

DO COUNTRIES REDUCE THE DEPENDENCE ON CAPTURE FISHERY AS THEY DEVELOP? STATISTICAL EVIDENCE FROM CROSS-COUNTRY DATA FROM 1990-2015

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The fisheries sector is fundamentally important to a blue-green economic paradigm. Conventional livestock production as a means of meeting the animal protein requirement of the global population has many limitations with respect to its environmental footprint. The fishery sector, on the other hand, can be developed to have clear advantages in terms of environmental sustainability. The capture fishery is the dominant type of fishery activity in many countries. Based on the cross national data, the median annual volume of the capture fishery for the period from 1990 to 2015 is 32,361 mt while the median value for culture (aquaculture) fishery is 1,810 mt. This observation is robust to even considering the country-specific median values (i.e. median across 25 years): the country specific median for capture fishery is 33,210.mt and the country specific median for culture fishery is 2,117 mt. Only 41 countries (including the land-locked countries) have a culture fishery that dominates capture fishery and in terms of country-year observations in the panel data set, this fraction is approximately 12 percent of all observations. Based on the statistical estimation of a panel data model, we find that there is a paradox that with economic development, countries become more focused on culture fishery than capture fishery. This finding gives rise to certain policy implications on how a country, especially a low-income country, plans the resources and priorities in the fishery sector. If culture fishery associates with high income, then it makes sense for country on the path of rapid development to use resources in a way that prioritizes the culture fishery adequately.

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