

Landscape of "Nyugyo" in the Kitan-Channel: specially, on its Succession at Kada's Waters

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"Nyugyo" is a fishing method by which specific fisher-men can enter into the neighbouring exclusive waters of the neighbouring villages, and it has been from former times authorized by the Japanese fishing customs and laws.

The Kitan-channel situates on the waters between the open sea and the inner sea, and as at the bottom of Kada's Waters in the Kitan channel there are many reefs, so density of plankton is very high and there live various kinds of fishes. From old times to present Kada is known as a famous angling village, although its settlement has changed the character from time to time, namely as a post and port village at Nara Age, a shrine village from old times, the nearness to Wakayama castletown at Edo Age, a fortificationstown, the suburbs of the industrial cities (Osaka, Wakayama) at Meiji era, lastly as a sightseeing town after the Pacific War, but such a change has always rather promoted the Kada's fishing activities than checked.

The historical fact that Kada's exclusive Waters contained already the outside of Tomogashima and the waters was wider and richer than those of the adjacent fishing villages can be testified by a document at Edo Middle period and that watersfield has been succeeded to present time in almost unchanged form. The phenomenon of the "Nyugyo" of many neighbouring villagers into Kada's Waters appeared at least at some time of Edo late period. And such a "Nyugyo" has continued to present time, as it was, through the two reformations of the fishing institution, although the advance (Nyugyo) of the trawling of Osaka prefecture to the Kii-channel was publicly put on end at the last reformation.

Now, it is common that "Nyugyo" changes its form and content with the developments of the fishing methods, the change of the watersfield and the social changes in the fishing villages, but we find

that at Kada's Waters, many "Nyugyo" as long established customs have continued to exist.

What can be the reason of such a succession? This reason must be found in the unchanged state of the productive modes of the fishing at Kada's Waters. Then, why such a stagnation of the productive methods has here lasted, notwithstanding the general developments of fishing methods? The answers to this question are followings:

(1) Guarantee of the fishermen's living depending on the unchanged fishing methods (about 70% of the total population of Kadachō lives on the fishing production, either immediately or mediately.)

(2) The Angling as the traditionally primitive method can well preserve freshness of specially high class fishes. (Sea bream, Cybium nipponium, yellowtail, etc.,)

(3) The nearness of the market, specially the historical existence of the high class consumers in the near cities through all ages.

(4) The natural richness of Kada's Waters which has been partly supported by its primitive fishing methods and partly by the artificial means. It is particularly worthy of attention that for the purpose of keeping the richness of the waters, Kada has always forbidden the use of newly made methods which differed from the traditional ones at every agreements of "Nyugyo."

By the above mentioned reasons and the possibilities of whole year fishing, Kada's fishing has been confined to the coastal angling. Although we can see here, of course, the development of power boats to a certain extent, they are all smaller than 5 tons, the development of power boats; therefore, does not imply the extension of the operating waters, but they are only used to control the swift current at the coastal waters, although in this point, we must, of course, recognize the increase of the fishing productivity at Kada's Waters.

More, it is important to know that another reason which has compelled Kada's fishermen to the individual angling in the coastal waters can be sought in the fact that as the swift current and the land form of Kada's Waters could not permit the operation of large scale fixed trap net and beach seining, so here feudalistic hierarchy which

occured frequently at such large scale net fishing areas was difficult to occur.

In accordance with such a infinitesimal coastal fishing which has been established on the above stated geographical and social foundations, we can first understand the succession of that "Nyugyo". But I do not maintain that all successions of 'Nyugyo' in Japan depend on such a infinitesimal coastal fishing. In the case of Kada, the fishing has been holden fast to the coastal fishing with the primitive fishing tools by no taking the orientation of the production on a large scale in proportion to the development of capitalism, but Kada has been deeply subordinated to the social system of capitalism. Such a living guarantee which depends on the social system of capitalism has not needed the production on a large scale, so here, we can not find any developments of fishing methods. This is the fundamental basis which has granted the succession of time honoured landscape of the "Nyugyo".