SOCI-USC-ECONOMIC STRUCTURE OF FISHERMEN OF THE TURKISH BLACK SEA COAST: A RESEARCH ON SAMSUN SHELF AREA

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ABSTRACT

In this study, socio-economic structure of fishermen in Samsun Shelf Area (SSA) was investigated between January 2004 and May 2005. Questionnaires were applied to 68 fishermen living in the region three times. At the end of the study, about 30% of the fishermen were satisfied with their income, 34% of the fishermen had completed a middle school education or below, and 22% of the fishermen were 24 years old or below. The fishermen who engaged in fishing as a profession in SSA were divided into two groups: fishermen with less than 12 years of experience (33%) and fishermen with 12 years or more of experience (67%). The fishermen who were more than 34 years old (38%), more than 12 years of education (33%), and had obtained a university degree (67%) were less satisfied with their income. Fishermen who had a high level of social consciousness were more likely to be satisfied with their income (34%). The fishermen who engaged in fishing as a profession in SSA were divided into two groups: fishermen with less than 12 years of experience (33%) and fishermen with 12 years or more of experience (67%). The fishermen who were more than 34 years old (38%), more than 12 years of education (33%), and had obtained a university degree (67%) were less satisfied with their income. Fishermen who had a high level of social consciousness were more likely to be satisfied with their income (34%).

INTRODUCTION

Samsun province, located in the middle of the Black Sea coastline, between Yaprakdag and Kizilirmak river deltas which flow into the Black Sea, has an area of 9,364 km². As a geographical position, it is between 40° 57' - 41° 50' north latitudes and 37° 02' - 38° 23' east longitudes. Black Sea is on the north, Ordu province is on the east, Sinop province is on the west. Tekirdag and Amasya provinces are on the south, and Çanakkale province is on the southwest of Samsun. The Kizilirmak and Yaprakdag, two of the largest rivers in Turkey run through and empty into the Black Sea from Samsun. Bafra and Giresun plains that are the country's two plain which have the highest agricultural potential are located in the delta areas of Kizilirmak and Yaprakdag rivers. In this province where there is still space to occupy a big space, 48% of the land is cultivated area and in these areas various agricultural products are cultivated particularly wheat, tobacco, sugar corn, vegetables, sunflower, sugar beet, hazelnut and paddy. Researches about socio-economic structure of mariculture fishermen in Black Sea are scarce. Studies about socio-economic structure of mariculture fishermen are presented by Ciftci et al. (2004), Uzunoglu and Soyta, 2000, Yalcin, 2005, Guaynet al. (2007) Geno, 2009 and Zengin, 2010. In this study, as an important Fishery centre of Black Sea, Samsun province socio-economic analysis of the fishermen is investigated.

MATERIAL VE METHODS

In this research, socio-economic structure of fishermen in Black Sea Samsun Shelf Area (SSA) was investigated between January 2004 and May 2005. In this study, survey method was used on the data collection tools. In the survey, questions about Fishing Company such as demographic structure of the fishermen, vessels fishing gear, fishing their satisfaction of fishery was gathered. In the bottom line, fishing vessel was numerically split into three categories according to length of vessels. Number of total vessels in these three categories was 281 (Figure 2). Each category, there were respectively 131, 93 and 57 fishing vessels. In order to understand the structure of the vessels entered into the sample, Neyman method, one of the random sampling methods, was used. In the research the sample size was 54% and simple random draw from population by projecting a 99% confidence level was determined as 42 and the rate of 25% substitute fishing vessel was identified. Also, for splitting the vessels entered into the sample, categrory Neyman method was used and there were respectively 15, 6 and 11 fishing vessels for each category. The survey was conducted with 121 fishermen that accepted to give information.

RESULTS

When age distribution of SSA fishermen was reviewed, it was found that the age range of the fishermen varied between 28-67. And that the age of fishermen at 38-47 came first at the rate of 35.1%. The age of fishermen at age 47-57 ranked second has at the rate of 30.9% and the fishermen at age 58-67 and 68-77 ranked last at the rate of 23.8% 95.24% of the fishermen were married, and 47.6% of them were single. When number of children the fishermen was reviewed, the ones that have 3 and 2 children came first at the rate of 30.00% and 22.50%, respectively. 12.50% of them did not have children. When educational status of the fishermen was reviewed, it was determined that 69.05% of them were primary school graduates. 14.29% were high school graduates. When number of years spent in fishing was investigated, it was found that the number of years spent in fishing was between 3-33 years old. At the rate of 34.56% of fishermen in SSA, 12 years or more of experience with more than 10% of fishermen in SSA, 12 years or more of experience were engaged in the fishing profession. The number of vessels engaged in the fishing profession was between 42-1239 HP, the average power was 343.86 HP, and 35.71% of the fishermen in the fishing industry were 50-60 years old. When the fishing experience of the fishermen was examined, it was seen that their experience varied between 3-57 years and 26.70% of them 30-39 years. When number of fishing days of the fishermen was pointed out, the average number of fishing days of fishermen was 213 (Figure 3). It was found that the income of fishermen in SSA was 224 624 TL, the expenditures were 119 190 TL and gross income was 105 429 TL. A separate question regarding the fishing methods that fishermen used, it was seen that there was a negative fishing income at deep trawling.

CONCLUSIONS

62% of the fishermen located in the region used with vessels smaller than 15 m and 31% of them used with vessels larger than 20 m. As of the fishermen had more than 15 years of experience, this was an indicator showing that individuals who keep fishing were not young. The fact that 65% of the fishermen who keep fishing were not young showed that in this region, socio-economic structure of fisheries has not been extensively examined, and that fishermen in the region were not aware of the importance of fishing fishery, which is an important source of income in the region. From this region, the fishermen satisfaction of fishery was determined with the research. Satisfaction of fishery was also examined with other regions of the country.