

Table S1 Interview summary

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<b>Before Coastal Exclusion Policy (CEP)</b>	<p><b>S1:</b> "At the age of six or seven, they began learning fishing, crab catching, and collecting seafood on the tidal flats."</p> <p><b>S2:</b> "Previously, they cultivated oysters, but the government no longer allows it. In our area, oyster farmers were dismantled by the government in 2006, and now that land is vacant. Fishing used to have few restrictions, as long as you didn't go to Kinmen. Now there are more regulations."</p> <p><b>S4:</b> "Tidal flats were previously used to cultivate clams and oysters."</p> <p><b>S7-C:</b> "In the past, the majority of residents in the Jimei Dashe made a living by fishing at sea or engaging in fisheries cultivation."</p> <p><b>S9:</b> "There used to be some smuggling; bringing in smuggled goods doubled the profits, providing an avenue for fishermen to make money at that time."</p> <p><b>S12-B:</b> "In the past, they used to organize sea expeditions, divided into three large teams, later restructured into companies."</p> <p><b>S15-B:</b> "Jimei used to catch oysters with stones and make a living from it. There were also people from Xiamen Island who would buy oysters. Grinding oyster shells into powder could be used for building houses."</p> <p><b>S18:</b> "Previously, the catch was sold fresh without any processing."</p> <p><b>S23:</b> "This place used to be a pier, responsible for transporting goods. Later, due to the development of aquaculture, it gradually lost its transportation function."</p>
<b>After Coastal Exclusion Policy (CEP)</b>	<p><b>S2:</b> "The variety of catches has decreased, and former aquaculturists or fishermen have transitioned into other occupations. Only a small number of individuals continue small-scale aquaculture."</p> <p><b>S3-A:</b> "Currently, most oysters in Jimei are self-harvested for personal consumption, unlike in the past when cultivation for sale was predominant."</p> <p><b>S5:</b> "Jimei used to have many fishermen, but now there are very few."</p> <p><b>S7-C:</b> "Now, in the vicinity of Jimei Dashe, only one or two households are still engaged in fishing. Others have gradually found alternative jobs, such as security, cleaning, or renting out their properties. From 2002 to 2006, Jimei officially withdrew from fishing, and since then, the occupational shift for Jimei fishermen has largely been towards security, cleaning, and some rental income to support their households."</p> <p><b>S11:</b> "Previously, most clams in Jimei were locally produced, but now they are mostly transported from Zhangzhou. Local oysters in Jimei are smaller but have a delicious taste. Those from Zhangzhou are semi-marine aquaculture, grow quickly, but are less tasty."</p> <p><b>S13:</b> "Wild fish nowadays are caught by fishing, as the government prohibits the use of nets."</p> <p><b>S14:</b> "Before the 1980s, Xiamen was known for shrimp farming, with half of the province's shrimp exports originating from here. Now, due to the prohibition of aquaculture, seafood products in Xiamen are transported from Zhangzhou and Quanzhou. Formerly, Xiamen had a wide variety of marine products exported to Beijing and Shanghai. For tourism development, the government began clearing the sea areas in Xiamen from the 1990s. The aquaculture nets and foam boxes in the sea area from Xinglin Bay to Cendong were all cleared."</p> <p><b>S1:</b> "After the fishing ban, a fishing license is required for sea fishing, and these licenses are scarce. The older generation, who used to fish continuously, is aging, and the younger generation is unfamiliar with maritime conditions."</p> <p><b>S16:</b> "Job opportunities in Jimei have decreased, and most locals are engaged in professions such as shucking oysters, sanitation work, and security."</p> <p><b>S17-A:</b> "With the current fishing ban, I have no way of making a living. The monthly retirement pension is only a few hundred yuan, so I started a stall."</p>
<b>Coastal Exclusion Policy (CEP)</b>	<p><b>S2:</b> "I feel that the blanket fishing ban policy is unreasonable. Previously, they claimed that fishermen obstructed navigational development by using fishing nets, but now, the Jimei Peninsula doesn't even have a pier. The government, without clearing the fishing nets, but points out that fishermen hinder navigation. This is not just a fishermen's problem; it is a government issue. In reality, these policies are more damaging to aquaculturists. After their aquaculture facilities are dismantled, they are leased to others, sometimes resulting in financial losses."</p> <p><b>S14:</b> "I think it's quite good. In the past, aquaculture made the seawater smelly and dirty. Now, the environment has improved, and the economy has developed."</p> <p><b>S1:</b> "After the fishing ban and due to policy reasons, I was assigned to a construction company."</p> <p><b>S15-B:</b> "The majority of people who come to Jimei are just tourists, and they haven't contributed much to Jimei's employment. Now, the resources we rely on for survival have been destructed, making it even more challenging to earn a living."</p>

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Reclamation policy	<p><b>S1:</b> "Around the early 2000s, aquaculture activities diminished. Nowadays, there's a decreasing trend in aquatic farming, with the older generation having passed away, and the younger generation transitioning to different occupations based on government policies. The tidal flats have become smaller, and in my memory, the seawater has always seemed murky. I used to live near the Jiageng Memorial Hall, where the surroundings used to be beaches and tidal flats. The Xunjiang Road area has been entirely reclaimed from the sea."</p> <p><b>S2:</b> "In my recollection, the Xiamen municipal government began reclamation of land from sea in June 2006 and has continued until now."</p> <p><b>S3-B:</b> "In the past, tidal flats were extensive, and we were very close to the beach."</p> <p><b>S6:</b> "The government initiated renovations around 2006 or 2007. If you look at Xinglin, there are many high-rise buildings that were created through reclamation of land from sea."</p> <p><b>S7-A, S7-C, S7-D, S7-E:</b> "Xunjiang Road used to be tidal flats, and in front of Wenque Building was also tidal flats. There was a big banyan tree, and next to it was an inlet. The beaches used to have fine sand, but now it's artificial sand. Our childhood beaches had sand as fine as the beaches in Malaysia. Nowadays, it's fake sand, and we don't know where it's brought from. Many seas have been reclaimed. There used to be a small pond near the School of Economics and Management that was the outlet to the sea. In the past, they would sail from the School of Economics and Management to Gulangyu and then take a boat to Singapore. There used to be a mountain here, called Indou Mountain. There was also a mountain in Guocuo, and the rest of the places were sea. When it rains, the School of Finance and Economics and Jimei Primary School will be flooded. Because they were formerly the sea, they are low-lying. In the 1920s or 1910s, we had to take a boat to Cengtou. At that time, Chen Jiageng hadn't built Jimei School, and a village only had a few hundred people."</p> <p><b>S9:</b> "Jimei used to be small, and now many places have been reclaimed. Aoyuan and the Jiageng Memorial Hall are all reclaimed areas."</p> <p><b>S10:</b> "I heard that Xunjiang Road, where the Jiageng Memorial Hall is now, is also a reclaimed area."</p> <p><b>S14:</b> "Jimei has developed step by step, with many areas being reclaimed—land reclamation and sea filling."</p>
Ecology	<p><b>S1:</b> "The aquaculture environment is deteriorating, requiring continuous sand filling for clam farming, leading to the reduction of tidal flats. Marine life has difficulty adapting to changes in the marine environment. Pollution in the sea, indiscriminate hunting and killing (such as killing larvae or spawning fish), has resulted in a decrease in the quantity and variety of fishery products. Nearshore fish populations have also decreased, and environmental pollution has caused the disappearance of extensive tidal flats and seafood like shrimp and sea snails. Fish species that used to be common are now rarely seen (dried sandworms now cost eight hundred yuan per kilogram). In the past, there were many sandy beaches at the entrance, with clear water containing various sandworms (large ones for human consumption and small ones for chickens and ducks). In the Dashe area, originally one-third of the fishermen,"</p> <p><b>S2:</b> "Nowadays, many fish have disappeared. They are caught as soon as they come in, so there are not many fish in the harbor now. The government has planned the sea, and even oyster cultivation is not allowed. The aquaculture facilities have been cleared, and crabs and shrimp have no place to hide. I believe that during the government's management efforts, the intention was to increase marine biodiversity. However, due to restrictions on aquaculture activities, marine life has no refuge. Although water quality has improved, the variety of marine life has not increased."</p> <p><b>S3-A:</b> "Some previously common fish now require venturing into distant sea areas to find."</p> <p><b>S4:</b> "I feel that the beaches are getting smaller."</p> <p><b>S5:</b> "Now the seawater is somewhat cleaner."</p> <p><b>S6:</b> "Xinglin Bay used to be an aquaculture area, quite dirty and chaotic. It was only in 1986 and 1987, during the establishment of that garden expo, that they managed aquaculture, and the water quality improved."</p> <p><b>S8:</b> "In my childhood, the beaches had many clams, and everyone would go digging. There were many stones by the seaside, and local small sea snails could be picked up, and even crabs could be caught."</p> <p><b>S9:</b> "Xiamen implemented a sea ban policy to restore the ecology. Compared to twenty years ago, there has certainly been significant progress, but it's incomparable to the 1980s. Industrial development is one reason, but I still believe it is caused by human activities. For example, large amounts of garbage and sewage are discharged into the sea. The population has increased several times compared to the 1980s."</p> <p><b>S16:</b> "Now the entire ecology has been disrupted. The current leaders are outsiders who do not understand the situation in Jimei. It's worse than before; there's no sea, no mountains, and people are unemployed, making it difficult to earn a living. The resources have been damaged, and now they are trying to restore them. Tidal flats are crucial; many organisms grow there, and there are many fish and shrimp. Small fish need the tidal flats, crabs eat oysters, and oysters feed on plankton. It's an ecological cycle."</p> <p><b>S14:</b> "Previously, fisheries and aquaculture polluted the marine environment. Now that the environment has improved, the economy has also developed."</p>

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Culture	<p><b>S2:</b> "Gathering Small Sea Products: In the past, we would use small shovels or buckets to dig up sea oysters, clams, and other seafood along the nearby coast. Traditional Fishing Techniques: During that time, children would join their elders to go to the sea, engaging in aquaculture, and subsequently, learning and working alongside them."</p> <p><b>S11:</b> "In Dashe, around the sixth or seventh month of the lunar calendar or during the Lantern Festival, there would be activities in various parts. Previously, during the Lantern Festival, people would go to Aoyuan (the original location of the Tianhou Temple) and the Longwang Temple in Cendong. Nowadays, only some women go to gather small sea products."</p> <p><b>S12-A:</b> "Because our fishing activities are in the inland sea and the risks are not very high, we rarely go out to sea to worship gods. Individuals may worship, but it's uncommon to organize everyone to worship together. Only some women go to gather small sea products because it's not very profitable."</p> <p><b>S1:</b> "The fishing boats were made by shipyards (wooden boats). For repairs, there used to be repair shops within Dashe. They no longer exist now. If other parts, like fishing nets, were damaged, we would repair them ourselves. When going out to sea, we follow the principles of the older generation. There are usually no elaborate ceremonies for going out to sea, except when it's a new boat, and then we seek blessings from the gods. On the sixteenth day and the second day of the lunar month, we pay respects to our lost brothers at sea."</p> <p><b>S15-B:</b> "Within the fishing cooperative, there were personnel specialized in repairing fishing boats and equipment. My mother would also mend fishing nets."</p> <p><b>S14:</b> "It seems that the younger generation nowadays no longer possesses the skill of fishing."</p>
Impact on ordinary people's lives	<p><b>S3-A:</b> "Previously, we used to frequently go to the beach, but now, due to the influx of tourists, we don't go there often."</p> <p><b>S4:</b> "In the past, we used to come out to dig for clams regularly. During the pandemic, due to control measures, we couldn't come out. Now that the pandemic has eased, we've resumed our activities."</p> <p><b>S5:</b> "After the completion of the Jimei Bridge, perhaps due to convenient transportation, more people come here with their children to play (near Beihai Bay)."</p> <p><b>S7-A, S7-C:</b> "In the past, going out to sea was quite unstable. My grandfather and his three brothers went out for fishing, but only two of them returned."</p> <p><b>S8:</b> "Ten years ago, the three major professions that fishermen transitioned to were security guards, taxi drivers, and sanitation workers. However, some still engage in 'Tao Xiaohai' (gathering small sea products)."</p> <p><b>S10:</b> "Transforming the Jimei Peninsula from a natural fishing peninsula into an area relying on tourism development completely ignores the opinions of Dashe residents, severely impacting their lives. Although it has brought about certain economic effects, not everyone benefits or relies on it for their livelihood."</p> <p><b>S13:</b> "Fishing is very exhausting, and I don't hope for them to inherit this trade. I hope the younger generation goes to school and pursues other professions."</p> <p><b>S1:</b> "Personally, I don't wish for the younger generation to be involved in fishing. Firstly, the fish yield is relatively low. Secondly, fishing is very hard. Thirdly, there is a lack of experience, and they are unfamiliar with the maritime geography, such as underwater reefs."</p>