

Research on the Development of Fujian Ocean Fisheries

-- Under the Background of "Maritime Silk Road"

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Abstract

With the development of ocean fishing, its output value accounts for a larger proportion of the gross national product, and is increasingly valued by the country and coastal cities. Fujian Province has advantages such as superior geographical location, abundant marine fishery resources, and a long history of fishery. In addition, as an important birthplace of the "Maritime Silk Road", Fujian has a unique role in building the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road". Studying the development of ocean-going fisheries is conducive to optimizing the industrial structure of Fujian's marine economy and promoting the economic development of the province. With the continuous advancement of the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road", Fujian's offshore fisheries have also continued to develop.

Keywords

Maritime Silk Road; ocean fishing; marine economy; Fujian Province.

1. INTRODUCTION

In October 2013, President Xi Jinping put forward an initiative to jointly build the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road" with the countries along the "Maritime Silk Road". This idea received wide attention and support from the international community as soon as it was proposed. The implementation of the strategy is conducive to promoting economic and trade cooperation between Chinese enterprises and the countries along the route. Such cooperation can be not only land trade cooperation. Fujian, as an important node of the "Maritime Silk Road", has its natural advantages: it has a long history of interaction with countries along the route, close economic and trade relations, and a high degree of cultural identity. Fujian should give full play to its unique advantages, find its own position, and seize the opportunity to actively integrate itself into the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road" construction.

2. DEVELOPMENT STATUS OF OFFSHORE FISHERY IN FUJIAN

2.1. Advantageous Conditions for the Development of Offshore Fisheries in Fujian

Excellent marine location conditions. Fujian Province is located in the southeast coastal area of China, between the Yangtze River Delta and the Pearl River Delta. It is one of China's closest provinces to Southeast Asia, East Africa, and Oceania. Fujian Province is strategically located and has a wealth of marine resources. It is of great significance in the Maritime Silk Road strategy. Fujian Province not only has a long coastline, rich harbor resources, good shielding and conditions for harbors, but also has abundant fishery resources. It has the advantage of developing an offshore fishery economy. At present, there are 7 harbors along the coast of Fujian Province where large-scale deep-water berths with a capacity of more than 50,000 tons can be

developed and built, and coastal ports have the conditions to dock 300,000-ton bulk carriers and cruise ships and 150,000-ton containers. Fujian now has many excellent ports such as Fuzhou Port, Putian Port, Quanzhou Port, and Xiamen Port.

Possesses relatively complete interconnection conditions and facilities. Fujian Province has a long coastline and abundant port resources. These unique advantages determine that Fujian Province is more convenient for foreign exchanges and its sea transportation conditions are good. In recent years, due to the rapid economic growth of Fujian, some companies in the countries along the route saw business opportunities, so they participated in the construction of Fujian ports in various forms of investment. The throughput of ports in Fujian Province has been greatly improved with the continuous increase of maritime traffic routes. The increase in maritime traffic routes has become a new growth point for economic development in Fujian Province. In addition to the convenience of maritime transportation, land transportation and airport construction are also being improved.

Fujian's cooperation with ASEAN and Africa's marine economy is at the forefront of the country. Fujian and ASEAN have long been friendly cooperative partnerships. In recent years, the two sides have not only grown rapidly in terms of economic and trade exchanges and cooperation, but also deepened exchanges and cooperation in the field of offshore fisheries. With the in-depth advancement of the Maritime Silk Road strategy, Fujian enterprises' investment in ASEAN has increased significantly, and the advantages and potential of Fujian Province have been better utilized in the construction of the Maritime Silk Road. Since the 1980s, Fujian has strengthened the development and cooperation of marine fishery resources with Africa and other countries, and has achieved good cooperation in offshore fishery. Fujian Province not only dispatched offshore fishing vessels to reach the waters of the economic exclusive zones of African countries such as Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania, but also invested in the construction of offshore fishing bases in Madagascar and Mauritania. In 2014, Fujian Province and Africa established a cooperation base in Fuzhou, which further enhanced the exchanges and cooperation between the two sides, and opened a new path for fisheries cooperation between China and Africa on the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

Fujian marine economy develops rapidly. The coastline of Fujian Province is 3752 kilometers long, ranking second in the country. The sea area is 136,000 square kilometers, which is 12.4% larger than the land area. There are 1,546 islands larger than 500 square meters in the province. At the same time, Fujian's marine resources are extremely rich, with advantageous resources such as "fishing, harbors, landscapes, oil, and energy". These rich marine resources are conducive to Fujian's development of the "Maritime Silk Road" and improve Fujian's international competitiveness. Further promote the economic development of Fujian.

2.2. Problems Existing in the Development of Ocean Fisheries in Fujian Province

Vessel aging and imperfect service system. As Fujian's fishing boat manufacturing industry is lagging behind and mainly imports old fishing boats and second-hand ocean-going fishing boats from abroad, at the same time, in terms of fishing operations, there are still many fishing vessels in Fujian that rely mainly on manual operation and have low automation. To a certain extent, it has hindered the development of its offshore fisheries. Coupled with the poor logistics facilities and service capabilities, it is far from keeping up with the rapid development of offshore fisheries; and the construction of dedicated wharves is lagging behind, and the ocean cargo handling capacity is inadequate; most of the offshore fuel replenishment depends on foreign agents; the overseas comprehensive supply bases for ocean fleets are lacking, they are constrained by foreign parties in terms of fishing vessel construction, logistics replenishment, processing and sales, which increases the uncertainty of production and restricts the play of comprehensive benefits.

The cost of fishery production has risen sharply. Pelagic fishery is a labor-intensive industry. It not only has a large demand for labor, but also has high requirements for the quality of labor. With the rigid increase of domestic labor prices and the stricter management of offshore fishery resources, the rising trend of rigid costs such as oil prices and labor is difficult to reverse. Therefore, the production costs of ocean-going enterprises in Fujian Province continue to rise, and competition is also intensifying. Secondly, the cost of offshore fisheries in Fujian is mainly composed of labor costs, fuel costs, fishing vessel construction and renewal costs, loading and unloading costs, transportation and miscellaneous costs, etc. Among the production expenditures of offshore fishing enterprises in Fujian Province, fuel costs account for the largest proportion. Crude oil prices have risen, and the overall production costs of the company have increased significantly. The second share is wages, labor expenditures and necessary training costs. In recent years, the relative wage levels of offshore fishery employees have increased significantly, and labor costs have continued rise.

Low quality of employees. At present, the labor force of the offshore fishery industry in Fujian Province mainly comes from migrant workers. Due to the deep-rooted traditional thinking of these people, their ability to coordinate and communicate and make decisions are obviously insufficient, and they have not received formal relevant training, so the overall quality of personnel is not high. The offshore fishing industry in Fujian Province has insufficient proficiency in offshore operations, and its workforce is unstable. Generally, it cannot meet the requirements of market economy and modern enterprise development.

Funding support policy is not in place. Ocean fishing is a high-input industry. The cost of constructing and renewing fishing vessels is much higher than that of ordinary fishing vessels, and its fuel costs and labor costs are relatively high, so the need for funds is great. Although Fujian Province attaches great importance to the development of offshore fisheries in recent years and has issued a series of related support policies and measures, which has alleviated the financial difficulties of enterprises to a certain extent, many problems have been found during the implementation of the policy: due to the high risk of the industry and the long investment recovery period, the conditions for bank loans are very strict, which will cause trouble to the turnover of offshore fishery enterprises.

3. MAKING FULL USE OF THE "MARITIME SILK ROAD" STRATEGY TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUJIAN'S OFFSHORE FISHERIES

3.1. Improve the Modernization Level of Ocean Fishing Vessel Equipment

The investment required for the renewal and transformation of ocean-going fishing vessels is large. The renewal and transformation of fishing vessels cannot be achieved by enterprises alone. Therefore, it is inseparable from the strong support of financial institutions and national financial funds. Fujian ocean-going fishery enterprises should actively seek financial input from financial institutions, special funds from the central government, and preferential foreign loans. In addition, ocean-going fishery enterprises must abide by the quality requirements for ocean-going fishing boat repairs and conduct inspection and management of old fishing boats in accordance with relevant state regulations. The government should actively promote the transformation and renewal of fishing vessels and their supporting equipment.

3.2. Improve Economic Benefits and Reduce Costs

Encourage enterprises to transport the harvested products back to the province for processing and sales, thereby enriching the seafood market in Fujian Province, while ensuring the supply of raw materials; ordinary products can be sold locally to save high transportation and refrigeration costs. Enterprises should actively develop deep processing of seafood, extend the product industrial chain, and improve their integration level, so as to increase the added

value of catches. Oceanic fishery enterprises should also increase the packaging and promotion of their products, build well-known industry brands, promote the sales of products in countries and regions along the "Maritime Silk Road", and improve the economic benefits of products.

3.3. Improve the Quality of Employees

For the development of Fujian's fishery economy, the support of science and technology is indispensable, and the cooperation with higher education institutions must be further strengthened if the quality of fishery workers is to be improved. First of all, we must strengthen the training of high-quality staff; second, we should strengthen the connection with higher education schools. The research theory of college talents must be combined with practice, so that the research results can meet the practical problems encountered in production and operation; finally, the government should strengthen the promotion and transformation of scientific and technological achievements.

3.4. Formulating Relevant Policies Suitable for the Development of Offshore Fisheries in Fujian

The government's related support policies can provide a good political environment for the development of offshore fisheries. For the sustainable and healthy development of offshore fisheries in Fujian Province, the role of government support and guidance cannot be ignored. The government's related support policies can provide a good political environment for the development of offshore fisheries. For the sustainable and healthy development of offshore fisheries in Fujian Province, the role of government support and guidance cannot be ignored. By formulating supporting policies that are in line with the construction of the marine economy, we can provide incentives for the development of Fujian ocean-going fisheries from the perspective of policy guidance: on the one hand, formulate corresponding preferential tax policies to reduce the operating costs and costs of Fujian ocean-going enterprises; on the other hand, reduce the tax rate and increase loan subsidies for casting and renewal of ocean-going fishing vessels. At the same time, it is necessary to monitor the release of government subsidy funds to ensure that it can be used for special purposes.

4. CONCLUSION

The development of ocean-going fisheries plays an important role in promoting the marine economy. The development of ocean-going fisheries is of great strategic significance for the comprehensive development of marine economy in Fujian, building a strong marine province, and improving the competitiveness of the marine economy. In addition, under the strategic background of building the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road", it is beneficial to the development of Fujian's foreign economy and trade and the marine industry. Fujian Province should seize this rare opportunity and make full use of various favorable conditions and resource advantages. Develop towards the goal of a strong marine economy province, thereby better driving the overall economic development, prosperity and stability of Fujian Province. Fujian Province should take advantage of the national "Belt and Road" strategy to continue to implement the central, provincial government's support policies for ocean fisheries, strive to expand ocean fishery areas, improve overseas base construction, and promote the steady development of ocean fisheries in Fujian.

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