

June 3, 2011

Takagi Emergency Committee for the Reform of Fisheries

Japan Economic Research Institute

“Toward the Creation and Rebirth of a New Fisheries Industry Following the Great East Japan Earthquake”

Emergency Recommendations (Executive Summary)

Recommendation 1: Emergency Measures toward the Creation and Rebirth of a New Fisheries Industry

Such issues as catch and processing volumes by fishing port, the number of fishing boats, the scale of facility restoration, the number of continuing businesses, the ocean fishing ground environment, and necessary land should be quickly investigated in order to get a realistic whole picture and manage related budgets flexibly and in an integrated manner.

- (1) The most important thing is to get a realistic picture of the situation. Prefectures, municipalities, private-sector organizations, and others should make judgments from recent fisheries resources and catches off the Sanriku coast and set about compiling specific plans (“fisheries industry rebirth plans”) for appropriate investment, renovation, etc.
- (2) In addition, since the sea and ecosystem are changing considerably due to land subsidence, debris, the discharge of oil-polluting substances, and so on, surveys using fishing boats, etc. should be promptly implemented.
- (3) While conducting surveys on the desire for employment in the fisheries, processing, and related industries, projects should be implemented to promote the online sales of fishing businesses, joint cooperative efforts and business startups, including transfers to other districts, and training in advanced and disaster areas, as well as the creation of jobs. Furthermore, foreign floating-type processing ships that can be utilized temporarily should be introduced.
- (4) In order to implement immediate emergency measures, it is necessary to rearrange the current resource management and individual fisheries household income support system budget with the aim of replenishing the mutual-aid insurance system

uniformly nationwide, creating an “individual fisheries household income support system relating to the Great East Japan Earthquake” with the aim of restoring resources and fishing grounds, and applying this system for one–three years until business recovers from the disaster. In addition, the barriers in budget classification by hardware, software, harbors and fishing ports, business composition, and within ministries should be abolished as far as possible.

Recommendation 2: Fundamental and Drastic Measures for the Creation and Rebirth of a New Fisheries Industry

① The construction of fishing cities and fishing communities (fishing villages, fishing port hamlets) should be carried out in accordance with new ideas, such as the integrated establishment of industrial centers, the separation of work-related and residential areas, the transfer of communities to high ground, and a change of thinking from disaster prevention to evacuation.

(1) Regarding hub fishing cities, it is necessary to compile fisheries industry rebirth plans with realistic numerical targets for capacity (about half of the peak time) based on surveys of catch capacity, processing capacity, sales capacity, land acquisition capacity, and so on in view of the present volume of resources off the Sanriku coast, past catch achievements, etc.

In addition, regarding fishing communities (fishing villages, fishing port hamlets) as well, it is necessary to compile fisheries industry rebirth plans, either singly or together with other communities, taking into account past catch achievements, aquaculture achievements, number of fishing boats, number of fishing businesses, number of successors, and so on, as well as conditions in the wake of the disaster, distance between fishing villages, etc.

(2) It is necessary to analyze and evaluate the effects and negative impact of harbor entrance breakwaters and seawalls from an objective and broad perspective. Evaluation should be conducted not only from the conventional engineering viewpoint but also from the perspectives of psychology and human behavioral science and the environment.

(3) Regarding districts that are close to one another in terms of geography, history, and scope of operations, it is necessary to designate a hub city and integrate facilities and functions there. Compact fishing cities should be built with an integration of

fisheries, distribution, processing, and related industries, and facilities should be rationalized and advanced.

- (4) Regarding type 1 and type 2 fishing ports, workplaces and residences should be separated as far as possible. In the case of small-scale fishing ports and facilities where small fishing boats and so on are gathered and anchored, they should be integrated in a hub fishing port. In addition, residences should be moved to high ground as far as possible. If that is not possible, evacuation routes and evacuation places should be built.

Recommendation 2:

- ② In order to restore such resources as club mackerel, South American pilchard, and skipjack tuna, which are in a state of depletion, it is necessary to set the total allowable catch (TAC) at a low level, eliminate unnecessary competition, and introduce the individual quota (IQ) and individual transferable quota (ITQ) systems so as to stabilize prices and reduce expenses.

Furthermore, if necessary for the recovery of regional industry, processing development quotas should be set for each hub fishing city port.

- (1) At present the resource condition is worsening for these fish migrating in the Tohoku sea area. Because of the disaster, even if they are caught, there is a lack of processing and freezing capacity, and consumption seems to be declining due to the impact of radioactive substances. Consequently, it is necessary to restore marine resources and make efforts to stabilize prices and reduce expenses. For this purpose, the IQ and ITQ systems, which have been adopted overseas and in Niigata Prefecture, should be introduced.

In response to the decline of income due to fishing catch cuts, it is necessary to adopt a newly established individual fisheries household income support system for fisheries and to support economies, including fishers.

- (2) In order to promote these measures, a processing development quota (% distribution) designating the size of the catch beforehand should be fixed in hub fishing cities so as to contribute to the early recovery of the disaster areas. As a result, the marine product catch for the area concerned will be obligatory, and recovery will be supported.

- (3) The fishing, distribution, processing, and related industries should endeavor to achieve development in an integrated manner. Even if marine products are caught, fishing cities will not achieve recovery without the restoration of other industries as well. It is necessary to establish port entry and landing systems in which fishing boats can look forward to a comprehensive range of services, including the purchase of daily items and boat repair and maintenance. Fishing cities should also strive to coordinate capabilities and functions with neighboring fishing cities.
- (4) Furthermore, efforts should be made to develop a processing industry with high-level hygiene maintenance functions. In particular, for the overseas market it should meet high-level processing and hygiene standards (HACCP, ISO). Through these system revisions and the construction of new fishing cities, there should be a setup linking the stable supply of marine products and the sustainability of marine resources.

Recommendation 2:

- ③ Fishing rights should be broadly opened in order to promote new entry and ensure successors, vitalize coastal fishing, and stabilize income. In addition, it is necessary to open the doors of fisheries cooperative associations widely to related industries in the community as a whole and to make such processes as management and decision making transparent.

- (1) Marine resources are a common asset of the Japanese people. Fishing rights also are the right to catch a common asset of the nation. Fishers are granted only a limited right in the form of fishing rights.
- (2) In the case of both fishing rights for aquaculture and set-net fishing rights, it is forecast that the shortage of successors and other factors have been accelerated and business difficulties exacerbated by the Great East Japan Earthquake. Therefore, fishing rights should be opened widely to private companies and others as well, and efforts should be made to eliminate the shortage of successors and continue the industry. In addition, compared with other countries, productivity is low in Japan because the scale of fisheries and fish cultivation is far too small. The expansion of scale and rationalization should be carried out within the scope of total capacity. At such times, prefectures should directly grant fishing rights to companies and fishers.

- (3) The eligibility for full membership of fisheries cooperative associations should be opened to marine-related industries as well (processing, distribution, shipbuilding, wholesale, etc.), and they should become the central organization in the district. Alternatively, efforts should be made so that corporations can be established with the same membership.

Furthermore, fisheries cooperative associations have chronic deficits and cover them with obscure non-business revenue. In conjunction with recovery from the disaster, for which many subsidies are being granted, fisheries cooperative associations should introduce external auditing by certified public accountants.

Recommendation 3: Accurate and Speedy Disclosure of Information on Radioactive Contamination and Establishment of Research Setup

In order to prevent pollution of the sea and marine products by radioactive substances, it is necessary to conduct the accurate and speedy disclosure of information, and fisheries research institutes themselves should collect data and implement monitoring surveys.

At the same time, it is necessary to quickly establish a research and inspection setup independent of the nuclear power industry and urgently investigate internal exposure to radiation and the mechanism of bioconcentration in marine life as a result of radioactive substances.

- (1) Almost no basic research is being conducted regarding the mechanism of bioconcentration and the impact of internal exposure to radiation, and the credibility of announcements by the government is doubtful.

In addition, regarding sea pollution data, as well as announcements by the Tokyo Electric Power Co., from the perspective of research on the ocean ecosystem, fisheries research institutes should conduct surveys over a wide area actively, regularly, and continuously and supply information to fisheries-related people, consumers, and the general public.

Furthermore, in order to ensure food safety and peace of mind, it is also extremely important for marketers to conduct their own inspections of shipped marine products, and necessary assistance should be provided.

- (2) So far fisheries research institutes have not conducted their own research on the impact of wastewater discharged from nuclear power plants either. A “marine life radiation research institute,” including foreign researchers, should be established as

a fair and impartial research organization, and necessary information should be disseminated both in Japan and overseas.