

# Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

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## CBRM Database

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<b>Region:</b>	Asia		
<b>Country:</b>	Japan		
<b>Ecosystem Type:</b>	Aquatic		
<b>Social Characteristics:</b>	Rural communities		
<b>Scale of Study:</b>	Regional		
<b>Resource Type:</b>	Fisheries		
<b>Type of Initiative:</b>	Research driven project		
<b>Community Based Work:</b>	Resource management		
<b>Keywords:</b>	Coastal fisheries management, Community-based fisheries management (CBFM)		

**Summary:**

The IPFC Symposium on Socio-economic Issues in Coastal Fisheries Management held in Bangkok in November 1993 revealed that fisheries management programmes implemented in the region had rarely helped to improve fishermen's incomes. It was noted that the problem of low fishermen's incomes would not immediately disappear with the removal of open access which had been considered one of the major reasons for the poor state of fishermen's households. Lack of alternative employment opportunities is another reason for low fishermen income, since it is highly probable that the low incomes of many fishermen result from low-opportunity incomes. In this context, the Symposium recommended that governments should promote economic diversification and enterprise development among rural fishing communities to generate opportunities for alternative employment in the coastal fisheries sector.

"Top-down" centrally-controlled management regimes are not effective if they fail to reflect fishermen's needs on management planning. The shortcomings of "top-down" approaches could be overcome by involving fishermen in the process of planning, designing and implementation of fishery management schemes. This recognition has prompted governments to consider new means of managing fisheries which integrate participatory approaches in fishery management strategies. The fishery management under the authority of the central government emphasizes mainly the biological, conservation and economic areas of fishery management, whereas participatory approaches stress the importance of social and cultural aspects of fishing communities in addition to the economic gains that fishermen seek. Successful experiments in CBFM have shown that if fishermen play decisive roles in management decisions (e.g., determination of sustainable harvest levels and allocations to fishermen), there is a high rate of adherence to fishery regulations. Such management decisions are usually made to bring forth increase of incomes. Provision of economic incentives and assurance of resource availability through appropriate management (e.g., combining marketing with management measures) would enhance the degree of fishermen's compliance with regulatory measures.