The Stow Net Fishing Developed by Japanese Fishermen and Introduced to and Accepted by Korean Fishermen in the Early 20th Century: Characteristics of Yellow Croaker Fishing and Transformation of Stow Net Fishing Techniques

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In order to examine the process of changes in Angangmang (stow net) fishing techniques, which were widely used in the south-west coastal area of South Korea until recently after they were introduced from Kyushu, Japan, around 1900, this paper assumes that the process was affected by the practices and techniques of yellow croaker fishing, which had been one of the major income sources for fishermen in the West Sea of South Korea (the Korean Peninsula) until the 1970s. First, this paper analyzes the technical features of Jungseonmang (stow nets pulled by fishing boats) and Jumokmang (stow nets on stakes) used by Korean fishermen for yellow croaker fishing. They are conventional Korean fishing nets similar to Angangmang in structure and principle. Then, this paper analyzes how stow nets have been transformed and accepted by Korean fishermen since they actually started to use this type of fishing net in the mid to late 19th century, after it was developed in a small fishing town in north-western Kyushu, Japan, and spread to Korea through Japanese fishing activities. Finally, based on various tangible materials as well as evidence collected during our field work, this paper argues that the process of changes in Angangmang and Angangmang fishing boats was a kind of cultural transformation process where the type of fishing net originally developed by fishermen in Kyushu to meet their needs was gradually adapted to the practices of yellow croaker fishing by Korean fishermen after being introduced to the Korean Peninsula.

Key words: Angangmang (stow net) fishing technique, Angangmang (stow net) fishing boat, transfer of techniques, acceptance and adaptation of techniques, continued practices of yellow croaker fishing