

Consideration Sustaining Lifestyle through Fishing & Cathering by Women in Higa Village, Okinawa:

— With a Focus Fishing Activities before the 1980s —

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Scholars have often chosen seafood peddling and selling in Itoman as research topics in studying the involvement of Okinawan women in fishing. Unlike previous papers, this will present various types of fishing activities that other Okinawan women were engaged in based on an analysis of statistical data in 1890. This attempt should offer a new, macro perspective on the theme.

This paper will look closely at the case of Azahiga in Uruma City, where more women than men were involved in fisheries according to analysis. To reveal the role of women in fishing, their activities were compared to those of men.

It was found that there were seasonal and all-year fishing activities in the area. Both types were compared by gender to identify differences. Their purposes for fishing and the system and rules to use fishing grounds indicate the role of Higa women in fisheries.

The women used smaller fishing grounds compared to men. What women caught was sold for human consumption and other uses. They established a system that allowed them to use fishing grounds throughout the year and whenever an urgent need arose. These findings suggest the role Higa women played in fisheries.