



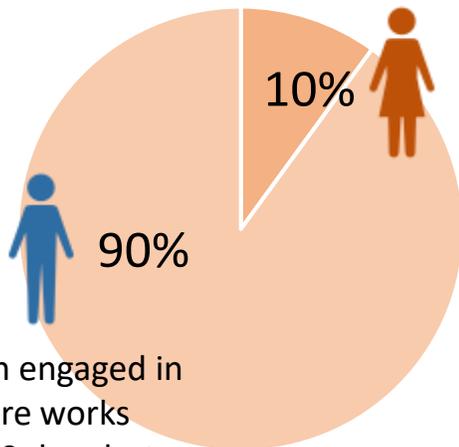
Gender integration in Japanese coastal fisheries

Hana Matsubara
Project Academic Specialist
Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute
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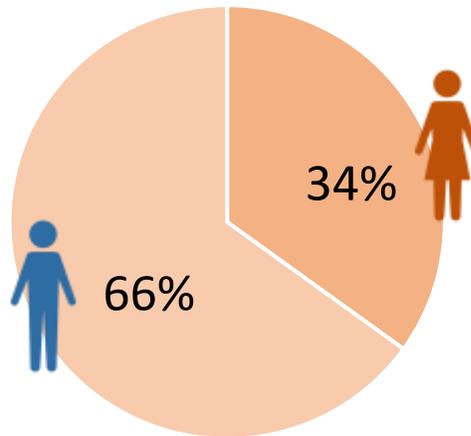


Fisher (Offshore workers)

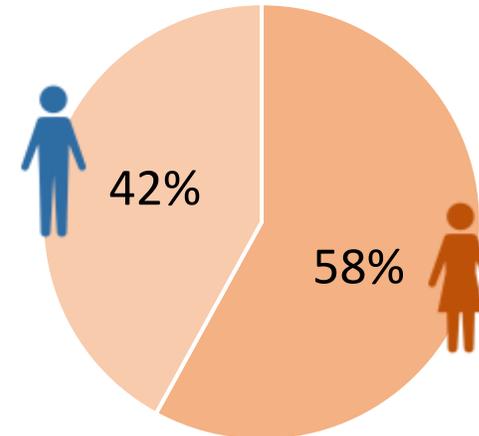


* Person engaged in offshore works over 30 days last year

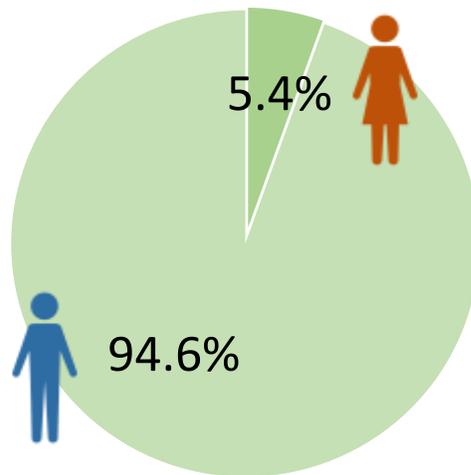
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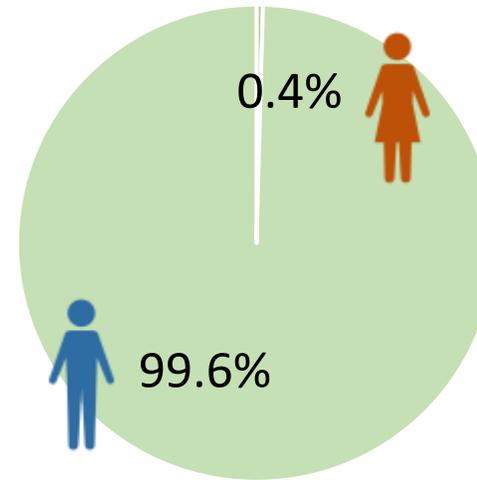
Fish processing workers



FCA regular members



FCA board members



Land-based work: Female-dominated / Gender imbalance in decision-making organization

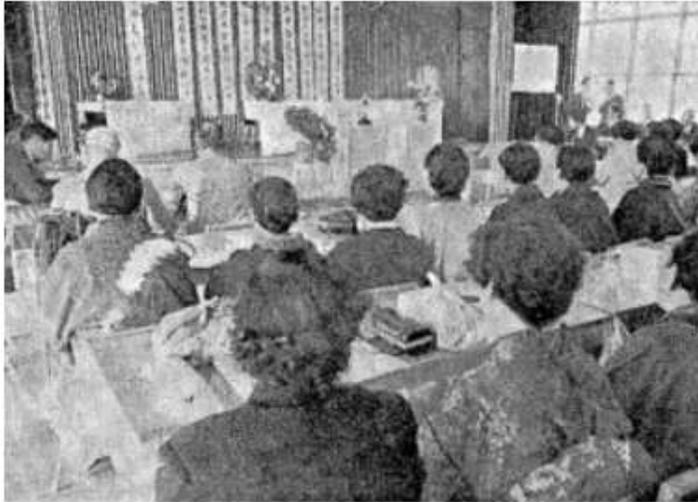
Women's Groups of FCAs in Japan

- **Fisheries Cooperative Associations (FCAs)** : over 800 FCAs
- Women's Group of FCA:
= a **subgroup within FCA**
- 510 women's groups, 22,000 members (2023)

Diverse activities around Japan



History of Women's Group of FCA



- Started from saving activity in 1950s
- **Fundraising campaign for shipwreck orphans**



- **Campaign to promote the use of life jackets**
- Appointment of "Life Guard Ladies (LGL)" by the Japan Coast Guard

Women's Group of FCA : Contribution to Environmental Sustainability



人と環境にやさしい石けん

石けんは、もともと天然油脂から作られており、分解されやすく環境への影響が少ないという特徴があります。

「わかしお」は浜の母さんが作った、海や川を守る石けんのブランドです。



洗濯用「わかしお」シリーズ



台所用「わかしお」シリーズ

<https://www.zengyoren.or.jp/business/koubai/>

Women's Group of FCA : Contribution to Economic Sustainability



<https://www.jific.or.jp/magazine/interview/no53.html>

Seafood processing for adding value to local catch



https://gyoson.suisan-shinkou.or.jp/prd/prd_04_gomadashi-eso.html

Women's Group of FCA : Contribution to Social Sustainability



- Promotion of fish consumption (e.g.) Cooking class, school lunch
- Preservation of traditional recipes



(Inoue, F., 2019. Presentation material for the National Youth and Women Fishers Exchange Contest)

Women's Group of FCA : Contribution to Social Sustainability



(Soejima & Makino 2018)

Aging and marginalization of fishing communities

Sanmi Sea Mothers:

Bento (Boxed lunch) delivery service to elders

(Soejima & Makino 2018)



Case studies: Impacts of collaboration among different gender groups

Case 4: Oarai FCA, Ibaraki

'Mothers' Restaurant'
run by fisheries cooperatives



Processing & Marketing

Case 5: Shin-Minato FCA, Toyama

Female president at FRA



Decision making

Case 1: Amaha FCA, Chiba

Husband-wife
fishing operation (Gill net)



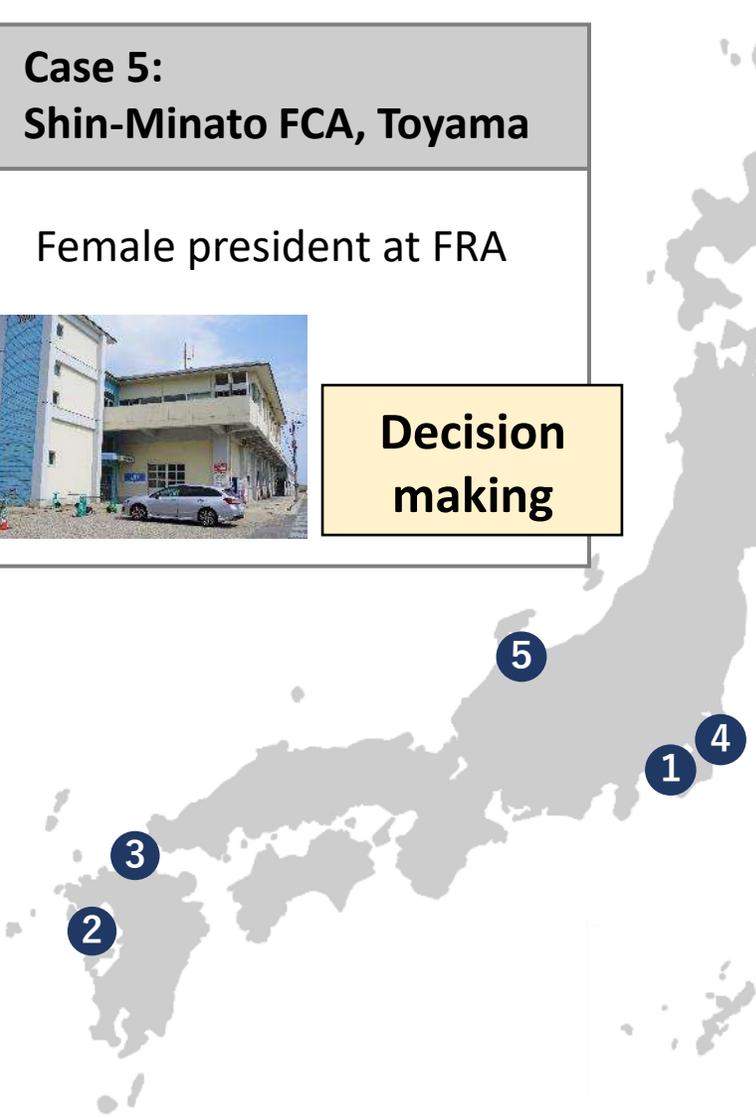
Production
Capture fishery

Case 3: Iwaya brunch, Hibikinada FCA, Fukuoka

Processing and management of
Akamoku seaweed



Processing



Case 2: Tenyo Inc., Nagasaki

Women's engagement in
purse-seine fishery



Production
Capture fishery



Case studies: Impacts of collaboration among different gender groups

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Effective supports based on female leader's perception and network

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Financial benefit for all stakeholders

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Safety improvements for wives enhanced resource management



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Changes in communication provided safer space for both male/female fishers

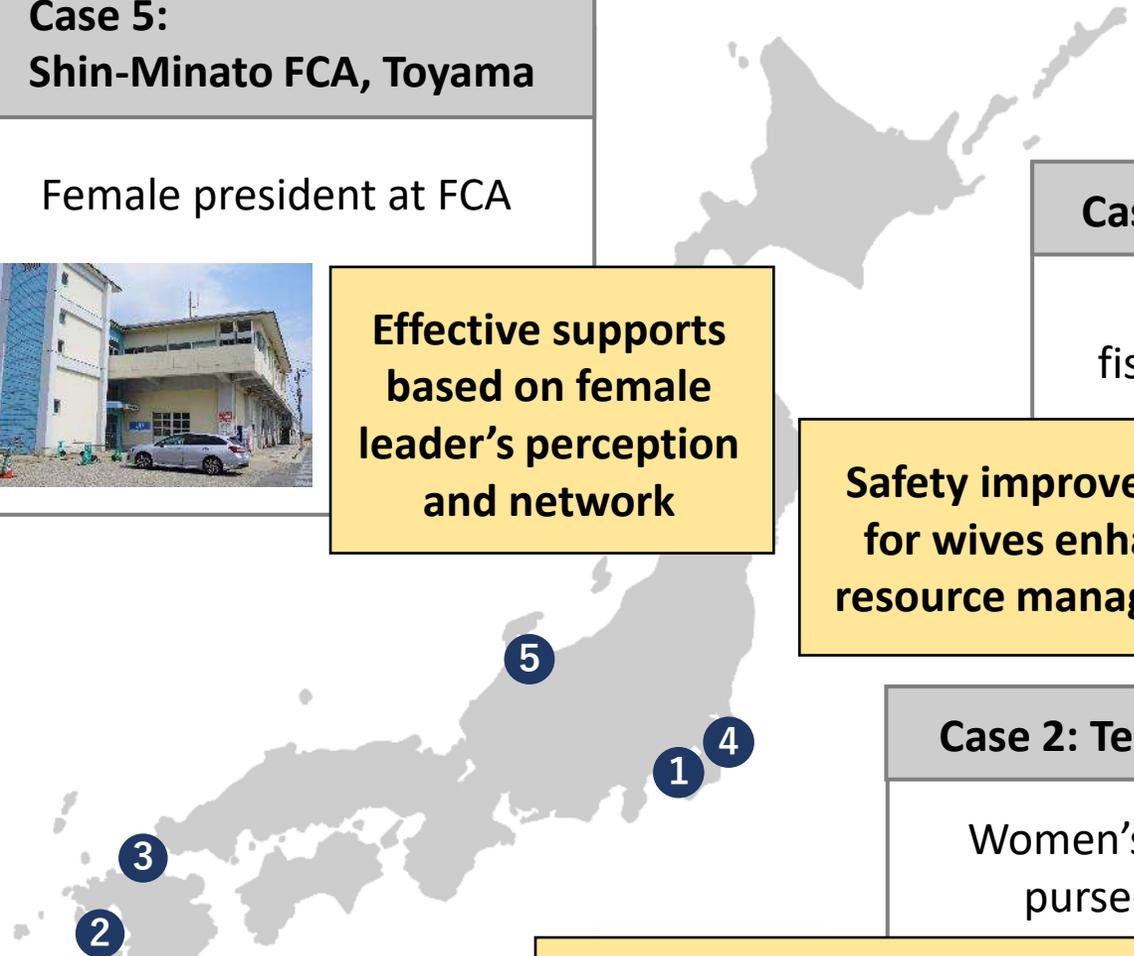


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Processing and management of *Akamoku* seaweed



Sustainable seaweed resource management through integrated gender-based knowledge





Case studies: Impacts of collaboration among different gender groups



Collaboration among different gender groups



Strengthened communication

+

Integration of gender-differentiated knowledge, techniques, and networks



Contribution to **social, environmental, and economic sustainability** of fisheries resource use

Akamoku seaweed



Sustainable seaweed resource management through integrated knowledge

2

purse-seine fishery



Changes in communication provided safer space for both male/female fishers



Challenges remain...

Challenges from traditional gender roles

- **Care burden** for women
- **Cultural taboo** for women gets onboard
- **“1 member from 1 household” tradition** in FCAs

Challenges from transformative roles

- Needs for **gender-free ports, vessel, and fishing gear**



Basic Plan for Fisheries in Japan (2022):

Promotion of women’s participation in fisheries sector

⇒ ‘Promotion of women’s participation into current structure of fisheries sector

⇒ **Reproducing gender inequality** in traditional gender roles?



Shift from ‘**Promotion of women’s participation to current structure**’
to ‘**Gender mainstreaming to transform the structure**’ is needed



'Gender mainstreaming' to transform Japanese coastal fisheries not to reproduce inequalities is needed



Gender integration promotes sustainable coastal fisheries resource use: case studies and policy implication from Japan

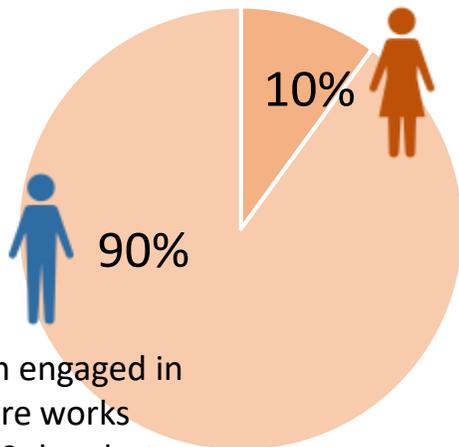
Hana Matsubara ¹⁾, Mitsutaku Makino ²⁾

1) Project Academic Specialist, 2) Professor
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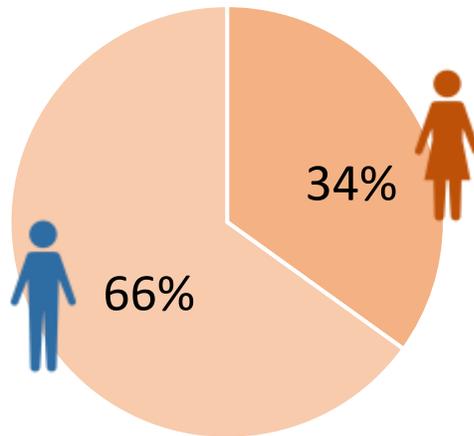


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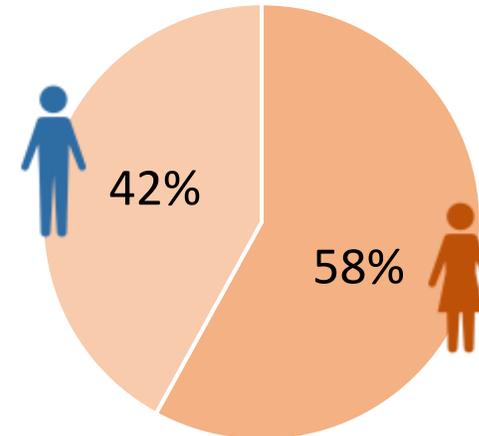


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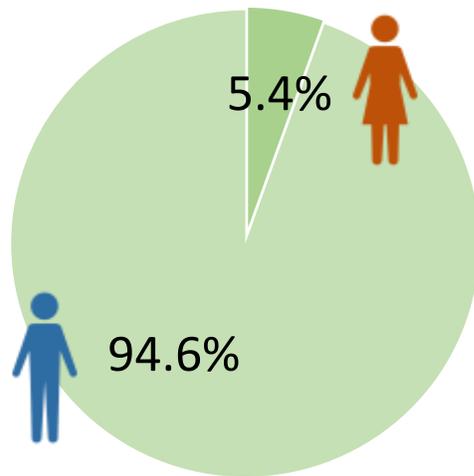
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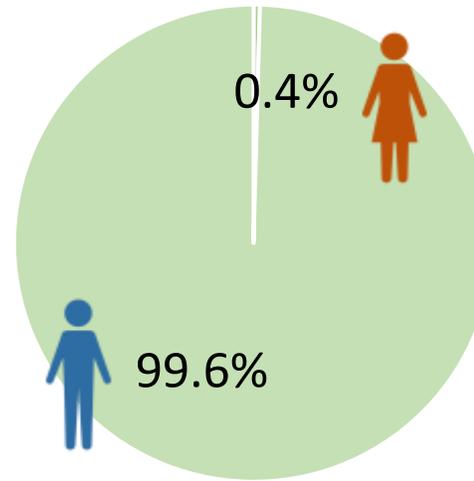
Fish processing workers



FCA regular members



FCA board members



Land-based work: Female-dominated / Gender imbalance in decision-making organization



Basic Plan for Fisheries in Japan (2022): Promotion of women's participation in fisheries sector

Collaboration among **different gender groups**
in small-scale coastal fisheries



Impacts?



Sustainability of
coastal fisheries resource use

This study explores:

- How collaboration among different gender groups impacts on sustainability of fisheries resource use
- What are challenges? What policy intervention would be needed?



Tagert sites (5 sites)

Case 4: Oarai FCA, Ibaraki

'Mothers' Restaurant'
run by fisheries cooperatives



Processing & Marketing

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Capture fishery



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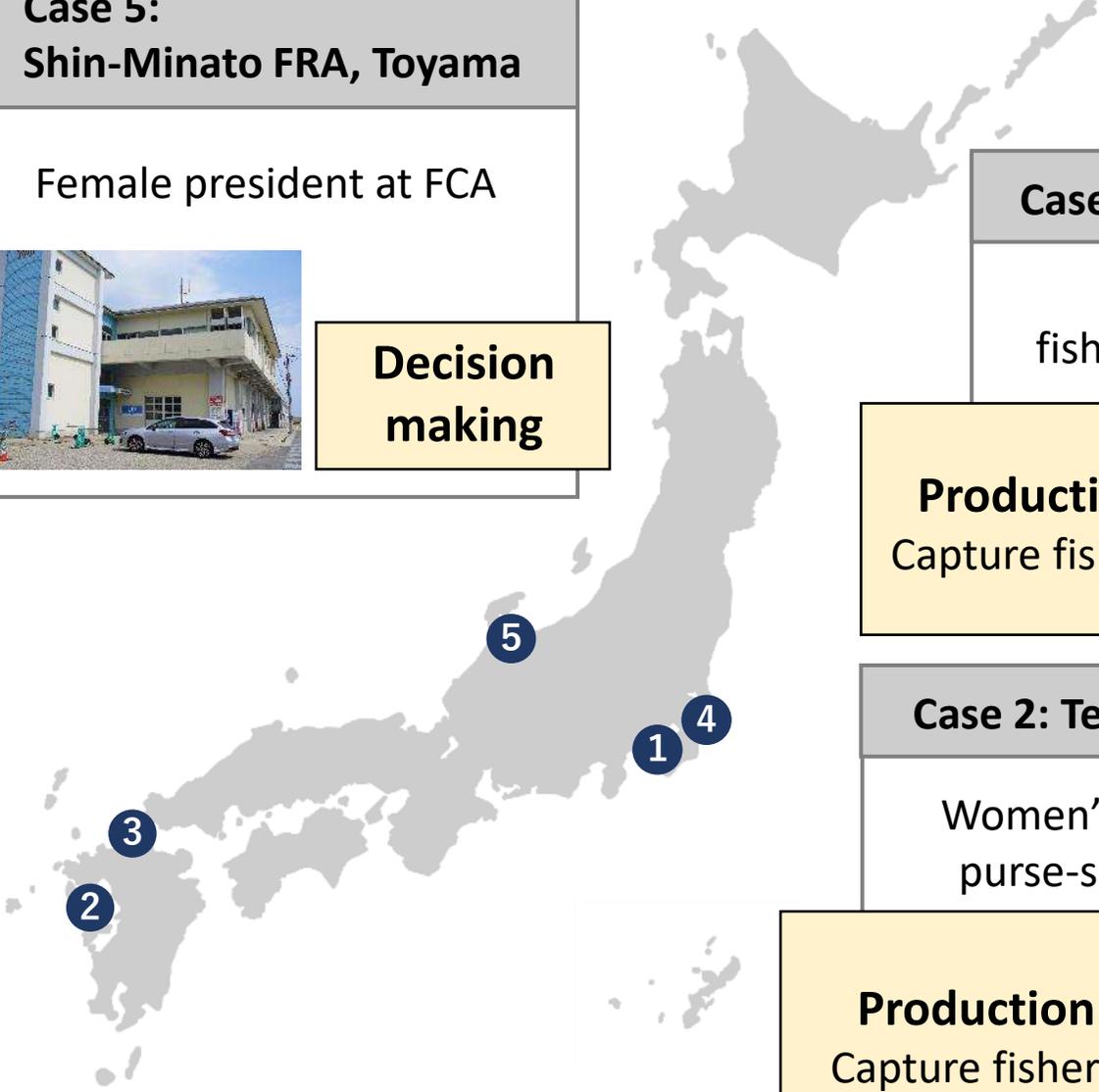


Processing

Case 2: Tenyo Inc., Nagasaki

Women's engagement in
purse-seine net fishery

Production
Capture fishery



Semi-structured interview

Episodic-interview method (Flick 2011)

Sematic knowledge

In the fisheries of this community, how “gender” identifies roles and behaviors of the people?

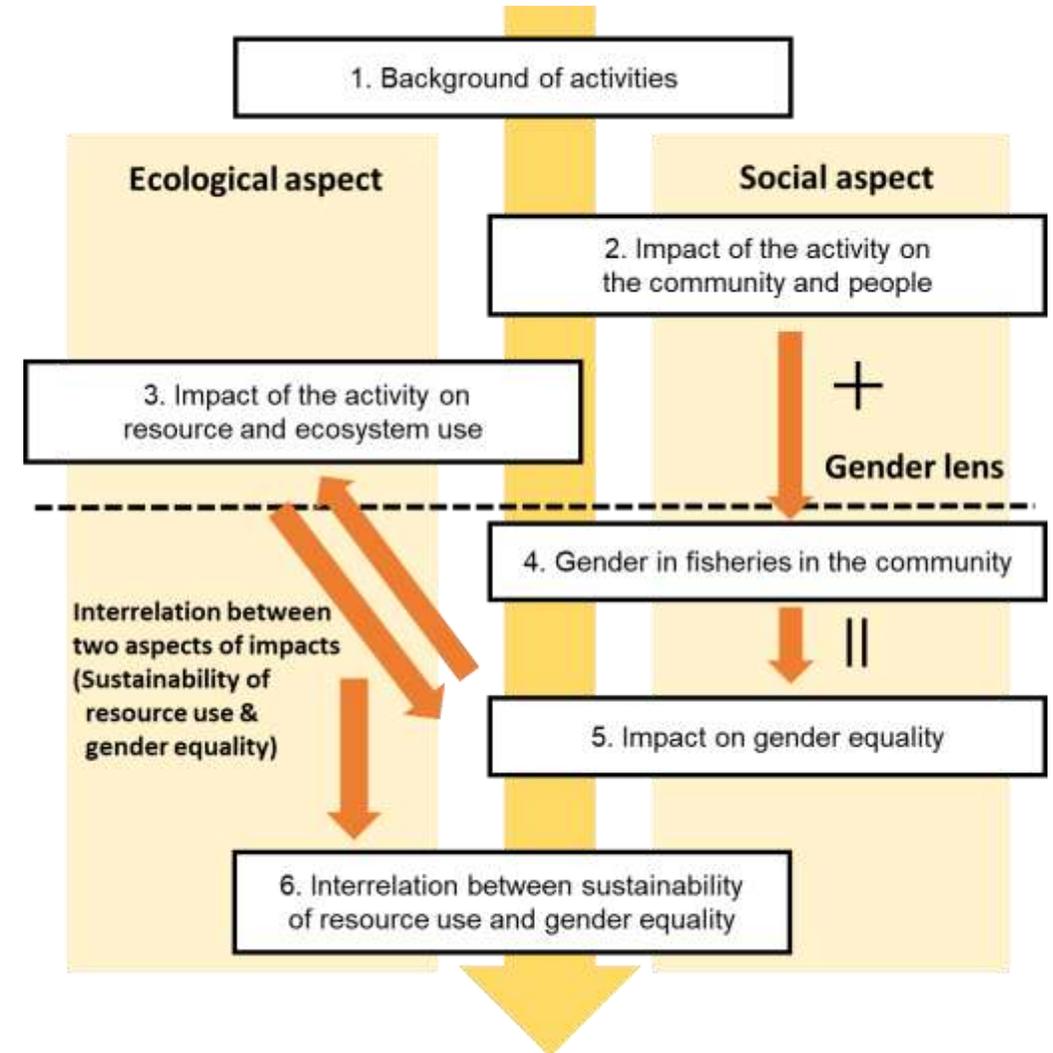
Please explain with the example of your own experience, as well as those of your family, friends, and neighbors.

Episodic knowledge

Qualitative Analysis (Nvivo 14)

Three-step coding (Saldana 2013)

- (1) Initial-coding (In Vivo coding)
- (2) Focused coding
- (3) Axial coding





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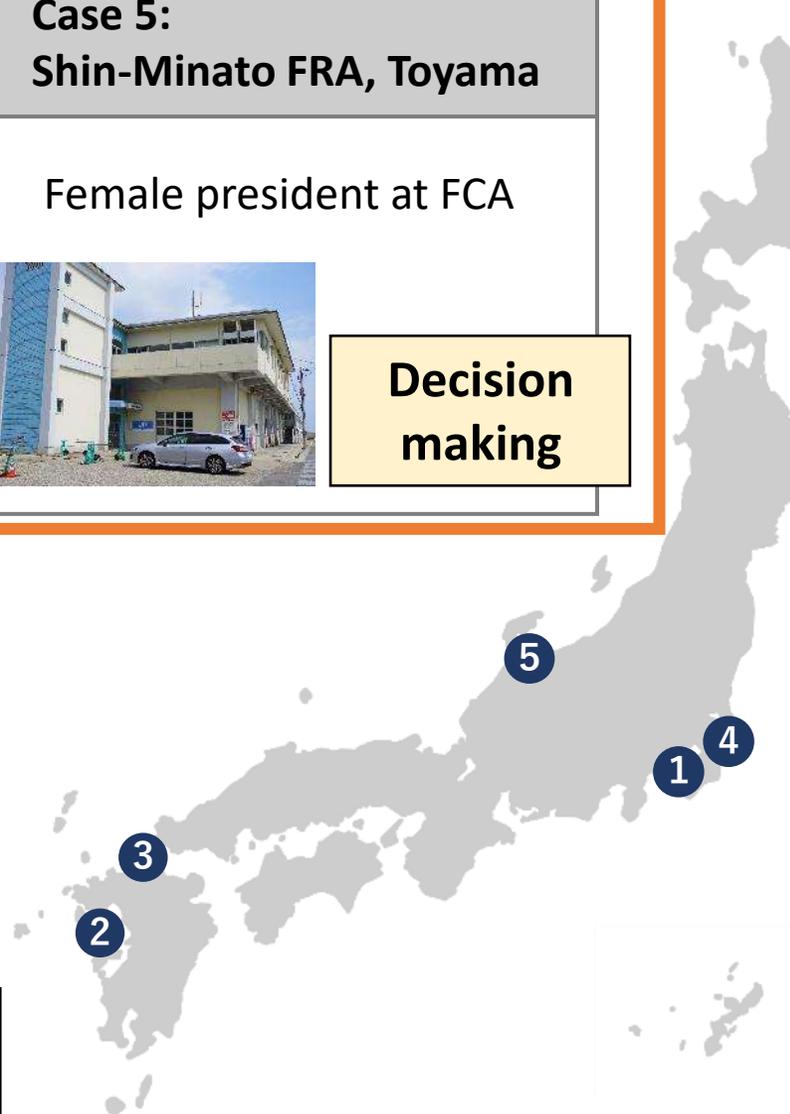


Processing

Case 2: Tenyo Inc., Nagasaki

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**Production
Capture fishery**



Case 1: Amaha FCA, Chiba

Husband-wife fishing operation (Gill net)

⇒ Impacts of shifting from **father-son/brothers** to **couple operation**

Survey period: December 12-14, 2023

Respondents:

- 6 couples operating fishing boat
- 1 Fisheries Cooperative Association officer

Male	7
Female	6
Total	13



Impacts on **social aspects**

- **Reduced communication costs on board**
- **Improved relationship between husband and wife**
- Lower psychological stress for male fishers (e.g., free from pressure of hiring crew)



- Increased burden for female fishers (e.g. fishing operation + household chores)



- Changing gender norms in fisheries

Impacts on **ecological aspects**

- **Safety improvement for wives**
- ▼
- **Improved resource management awareness** (e.g., Higher compliance for closed fishing days)



Case 1: Amaha FCA, Chiba

Husband-wife fishing operation (Gill net)

Safety improvement for wives and reduced fishing operation (respect for resource management)

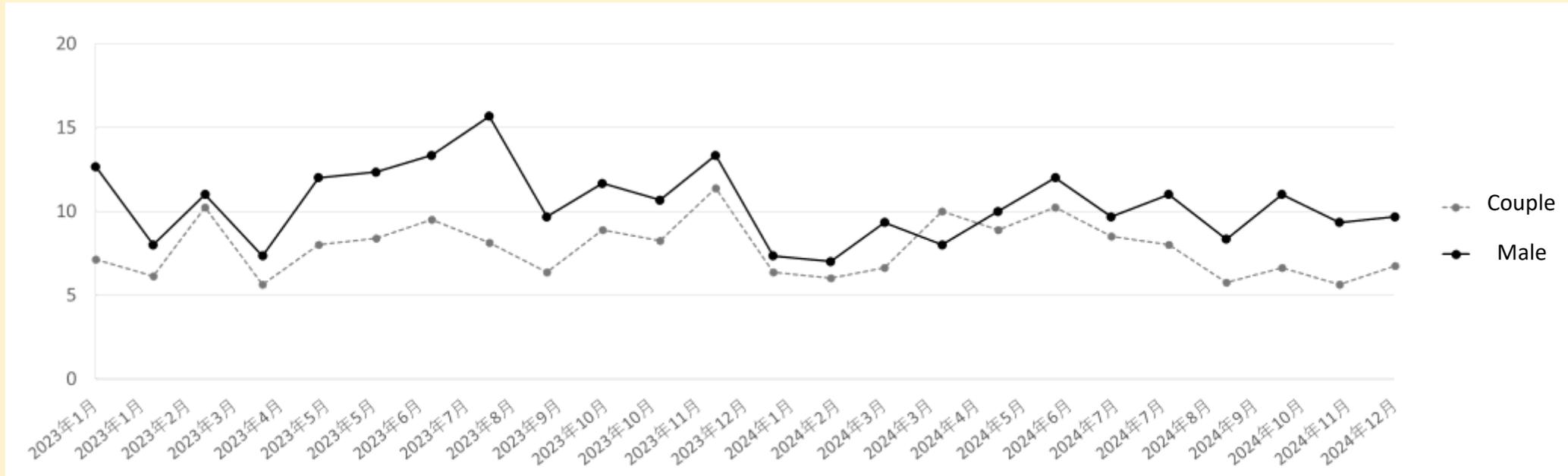


Fig. Average fishing days per month: male operation (n=3) vs. couple operation (n=8)

Couple operation had fewer fishing days over two years (Mann–Whitney U test, $p < 0.001$)

Case 4: Oarai FCA, Ibaraki

'Mothers' Restaurant' run by fisheries cooperatives

- ⇒ The restaurant was opened in 2010
- ⇒ Sales in 2019 was 150 million yen (=approx. 1 million USD)

Survey period: August 8-10, 2023

Respondents: Women working at the restaurant,
Male fishers, FCA board member, FCA officer,
Municipal government officer

Male	5
Female	2
Total	7



Impacts on **social aspects**



- **Job & income creation for women**
- **Economic benefit for FCA**
- **Economic benefit for male fishers** through purchasing local catch and processing
- Contribution to local economic revitalization

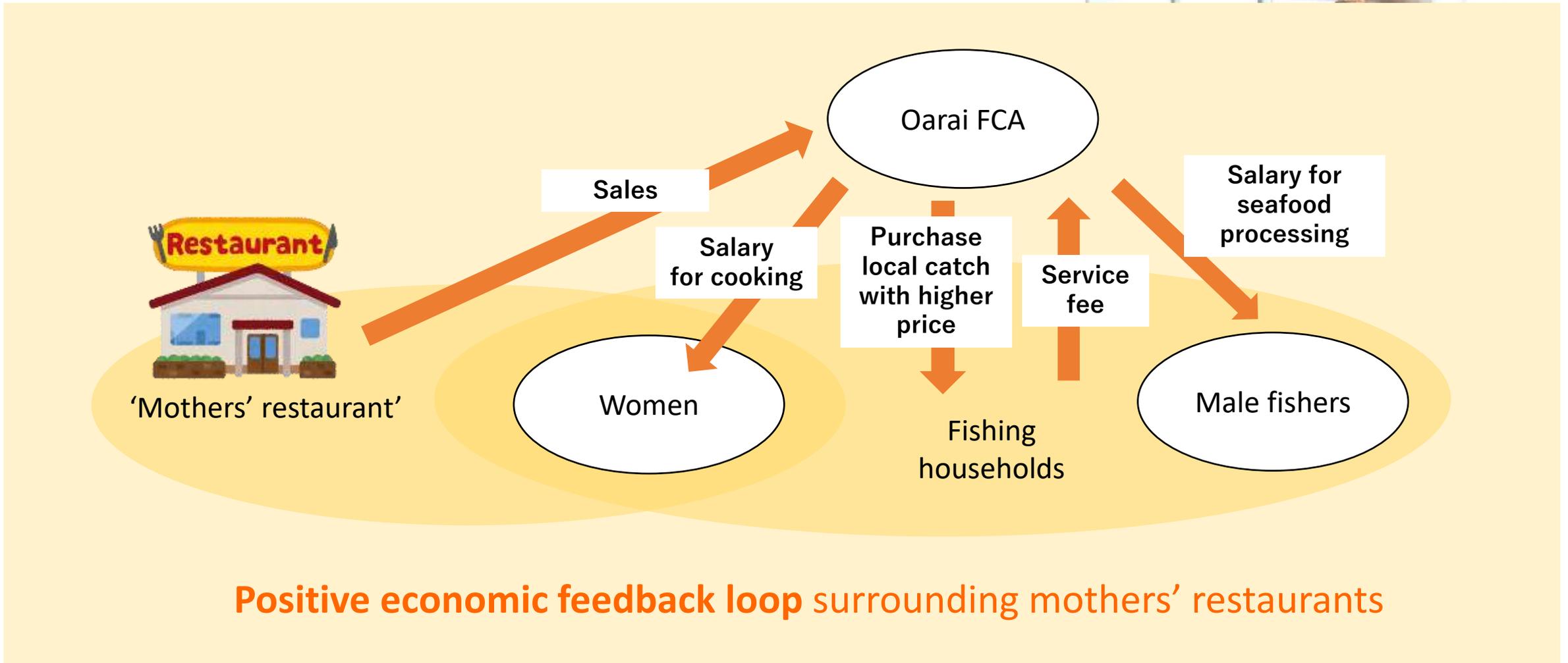
Impacts on **ecological aspects**



- Value addition to local catch
- Utilization of new target species (Climate change adaptation)

Case 4: Oarai FCA, Ibaraki

'Mothers' Restaurant' run by fisheries cooperatives



Case 5: Shin-Minato FRA, Toyama

Female president at FCA

- ⇒ 2003: President of Women's Group joined the FCA board
- ⇒ 2008: First female president of FCA
- ⇒ 2016: First female president of prefectural federation of FCA

Survey period: July 22-23, 2024

Respondents: FCA Board members,
FCA officer, Prefectural federation of FCA officer

Male	2
Female	3
Total	5



Impacts on **social aspects**

- Acceptance of female leader through support and collaboration with others
- **Improvement of onshore facilities** (e.g., ice-making plants)
- **Request for financial support to national government**
- Showcasing female leader as role model



Impacts on **ecological aspects**

- Initiation of resource management (e.g., pooled operations for shiroebi, resource management plans for set nets)
- Promotion of branding for prefectural fishery products

Case 5: Shin-Minato FRA, Toyama

Female president at FRA



Factors Behind the Success of Female FCA President

Environmental Factors

- Supports from family, FCA officers, and other fishers
- Nomination of president of Women's group engaged to the FCA board
- **Less care burden for this lady**
- More female FCA regular members
(approximately 15%; 30/196 person; 2024)

Background experience

- **Perception as a women engaged financial management onshore**
- **Networks built through FCA women's group activities**

Also foster female leadership in other communities?



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Effective supports based on female leader's perception and network

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Safety improvements enhances resource management awareness

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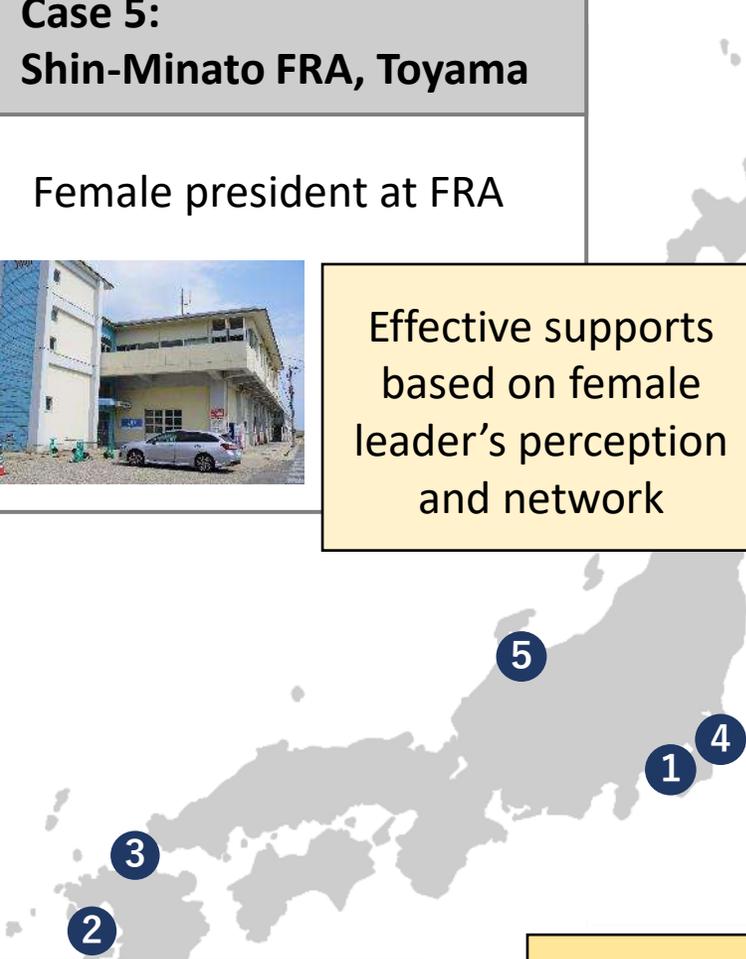
Financial benefit for all stakeholders

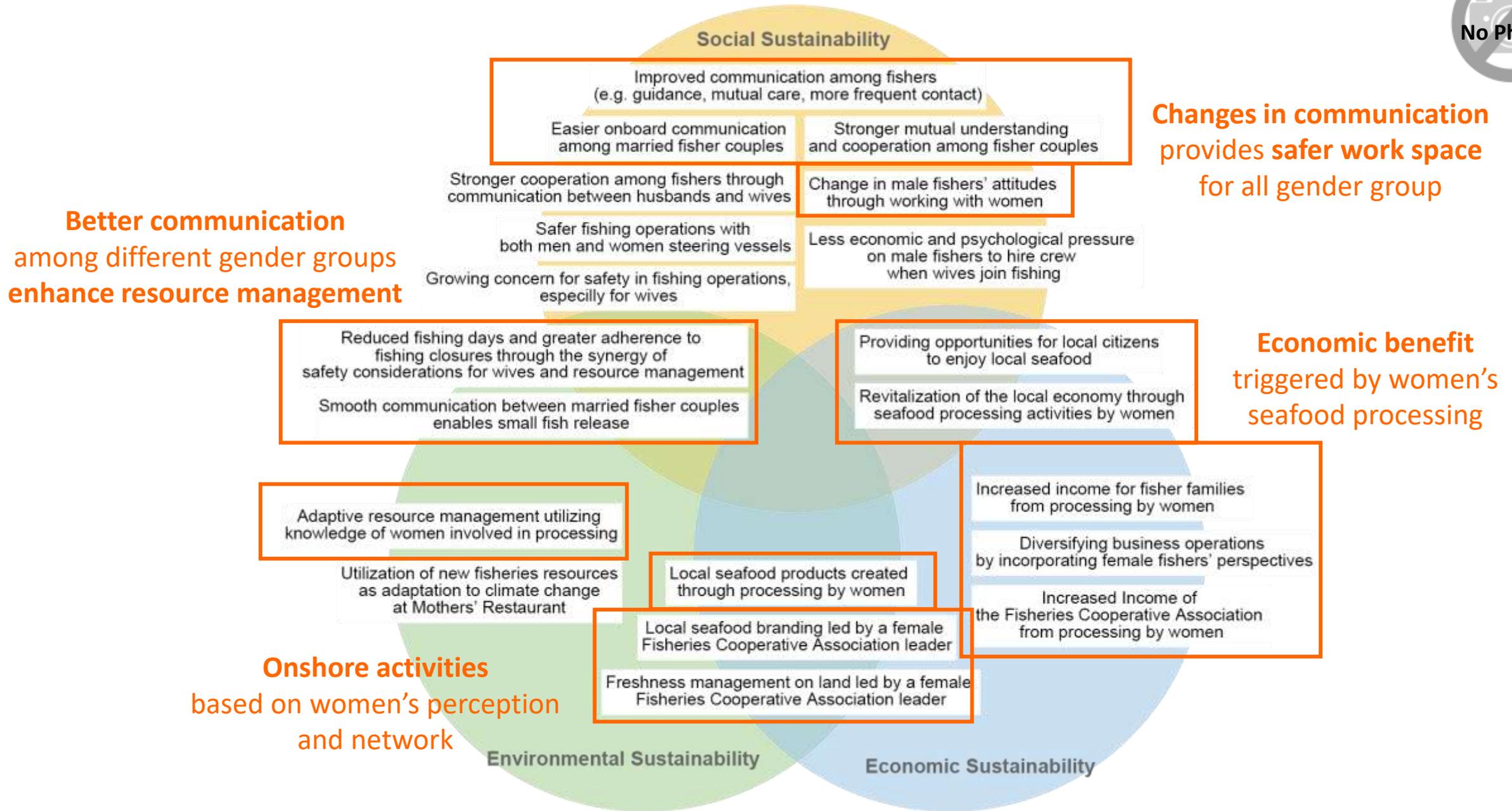
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Sustainable seaweed resource management through integrated knowledge







Changes in communication creates safe work space

Collaboration among different gender groups



Strengthened communication

+

Integration of gender-differentiated knowledge, techniques, and networks



Contribution to **social, environmental, and economic sustainability** of fisheries resource use





Challenges remain...

Challenges from traditional gender roles

- **Care burden** for women
- **Cultural taboo** for women gets onboard
- **“1 member from 1 household” tradition** in FCA

Challenges from transformative roles

- Needs for **gender-free ports, vessel, and fishing gear**



Basic Plan for Fisheries in Japan (2022):

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⇒ ‘Promotion of women’s participation into current structure of fisheries sector

⇒ **Reproducing gender inequality** in traditional gender roles?

Shift from **‘Promotion of women’s participation to current structure’**
to **‘Gender mainstreaming to transform the structure’** is needed



3 potential scenarios: shift to 'Gender mainstreaming' in Japanese fisheries policies

Scenario A: Integration of 'Gender' at the Terminology/Concept Level

'Promoting women's participation in existing fisheries'

⇒ 'Transforming fisheries structures to prevent gender-based inequalities'

Implementation cost: Low Effectiveness: Low Impact: Low

Start here?

Scenario B: Mainstreaming Gender at the Operational Level

(e.g.) Conduct gender analysis, develop quantitative indicators for resource allocation, M&E

Implementation cost: Medium **Effectiveness: High** Impact: Medium

Scenario C: Mainstreaming Gender at the Institutional Level

(e.g.) Develop fisheries-specific gender mainstreaming policy documents

Implementation cost: High Effectiveness: High **Impact: High**

This shift would **foster collaboration** among different gender group and further **promote sustainability of coastal fisheries resource use**

