

GLM-Based Analysis on Seasonal Variation of Fishery Resources in Dapeng Bay, China

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Abstract

Dapeng Bay is a typical offshore fisheries area in the South China Sea (SCS). In order to understand the fishery resources, seasonal variations of species composition, dominant species composition, standardized catch per unit effort (SCPUE) and community diversity of fishery resources in Dapeng Bay, China were analyzed based on trawl survey data in spring (March) and summer (May) of 2013 as well as autumn (August) and winter (December) of 2012. Results demonstrated that there are 113 fishery species, which belong to 78 categories, 50 families, 14 catalogues, 3 classes. There are the most species in summer (61 species) and about 56 species in other seasons. In all four seasons, fish and crustacea are dominant species, and there are the fewest cephalopoda. High values of SCPUE occur in spring and autumn, reaching 5.65 and 5.33, respectively. SCPUE is generally low in summer, ranging between 0.52 - 0.96. Fish biodiversity is the highest in summer and the lowest in winter. Among biodiversity, *Shannon-Wiener* diversity index, *Margalef* diversity index and *Pielou* evenness index vary in the same trend. They are decreasing from summer, spring, autumn to winter successively. Therefore, there are violent seasonal variation of species composition, quantity and structure of fishery resources in Dapeng Bay. The community structure and function are highly stable in summer, but they have poor stability in autumn and winter. This research can provide scientific references for protection and sustainable use of fishery resources in typical offshore fisheries area in the SCS.

Keywords

Fishery Resources, Generalized Linear Models, Standardized Catch Per Unit Effort, Community Diversity

1. Introduction

Quantity, density, distribution and community diversity of fishery resources not only reflect utilization of fishery resources, but also important contents to understand coastal ecological environment. Structure and function of fishery resources are often used as one of health evaluation indexes of marine ecosystem [1]. Abundance and composition of fishery resources are closely related with human factors and natural factors. Research has pointed out that increasing human activities will decrease marine biodiversity. Habitat degradation is one of the major factors of biodiversity reduction [2] [3]. In coral reef waters, structural changes of fishery resources are highly related with utilization intensity of resources [4]. Transformation from high-nutrient fish species to low-nutrient fish species reflects the increasing utilization intensity of fishery resources in coral reef waters. Chlorophyll a concentrations (Chl-a), biomass and species quantity of nekton are increased in artificial fish reef waters, which protect and facilitate local marine ecosystem [5] [6] [7]. In marine ecological environment, temperature can affect metabolism, ingestion, spawning and distribution of marine organism directly [8] [9] [10]. Photosynthetic pigments of phytoplankton are an index of marine primary productivity. When chlorophyll concentration is higher than 0.20 mg/m³, there's enough phytoplankton in the sea area for commercial fishing of certain fishery resources [11]. In addition, land runoff, monsoon and tropical cyclone bring nutritive salts to sea areas through current transmission, water mass and upwelling and increases primary productivity, thus increasing local fish stock [12] [13]. In the north of South China Sea (SCS), fish species with long life, big size and high nutrient are decreasing, while fish species with short life, small size and low nutrients are increasing [14] [15]. In the middle area of SCS, midwater fishery biocoenosis is facing with intensive catching activities in autumn and moderate catching activities in winter [16]. Marinefish lay eggs, seeking foods and migrate along a certain direction in the seawater periodically according to characteristics of life [17]. These lay a foundation for exploring the relationship between marine environment and fish abundance, and further guiding fishery production activities.

Dapeng Bay is a typical fisheries area in the coasts of SCS, with typical representativeness in the offshore area of SCS. Based on trawl survey data in Dapeng Bay from 2012-2013, CPUE was standardized by the generalized linear models (GLM) and seasonal variation on species and community diversity of local fishery resources was analyzed. Seasonal variations of fishery resources in Dapeng Bay are analyzed, aiming to provide scientific references for sustainable utilization and management of fishery resources in the coastal area of SCS.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Research Area and Survey Station

Dapeng Bay locates in the north of the SCS and the western Shenzhen sea area. There are 0.40 km² of shallow sea aquiculture area and 2.54 km² of artificial fish

reef area. Net cage and buoyant raft hanging culture are dominant aquaculture ways. It is a typical offshore fisheries area in the SCS (**Figure 1(a)**) [18] [19] [20] [21]. In this study, 6 trawl survey stations (S1, S2, S3, S8, S9 and S10) and 9 environment survey stations (S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8 and S9) (**Figure 1(b)**) were set in Dapeng Bay. Trawl surveys, sea surface temperature (SST) and Chl-a were carried out on March (spring) and May (summer) of 2013 as well as August (autumn) and December (winter) of 2012 by using the same bottom trawler. The total tonnage of the bottom trawler, main motor power, average network width and average trawl speed and average trawl duration were 63 t, 99.23 Kw, 2.4 m, 2.5 sections and 0.25 h, respectively.

2.2. GLM-based SCPUE and Kriging Spatial Interpolation

With reference to the method of Guan [22]. Monthly CPUE were standardized using R software and GLM. Before standardization, CPUE was logarithmized to be close to the normal distribution. The general expression of GLM model is:

$$\text{Lg}(\text{CPUE} + c) = \text{Year} + \text{Lon} + \text{Lat} + \text{Month} + \text{SST} + \text{Chl-a} + \text{error}. \quad (1)$$

where CPUE is the caught mantissa in trawl survey per hour, *c* is a constant and is determined 10% of total average number, Year is year, Lon is longitude effect, Lat is latitude effect, Month is monthly effect, SST is sea surface temperature,

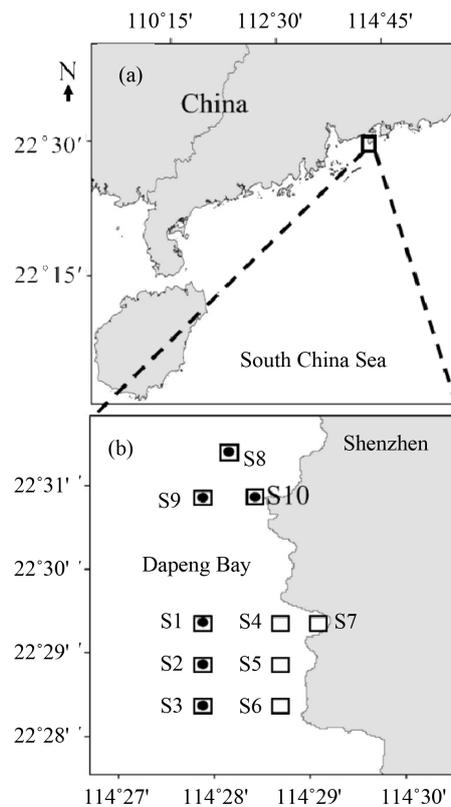


Figure 1. Research area and survey stations. *x* axis longitude and *y* axis latitude □ Environment survey stations ● Trawl survey stations 6 trawl survey stations (S1, S2, S3, S8, S9 and S10) 9 environment survey stations (S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8 and S9).

and Chl-a is Chlorophyll a concentration. error obeys to the normal distribution of $N(0, \sigma^2)$.

Common Kriging interpolation of large-sized and unevenly distributed data has been accepted as the best method and is widely used in many fields. Based on spatial information of Chl-a and SST, the common Kriging method of statistical module in ArcGIS spatial interpolation was adopted for spatial interpolation of environmental survey data in Dapeng Bay in spring (March) and summer (May) of 2013 as well as autumn (August) and winter (December) of 2012 [23].

2.3. Analytical Method

In all survey, sample collection and analysis were accomplished according to Specification for Marine Monitoring (GB17378-2007) and Specifications for Oceanographic Survey Marine Biological Survey (GB/T12763.6-2007). Quantity and weight of caught fish species were recorded in site. Species identification and biological test were performed in laboratory. Dominant species were established according to the calculated degree of dominance [24]. Community diversity of fishery resources in trawl surveys used *Margalef* diversity index (D'), *Shannon-Wiener* diversity index (H'), and *Pielou* evenness index (J'). Formulas are:

$$Y = \frac{n_i}{N} * f_i, \quad (2)$$

$$D' = (S - 1) / \ln N, \quad (3)$$

$$H' = - \sum_{i=1}^S P_i \log_2 P_i, \quad (4)$$

$$J' = H' / \log_2 S, \quad (5)$$

where n_i is the catch quantity of the i^{th} species, f_i is the frequency of occurrence of the i^{th} species, N is total number of biontin samples, S is total species in bottom trawl samples, and P_i is percentage of the i^{th} species in total number of samples.

3. Results

3.1. Seasonal Variation of Dominantspecies

A total of 113 species were caught in Dapeng Bay in four seasons, which belong to 78 categories, 50 families, 14 catalogues, 3 classes. Most of them are *Decapoda*, accounting for 35 species (30.97%) of 10 families. *Perciformes* is the second dominant species, accounting for 33 species (29.20%) of 14 families. *Teuthoidea* and *Octopoda* have the least proportions, accounting for 1 species (0.89%) of 1 family, respectively. In all four seasons, there are the most species in summer (61 species) and fewer species in rest three seasons (56 species) (Figure 2). Fish and crustacea are dominant species in all seasons, and cephalopodais the least species. Seasonal variation trends of species number in Dapeng Bay are basically consistent. However, species migrating into the Dapeng Bay for reproduction

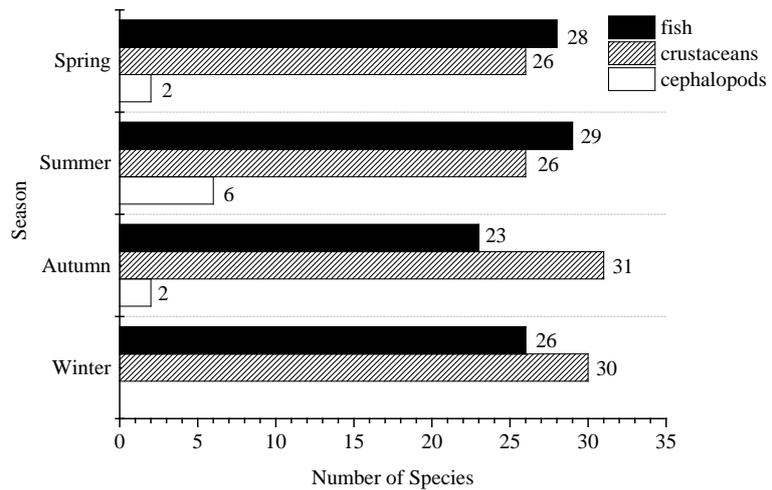


Figure 2. Seasonal variation of species number in Dapeng Bay.

and seeking foods change greatly in different seasons.

There are 29 dominant species with the dominance $Y > 0.02$ (Table 1). Autumn has the most dominant species (10 species), followed by summer (9 species) and spring (6 species). Dominant species in different seasons vary greatly, showing significant seasonal changes. Fish is the dominant species in summer, mainly including *Leiognathusbrevirostris* and *Parargyropsedita*. Crustaceais the dominant species in spring, autumn and winter. Among dominant species, *Dorippefacchino* occupies the absolute advantage in spring and winter ($Y = 0.36$ and 0.61), and *Oratosquillaoratoria* occupies the absolute advantage in summer and autumn ($Y = 0.14$ and 0.47).

3.2. CPUE Standardization

Statistical distribution of CPUE in the research area has to be determined before GLM-based standardization. The CPUE histogram shows skewed normal distribution (Figure 3(a)). Such skewed normal distribution is improved to some extent by logarithm transformation of CPUE and becomes close to symmetric distribution (Figure 3(b)). Therefore, logarithm transformation of CPUE is needed (the blank is data missing). Modelling the data with a SCPUE using GLM can improve accuracy to eliminate the effects of station, season, longitude and latitude [25]. The result of SCPUE was showed (Table 2) based on the GLM model.

3.3. Relationship between SCPUE and Environments

It can be seen from Figure 4 that the region with high SCPUE mainly occurs in S3 (5.65) and S9 (5.33). The corresponding SST and Chl-a are 20.59°C and 1.99 mg/m^3 as well as 30.47°C and 1.07 mg/m^3 , respectively. Region with low SCPUE mainly occurs in S10 (0.52) and S3 (0.79). The corresponding SST and Chl-a are 29.92°C and 1.76 mg/m^3 as well as 22.84°C and 1.74 mg/m^3 , respectively. SCPUE distribution has obvious seasonal variations. In spring, SCPUE at S3 is high

Table 1. Dominant species and dominant index in Dapeng Bay.

	Fish	Crustaceans
Spring	Parargyropsedita	Dorippefacchino
	0.03	0.36
		Portunushastatoides
		0.09
		Portunussanguinolentus
		0.04
Summer	Leiognathusbrevirostris	Eucratecrenata
	0.08	0.03
	Parargyropsedita	Parapenaeopsistenella
	0.06	0.03
	Lepidotrigla japonica	Oratosquillaoratoria
	0.05	0.14
Autumn	Sauridaundosquamis	Metapenaeopsispalmensis
	0.04	0.97
	Apogonquadrifasciatus	Parthenope validus
	0.04	0.054
	Siganusoramin	Dorippefacchino
	0.07	0.04
Winter	Polynemussexarius	Oratosquillaoratoria
	0.04	0.47
		Arcaniaheptacantha
		0.17
		Parthenope validus
		0.17
Spring		Hemigrapsussanguineus
		0.17
		Portunustrituberculatus
		0.17
		Charybdis bimaculata
		0.17
Summer		solaris
		0.17
		Metapenaeopsispalmensis
		0.04
		Dorippefacchino
		0.61
Autumn		Portunussanguinolentus
		0.10
		Portunushastatoides
	0.07	

(5.65) (**Figure 4(a)**). Corresponding SST and Chl-a are 20.59°C and 1.99 mg/m³. In summer, SPUE is generally low (0.52 - 0.96) (**Figure 4(b)**). SST and Chl-a are 29.41 - 30.10°C and 1.55 - 3.73 mg/m³, respectively. In autumn (**Figure 4(C)**), SCPUE at S8 and S9 are high, valuing 4.09 and 5.33. SST and Chl-a are 30.70°C and 1.67 mg/m³ as well as 30.47°C and 1.07 mg/m³, respectively. In winter,

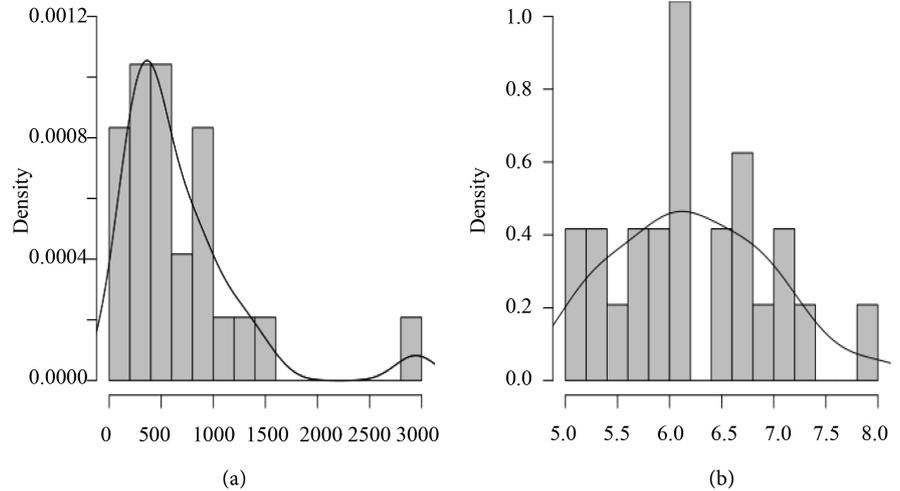


Figure 3. Density distribution of (a) CPUE and (b) lgCPUE.

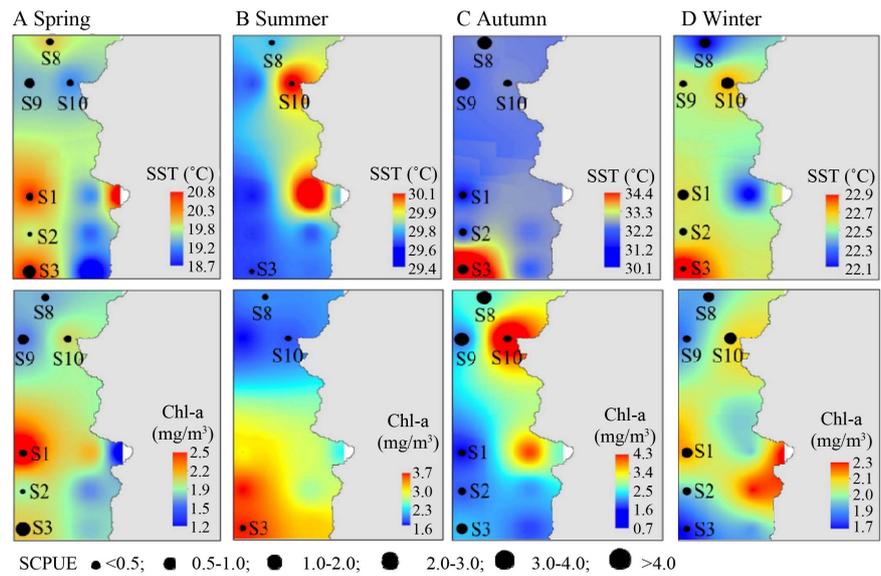


Figure 4. Relationship between standardized CPUE and SST and Chl-a.

SCPUE at S10 is high (3.51) (**Figure 4(d)**). SST and Chl-a are 22.65°C and 2.08 mg/m³, respectively.

3.4. Community Diversity of Fishery Resources

Community diversity indexes in Dapeng Bay include *Margalef* diversity index, *Shannon-Wiener* diversity index and *Pielou* evenness index, which show obvious seasonal variations (**Figure 5**). *Margalef* diversity index ranges between 16.95 - 21.85. *Shannon-Wiener* diversity index ranges between 2.49 - 4.69, and *Pielou* evenness index ranges between 0.43 - 0.79. The community diversity indexes decrease from summer, spring, autumn to winter successively. In all four seasons, there are the most abundant fishery resources in summer and the least in winter.

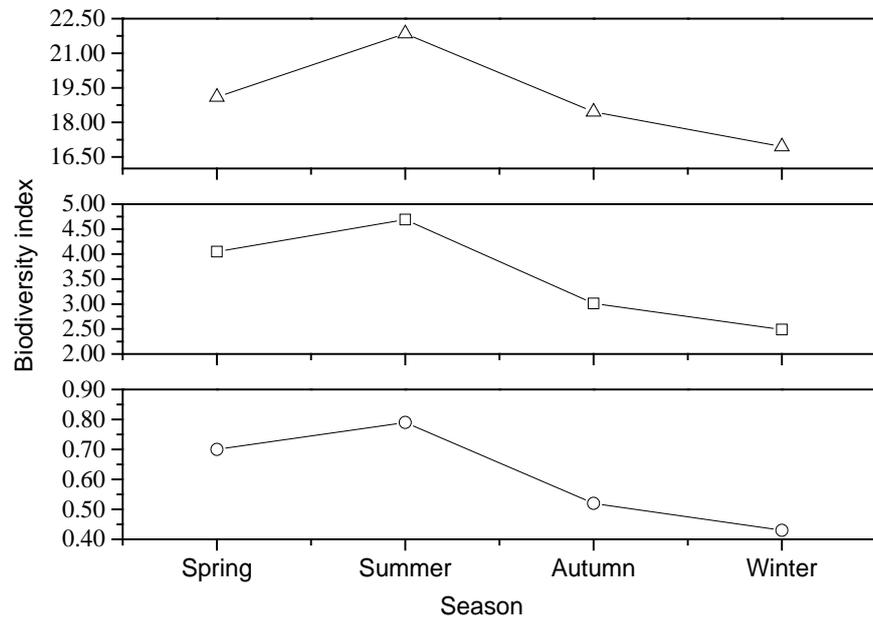


Figure 5. Seasonal variation of biodiversity index in Dapeng Bay.

4. Discussion

4.1. Seasonal Variation of Fishery Resources in Dapeng Bay

Dapeng Bay possesses abundant fishery resources. There are the most fishery species in summer and relatively fewer in rest three seasons, conforming to the trawl survey of Xu *et al.* [26] on seasonal variation of fishery resources in southwestern continental shelf of Nansha Islands. There are great seasonal differences in species composition in Dapeng Bay. Spawning, seeking food and overwintering migration of fishery species which are induced by changes of sea surface temperature and bait will cause seasonal changes of species composition and biomass, thus influencing changes of the fish stockstructure [27].

Fish is the dominant species in summer in Dapeng Bay. Fish species such as *Parargyropsedita* has big size, long life and slow growth. They pertain to k selective type, but have low degree of dominance. In spring, autumn and winter, degree of dominance of big fish is relatively low. Dominant species include *Polynemus sextarius*, *Parachaeturichthys polynema*, etc. Crustacea occupies the absolute advantage. Dominant species such as *Oratosquilla oratoria* and *Dorippe facchino* have high degree of dominance. These small biological species have short life and quick growth. They belong to the r selective type [14] [15]. Since fishery catching activities mainly focus on fish species with high economic value and high quality, the related dominant species are few and the degree of dominance is relatively low. The catching intensity of biological species with fast growth and low economic value is low, thus resulting in more dominant species and high degree of dominance. These are consistent with Wu *et al.* who pointed that crustacean resources are increasing in relative to the reduction of fish resources [28]. It will cost a long time to recover once high-quality fishery resources are

damaged [29]. Therefore, the dominant species of k selective species are replaced by r selective species during the summer-autumn transition. Fish species with long life, big size and high nutrient are reducing, while crustacean with short life, small size and low nutrient is increasing.

Margalef diversity index, *Shannon-Wiener* diversity index and *Pielou* evenness index show basically same seasonal variations. They achieve the highest in summer, followed by spring, autumn and winter successively. The highest community diversity is achieved in summer, indicating that there are the most abundant fishery resources in summer and the community structure in summer is the closest to the ideal state [30] [31]. These are in accordance with survey results: the highest number of species and dominant species is achieved in summer, and the lowest community diversity in winter is in accordance with few species and few dominant species in winter. Moreover, the fishery community structure in the study area is highly stable in summer, but presents poor stability in autumn and winter. This might be because summer is the fishing off season and has low catching intensity. SPUE is relatively low and fishery resources can be supplemented and updated. The catching intensity increases in autumn after the fishing off season. SCPUE increases and fishery resources are destroyed seriously. Biocenosis loses recovery ability and integrity, and the ecosystem stability declines. The proportion of dominant species with small size and low nutrient (r selective species) increases, while the proportion of dominant species with large size and high nutrient (k selective type) decreases [32] [33]. The increasing catching intensity in autumn intensifies degeneration of fishery resources to some extent, resulting in single community structure. Excessive catching will cause species degradation and depletion. K selective type is replaced by r selective type as the dominant species [34].

4.2. Relationship between Biomass of Fishery Resources and Environment

SST is one of the most important environmental factors that influence fishery resources. It is one of evaluation indexes of physical changes, including ocean current, water mass, tidal, fishing ground and primary productivity [35]. In Dapeng Bay, the highest SCPUE in spring occurs at S3 station where the SST is 20.59°C and the lowest is in S2 station where the SST is 19.86°C, indicating that distribution of fishery resources is very sensitive to temperature changes. Chen *et al.* [17] pointed out that only few centigrades of temperature changes are great changes. Some fish species even can perceive tiny SST changes of 0.1°C [36]. In summer, SCPUE data at S1, S2 and S10 station are missing (**Figure 4(B)**). This might be caused by the spatial separation trend of fish, crustacea and cephalopoda, that is, ecological niche differentiation. Summer is the spawning and reproduction period of most fish species, so their distribution areas mainly concentrate in spawning or maturing fields. However, crustacea and cephalopoda have no significant aggregation or different aggregation waters [37]. High SCPUE values occur at S9 and S8 station in autumn, and at S10 station in winter.

This might be because S8, S9 and S10 station are aquaculture regions which provide abundant bait sources and good growth environment for fishery industry. Therefore, SCPUE at these stations are higher than those at S1, S2 and S3 station.

Fishery resource distribution based on Chl-a is related with marine food chain mechanism. The abundant phytoplankton resources attract a lot of zooplankton which live on them, thus further enriching fishery resources which live on the zooplankton. In this study, SCPUE is high when Chl-a is low in spring (1.99 mg/m^3) and autumn (1.07 mg/m^3). This reflects the “low Chl-a and high fishery resources” to some extent [38]. In summer, SCPUE is generally low, which is related with the low catching intensity due to the fishing off season [39]. However, fishery resources are supplemented and updated to some extent after the fishing off season and catching intensity increases, thus resulting in high SCPUE in autumn [40].

4.3. Suggestions on Protection and Sustainable Utilization of Fishery Resources

Dapeng Bay is in the northwest waters of the SCS with low latitude. Characteristics of fishery resource structure are mainly caused by reduction of fishery organism and frequent species replacement caused by excessive catching as well as poor community stability. Therefore, it is necessary to change the traditional exhausting catching pattern and control and reduce catching intensity strictly. It shall reduce catching activities of fishing ships, determine catching intensity and maximum proportion of larva, and use the smallest meshing size [41] to protect fishery larva. Targeted catching according to time shall be adopted. For example, there are k selective type and r selective type of fishery resources in summer Dapeng Bay, but r selective type of fishery resources is mainly in rest three seasons. It shall use mainly trawl in summer, but shrimp trawl with crossyard and cage pot shall be adopted in autumn and winter. These can increase catching efficiency and protect species degradation better, thus making fishery resources recovered and supplemented. In addition, it has to prolong fishing off season and expand species of fishing prohibition. Generally, the fishing off season in summer is short and fishery resources recovery is time-consuming. Prolonging the fishing off season and expanding species of fishing prohibition appropriately give adequate time for fishery resources recovery, supplement more species and can reduce the degree of resources damage. Moreover, it is suggested to reproducing and releasing of species at different ecological niche. Full considerations shall be given to blank ecological niches caused by species depletion and spatial-temporal heterogeneity of fishery biocenosis [42]. The one-way species releasing shall change to reproduction and releasing based on ecological balance, aiming to facilitate sustainable development of fishery resources.

5. Conclusion

In this study, seasonal variations of fishery resources in typical offshore fisheries

areas in SCS are analyzed based on Dapeng Bay, China. SCPUE of fishery resources in Dapeng Bay is low in summer, indicating that the fishing off policy in summer can protect fishery resources to some extent. The community diversity is higher in summer and low in winter. The energy transfer efficiency between different nutrient levels in Dapeng bay in spring and summer is relatively close, indicating that the ecosystem is relatively stable. K selective type is the dominant species in summer and r selective type is the dominant species in autumn. This reflects that catching intensity can influence regional resource structure. The catching intensity in autumn is higher than that in summer, so r selective type will replace the k selective type as the dominant species. Further investigation will be conducted on Dapeng Bay, providing scientific references for protection and sustainable use of fishery resources in typical offshore fisheries area in the SCS.

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