

Abstract

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**Project Title: History of Economy and Environment of Bandon Bay: Case Study of the
Coastal Aquaculture during 1940s-2000s**

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This research is aimed at studying the history of economy and environment around the Ban Don Bay through the transforming relations between environment and coastal aquaculture during 1947-1997. This study analyzes the characteristics of the aquaculture in the Ban Don Bay in the historical period by utilizing the statistics of oyster and cockle yields and their husbandry areas in the past 30 years from 1980 to 2010. Then, it explains the origin of those characteristics in the historical period with three factors: the role of the state, the environmental change and the adaptation of people who earned their life by practicing the aquaculture.

The study revealed that the coastal aquaculture in the Ban Don Bay could be divided into two periods, the trial and error period in the decade after 1987 and the expansion and volatile period in the decade after 1997. Remarkably, the extension of aquaculture areas in both periods shared some similar patterns. That is the major natural disasters destroyed the aquaculture area so strikingly that the Government had to rehabilitate the affected areas through the approval of large-scale budgets. After that, the influx of capital flows supported by the state in turn significantly increased the aquaculture area in a great leap forward.

The expansion of the aquaculture areas brought about the conflicts over the use of coastal resources between those who practiced the aquaculture and the coastal fishermen. In addition, there existed the historical diversity of communities in the study areas. The newly emerging communities as a result of the agricultural settlement in the early decade after 1977 rendered the socio-cultural grounds for the negotiations and bargains in the locality rather impalpable.

Keywords: coastal aquaculture, Ban Don Bay, natural disaster, oyster, blood cockle