The Relationship between the Occupation and Use of Early Modern Fishing Grounds and Ecology: From Early Modern Materials on Disputes and Drawings from Goto and Amakusa

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This paper examines the relationship between fishing grounds divided up with boundary lines determined by farming villages and fishing villages and natural conditions such as tides, topography and ecological conditions of varieties of fish and seaweed. Also how a number of groups overlapped in the use of the same sea, as well as how this problem connects with ecology are studied.

The results of the analysis and study have revealed that boundaries for fishing grounds were established to some extent by farming villages and fishing villages taking ecology of fish into account. Prior to the establishment of these boundaries several stages took place involving the relationship between the people and villages and ecology. From a historical perspective, such boundaries may not be deemed to be inconsistent with fisherman's recognition of nature. In other words, boundary lines came about through a combination of factors related to people's relationships with the natural environment in addition to political economic factors in the past stages.

The way in which villages related to the natural environment differed according to differences in attributes between one village and another, and fishing grounds were also used in diverse ways. Disputes arose as a result of clashes between the diverse ways of relating to nature.