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Comprehensive study of a marine protected area managed by the fishermen in Hinase, Japan

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In May 2011, the Eighth Meeting of the Headquarters for Ocean Policy officialy announced the basic concepts and relevant regulations of Japanese Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) according to the definition of the Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy which is "Marine areas designated and managed by law or other effective means, in consideration of use modalities, aimed at the conservation of marine biodiversity supporting the sound structure and function of marine ecosystems and ensuring the sustainable use of marine ecosystem services". Accordingly, MPAs in Japan at present confirm to different existing systems such as Natural Parks Act 1957 and Fisheries Act 1949. Many of those MPAs have fishery resource management objectives with either a government-based or community-based management approach. In order to comprehensively understand the effect of such MPAs, we conducted three-years joint-research from 2013 to 2015 by examining several MPA sites around Japan. In this presentation, after a brief introduction about the Japanese MPA systems, research outcomes at one of the case study sites, Hinase, Bizen City, Okayama Prefecture, Japan, will be shared from various viewpoints including ecological, economic, and social effects as well as their linkages to the human wellbeing.

Biography

Izumi Tsurita is a Doctoral student at the Department of Cultural Anthropology, Human Security Program, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo. She used to work for the Ocean Policy Research Foundation and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies in Japan. She also worked at the Parque Nacional Natural Los Corales de Rosario y de San Bernardo, Colombia, as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer. Her research interests include Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change based on the ideas of Cultural Anthropology and Environmental Ethics.

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