JOB SATISFACTION IN THE SHRIMP TRAWLING FISHERIES OF VIETNAM

Le Xuan Sinh

College of Aquaculture & Fisheries, Cantho University, Vietnam

Email: lxsinh@ctu.edu.vn

ABSTRACT

Ca Mau province is the biggest wild shrimp capturer and the strongest shrimp culturer in Vietnam. The Ca Mau National Park locates right at the top of Ca Mau Peninsular a famous place with its mangrove ecosystem. This study was conducted in 2008, aimed to provide a better understanding on the shrimp trawling fisheries in Ca Mau province. A total of 77 shrimp trawling fishers inside and around Ca Mau National Park were interviewed. The analysis is focused on the shrimp trawling fishers’ job satisfaction with some extents to near-shore fishing activities in the Mekong River Delta, and also the whole country. Shrimp is high economic value species and mainly targeted by shrimp trawling fisheries which covers about 33% of the total number of fishing boats inside and around the Ca Mau National Park of Vietnam. The fishers are mainly small-scale who have low educational level. About 64.9% of the total number of fishers did not satisfy with their earnings and ability to feed the family. They accept the physical safety, cleaness of work, and physical fatigue of job, however, they do not satisfy with mental pressure and physical fatigue of job. Shrimp trawling is not a hard work to most of the fishers, but more than 40% of fishers are not happy with the time being out at the sea, as well as the lack of time to recreate with their family and friends. The small-scale fishers are easy to be own master based on the experience and the support from relatives, but they do not proud of neither satisfy with the challenges and adventures of their job. There are various conflicts within the coastal community, but most of the fishers are happy with the ways to resolve problems. In general, fishers do satisfy with the fisheries management, the performance of government officials and regulations relating to fisheries, however, they do not really feel happy with their influence on fisheries management. The results also imply that better training and education are important, and co-management is good for both the fishers and the management of fisheries in the study area.

Key words: Shrimp, trawling, near-shore, national park, satisfaction.