

# Who's on First?

## Multi-stakeholders participation for the sustainability of Jeju Haenyeo Fisheries System

Yoo Chul-In

Professor of Anthropology,  
Jeju National University, Korea  
[chulin@jejunu.ac.kr](mailto:chulin@jejunu.ac.kr)



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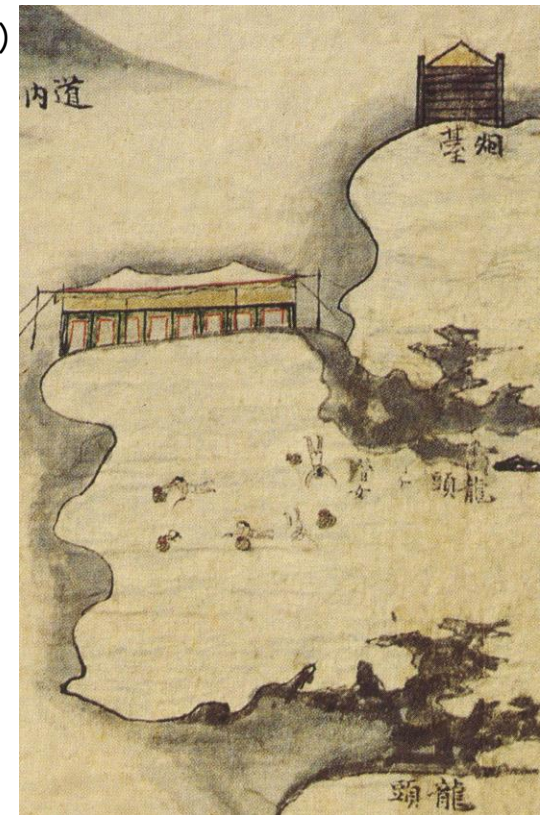


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1. Introduction
2. Stakeholders in Jeju Haenyeo Fisheries System
3. Conclusion

# 1. Introduction

- The word of haenyeo (海女)  
Sea women or women of the sea
- Women divers without any breathing apparatus
  - Hold one's breath for one minute
  - Dive ten meters deep underwater
  - Gather marine products, including top-shells, sea urchins, agar, sea cucumbers, abalone, etc.
  - Work for 4 to 6 hours a day; About 90 days a year
- History:  
Appeared in historical documents from the 17<sup>th</sup> century



## The Population of Jeju Haenyeo by Age

	Total	-29 (%)	30-49 (%)		50+ (%)			
1970	14,143	4,426 (31.3)	7,764 (54.9)		1,953 (13.8)			
1980	7,804	764 (9.8)	4,737 (60.7)		2,303 (29.5)			
1990	6,827	294 (4.3)	3,017 (44.2)		3,516 (51.5)			
2000	5,789	3 (0.1)	1,282 (22.1)		4,504 (77.8)			
2010	4,995		125 (2.5)		4,870 (97.5)			
			30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+
2016	4,005		12 (0.3)	46 (1.1)	403 (10.1)	1,246 (31.1)	1,734 (43.3)	564 (14.1)

## Population of fisher folks on Jeju Island

	haenyeo (A)	fisher folks (B)	A/B (%)
1970	14,143	23,985	59
1980	7,804	12,216	64
1990	6,827	10,837	63
2000	5,789	7,976	73
2010	4,995	6,379	78
2016	4,005	4,967	81

Source: 2017 Statistical Yearbook of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province

## 2. Stakeholders in Jeju Haenyeo Fisheries System

- Haenyeo
- Haenyeo associations
- Village fishery cooperatives
- Local and central governments
- Scholars



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## 2. Stakeholders in Jeju Haenyeo Fisheries System

### 1) Haenyeo

- Not born with special physical conditions fit for diving
- Learn the basics by watching more experienced divers and listening to their experiences, and then practice diving repeatedly over many years
- **Sustainability of diving work:**  
Human greed for a big catch is counterbalanced by an individual's capacity to remain underwater without the aid of breathing equipment



## 2. Stakeholders in Jeju Haenyeo Fisheries System

### 2) Village Fishery Coop

- Exclusive fishing rights over the sea near its village
- Autonomously manages the village sea
  - Controls diving and non-diving days
  - Regulates working hours a day
  - Prohibits the use of some technology
- Implements the measures to dive sustainably
  - Sows the seeds of top-shells and abalone in the village sea with the haenyeo association and local/central governments



## 2. Stakeholders in Jeju Haenyeo Fisheries System



The head of a village fishery cooperative waving a flag  
in order to stop the diving work

© Lee Sung-eun (2006)

## 2. Stakeholders in Jeju Haenyeo Fisheries System

### 3) Haenyeo association

- Voluntary village fishery coop-affiliated organization
- Implements the measures to dive sustainably
  - Decides whether the diving work is possible today by upper-skilled haenyeo (*sanggun* 上軍)
  - Buddy system
  - Cleans and weeds the seashore and the intertidal zone
  - Sows the seeds of top-shells and abalone in the village sea with the village fishery coop and local/central governments

## 2. Stakeholders in Jeju Haenyeo Fisheries System



Jeju *sanggun* [upper-skilled] haenyeo © Lee Sung-eun (2003)

## 2. Stakeholders in Jeju Haenyeo Fisheries System

바다 짝궁 지정 명단 (한수어촌계)

조 별	성 명
1조	장귀순, 박영옥, 김인자
2조	박산월, 신금자, 이영자
3조	양경생, 이경자, 양숙생
4조	윤군자, 이덕자, 이서자
5조	양연옥, 좌연심, 양희윤,
6조	장봉열, 홍경자, 홍성순
7조	임행자, 고미옥, 고영자

### 주의사항

1. 작업 할 때는 각조끼리 건강상태 확인
2. 작업 중일 때도 서로 서로 의견소통
3. 작업이 끝나서 들어 올 때도 같이 들어온다.

## Buddy system of Hansu-ri Fishery Cooperative

Each group: upper-skilled, middle-skilled, and lower-skilled haenyeo

### NB

1. Check each one's physical condition before diving work
2. Communication during diving work
3. Come together after work

Photographed at Hansu-ri Dressing Facility  
2017. 10. 1



## 2. Stakeholders in Jeju Haenyeo Fisheries System



Cleaning the underwater area and intertidal zone

Courtesy of the Haenyeo Museum

## 2. Stakeholders in Jeju Haenyeo Fisheries System

### 4) Local and central governments

- Conserve the haenyeo fisheries system
  - Regulate the minimum size of the catch
  - Monitor marine resources in the village sea
  - Sows the seeds of top-shells and abalone in the village sea with the village fishery coop and the haenyeo association
- Local government promotes the welfare of haenyeo.
  - A subsidy for the start-up fees to join the village fishery coop
  - Free medical care for haenyeo since 2002



Photographed at Hado-ri  
2017. 7. 2

## 2. Stakeholders in Jeju Haenyeo Fisheries System

### 4) Local and central governments

- Designate the haenyeo as heritage
  - Korea Important Fisheries Heritage Systems (2015. 12)
  - UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (2016. 11)
    - Raise haenyeo's self-esteem
  - National Intangible Cultural Property (2017. 5)



국가중요어업유산  
KOREA IMPORTANT FISHERIES  
HERITAGE SYSTEMS

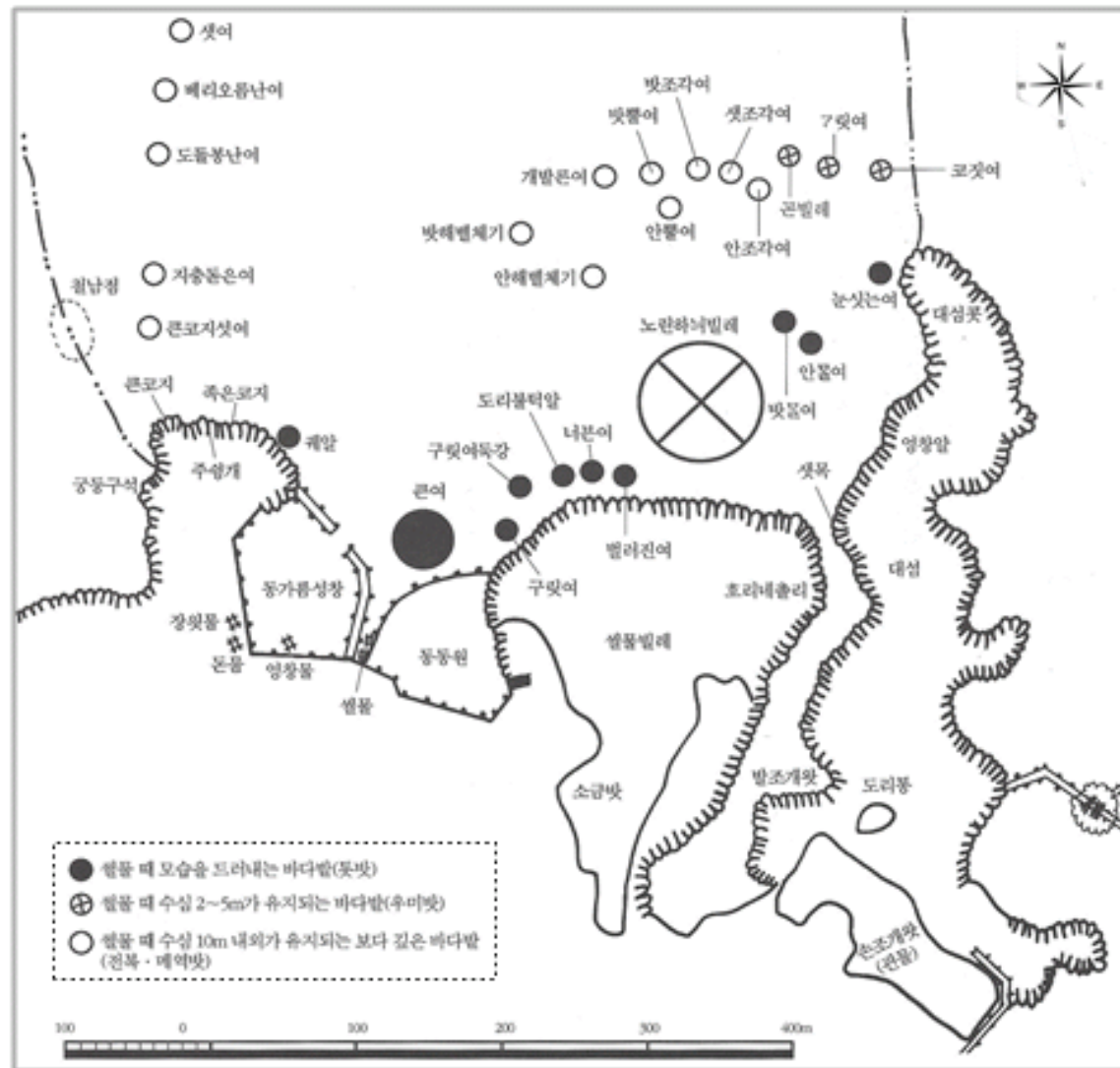
## 2. Stakeholders in Jeju Haenyeo Fisheries System

### 5) Scholars

- Document the knowledge and skills of haenyeo
  - Mental map of the sea (the reefs and the habitat)
  - Local knowledge of winds and tides
- Do research on marine products
- Develop the curriculum on haenyeo for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)



## 2. Stakeholders in Jeju Haenyeo Fisheries System



Map of village fishing grounds

### 3. Conclusion

- Who's on First?
  - Haenyeo themselves
- Sustainability of haenyeo fisheries
  - Haenyeo themselves
  - Village fishery cooperative/Haenyeo association
- Cooperation among stakeholders
  - Marine resources in the village fishing grounds
  - GIAHS

### 3. Conclusion

- Haenyeo, village fishery coop and haenyeo association
- Sustainability of haenyeo fisheries
  - Harvest only the marine products of the proper size
  - Designate alternating areas as off-limits for diving
  - Reduce working hours and the number of diving days
- Recruitment of haenyeo
  - Revise the qualifications for membership
- Revitalization of haenyeo culture
  - The cooperative nature of diving work
  - Care for the weak
  - Value of common needs



Courtesy of the Haenyeo Museum

Thank you for your attention!



A painting by Eva Armisen  
(source: Facebook)