

# Emerging Issues of East Asian Fisheries Production in Conjunction with Changes in Climate and Social Systems in the 21st Century

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The production of fisheries in East Asia in recent years is reviewed in conjunction with climate change and social-economic developments in the region. About one third of the human population resides in this region, producing a large share of the world's fisheries products, consuming them, and contributing significantly to international trade of the products. Ongoing local and global climate changes are anticipated to have significant impacts on the fisheries, both in capture and aquaculture production. The warming of the oceans and changes in weather events are highlighted for their great role in disrupting fisheries production. Frequent super typhoons and heavy rains have brought untold calamities and miseries to coastal communities and cities of East Asia that tend to be heavily populated. The region is accustomed with a high ratio of seafood in the diet of the people, and the people demand ever increasing quality seafood. Seafood security for the region is in question with ever changing weather patterns. The rate of environmental change is outpacing the ability of our institutions and governments to respond effectively. The science must move beyond identifying issues and toward providing sound bases for the development of innovative solutions, as well as effective adaptation and mitigation strategies. Fisheries management plans must be made to consider both changes in climate and in social systems. It seems logical that an international forum should be made available to coordinate management and conservation of the region's fisheries resources towards the global trend for higher levels of responsibilities to conserve fisheries resources through collaboration.



23-27 November • Manila, Philippines