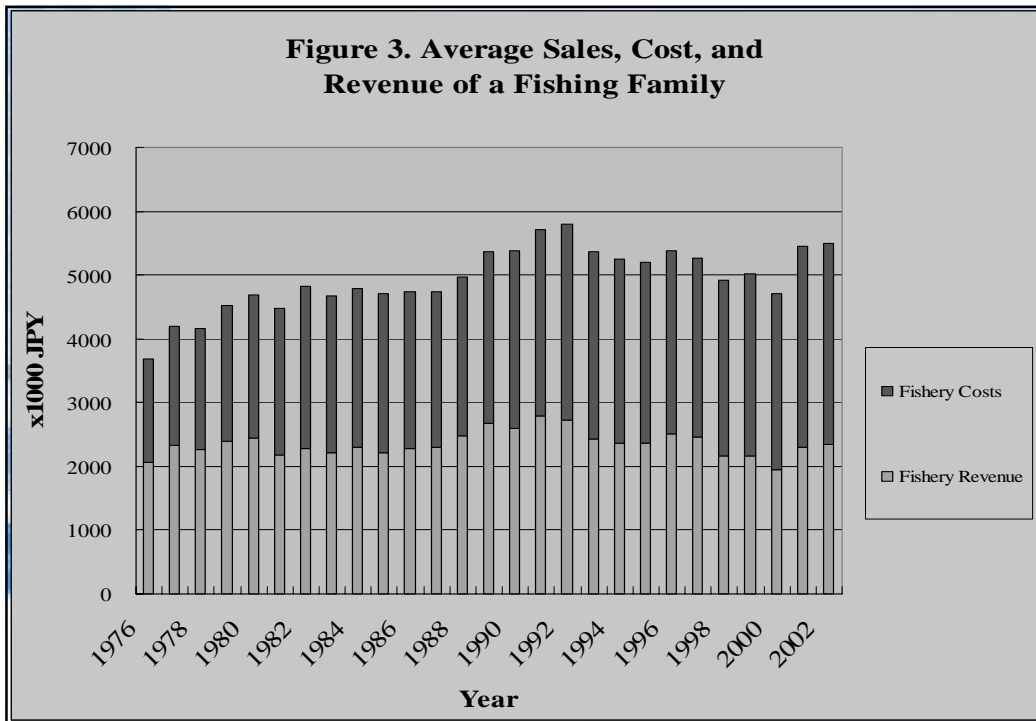


Figure 6. Annual Revenues of Japanese Fishery Families and the National Average of Household Income

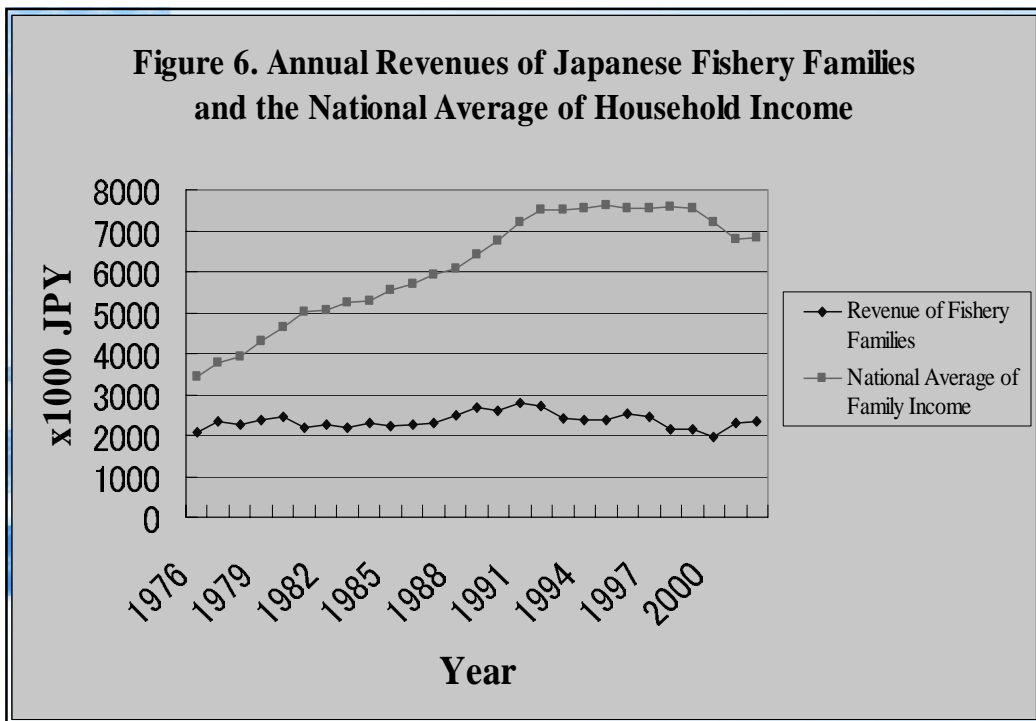


Figure 5. Import and Export Volume of Fishery Products

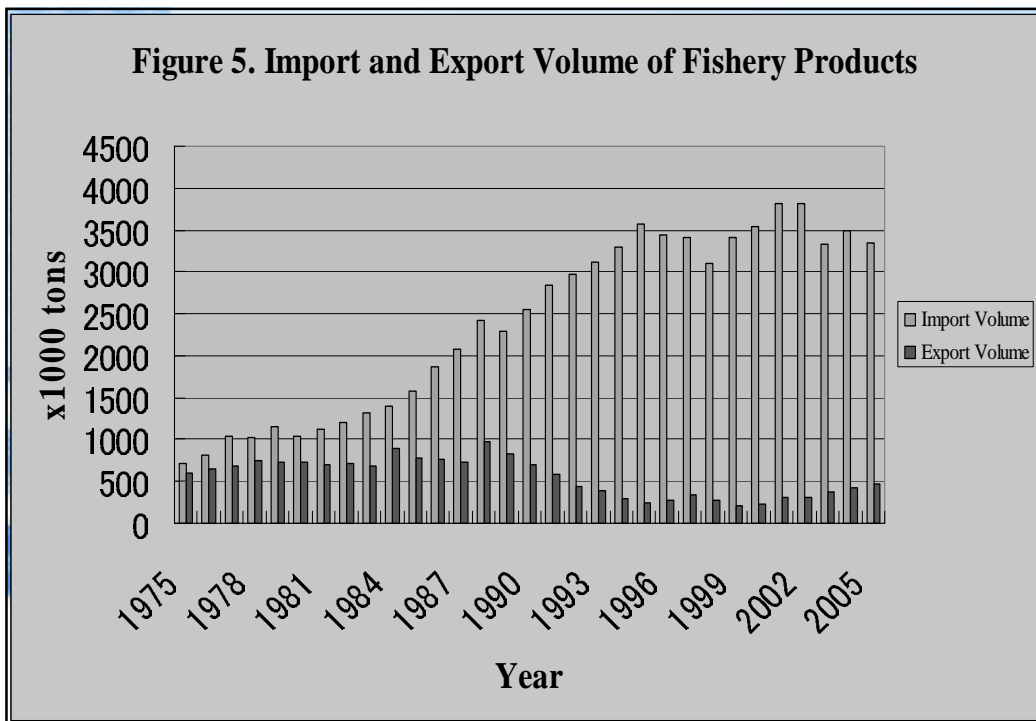
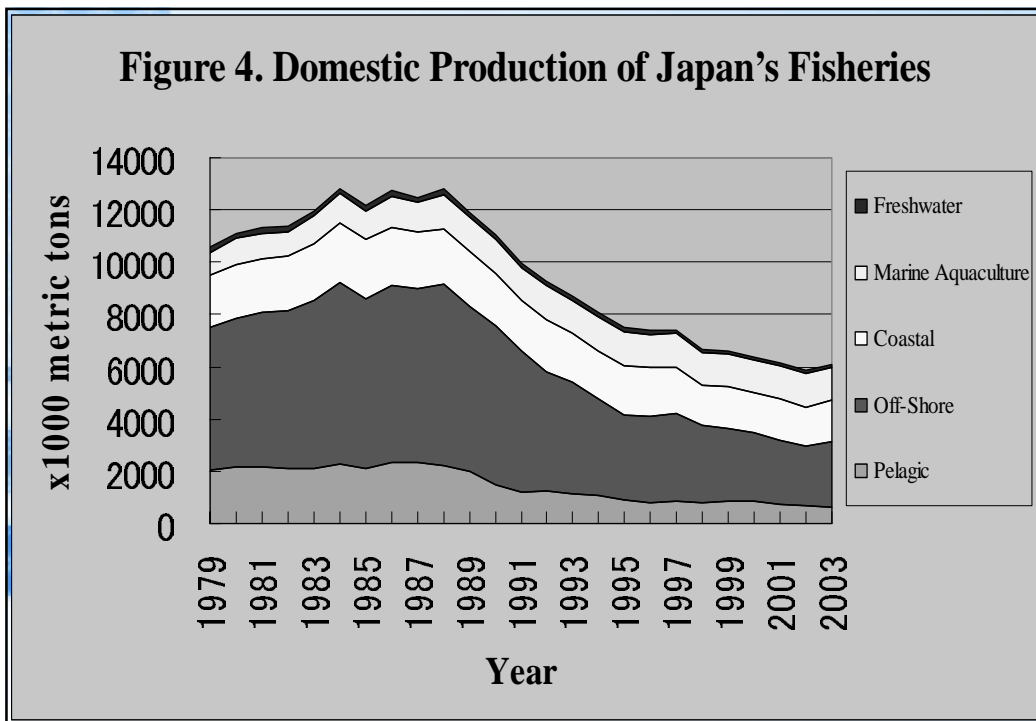


Figure 4. Domestic Production of Japan's Fisheries



Socio-economic Implications of Ageing Fishery Workforces

- Stagnant Local Economy (due to the lack of new fishery or processing investments)
- Possible Adverse Effects to Natural Resources (An example of coastal small trawlers)

Reasons for Ageing (or Reasons for Low Recruit)

➤ SOCIAL REASONS:

1. Inaccessibility of Help-Wanted Information
2. Lack of Systematic Job Training
3. Tradition of Closed Remote Society

➤ A government program to support job information disseminations and local vocational trainings are ongoing.



Yet Another Reasons for Ageing (or Reasons for Low Recruit)

➤ ECONOMIC REASONS

- ◆ Lower Household Income
 - because it is hard to increase the sales.
 - and because it is difficult to reduce the cost.
- ◆ Inherent Volatility of the Revenues

➤ Capacity for the Government Intervention is Limited.

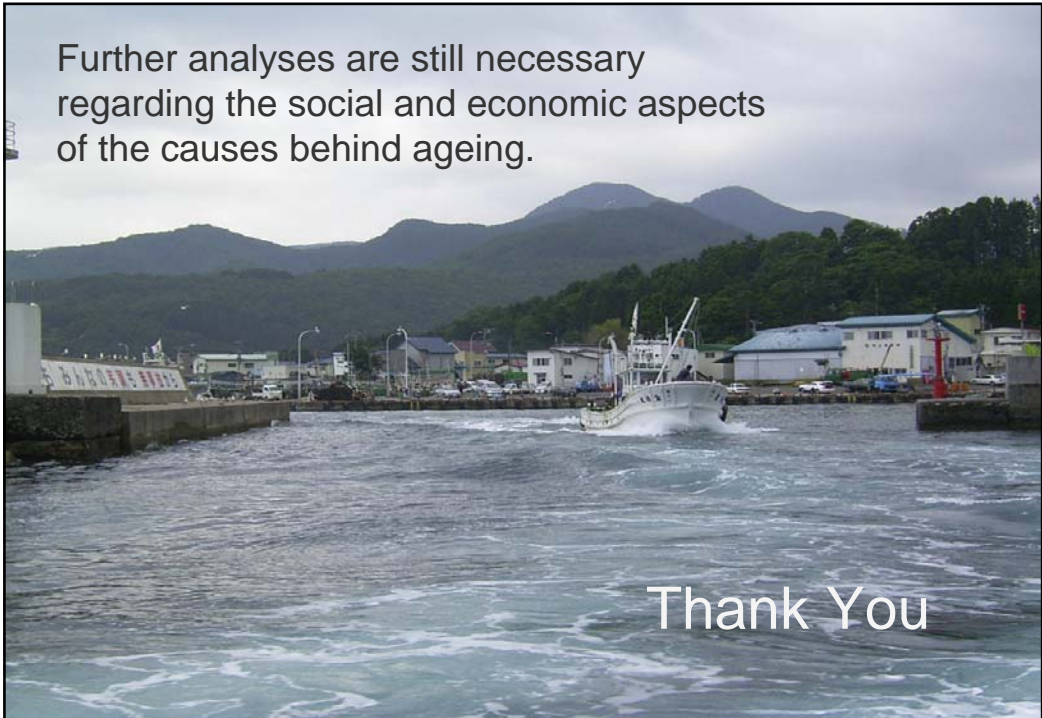
1. Government subsidy for direct economic support is difficult even under the current WTO rules.
2. International competition in Japanese market can be a limiting factor for the increase of sales price.

Socio-Economic and Environmental Complexity on the Cause of the Problem

- Price of resource conservation costs may be higher in Japan: (Effort control, output control, right based management, vessel registration, etc.)
- Socio-economic problems of the right based management in fishery: The current right-holders tend to keep their fishing rights no matter how old they become, and this would lead to the inactiveness regarding business integration.

Conclusions

- Social factors for low recruit can be, to some extent, alleviated by a government support program.
- Economic factors are difficult to be alleviated without touching fundamental institutional aspects (resource management scheme or trade policies), but...



Further analyses are still necessary regarding the social and economic aspects of the causes behind ageing.

Thank You