

## Colonization and Industrial Restructuring: Japanese Immigrants and Government Fisheries in Eastern Taiwan under Japanese Colonial Rule

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### ABSTRACT

During the early stages of Japanese colonial rule the Taiwan government-general attempted to encourage the immigration of Japanese fishers and the promotion of government run fisheries in Taiwan without much success. Only in the mid 1920s to late 1930s did the colonial government focus its efforts on Suao, Hualien, and Hsin harbors.

The late development of eastern Taiwan's fishing industry was intimately related to the development of the east coast and the search for an outlet for Japan's surplus fishery population. Following the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese war in 1937, the drive for self-sufficiency allowed for an expansion of the scope of fishery immigration and recruitment. Basic improvements in infrastructure and assistance to immigrant fishers provided by the concerted actions of the government-general and local authorities made the development of the fishery industry a success.

This success demonstrates the colonial government's ability to use Japanese fishermen to transform eastern Taiwan's fishing industry. As a result, the structure of eastern Taiwan's fisheries was transformed from coastal to inshore and finally to pelagic fishing and the three main harbors of eastern Taiwan experienced unprecedented growth.

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