

回到沿海

Back to the Coast

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今年春天將回到沿海，回到當年下海的漁船上執行計畫。

約20年前曾在這海域從事漁撈，記得這「三月三樣三」天候多變的春季，沿海海面，這裡一堆凸起、那裡一堆簞揚，都是苦蚵仔魚結群海面「拍花」，水面水滾了般，苦蚵仔魚群受齒鱗圍獵，慌張的聚成一塊，並爭先恐後不住地往水面竄躍。

沿海漁船也在這時節設置兩側如翼的長竿，下海拖釣俗稱「煙仔虎」的齒鱗。這場熱鬧起因可能是某種魚苗或浮游甲殼類大批來到，吸引苦蚵仔魚群集覓食，又吸引了齒鱗群前來掠食苦蚵仔魚……無比清楚的季節性沿海食物鏈……漁船也在這時介入，這場熱鬧牽扯的不僅是海洋生態，還包括了海島的黑潮大洋漁撈文化。

記得，傍晚時分拖釣漁船紛紛返港，每艘船平均1、200公斤漁獲，船隻排隊泊船、卸魚、磅魚，活鮮鮮的齒鱗幾乎擺滿整座漁市拍賣場，漁人、漁販場子裡穿梭，空氣裡蠅蠅嚷嚷擁擠著一團豐腴飽滿的喜悅。

20年後回來沿海，回來多變的春天。

卸魚碼頭沒半艘船泊靠，漁市裡幾條雜魚躺著，其他多是箱子魚（外來的養殖魚），零落沒幾個人，拍賣場顯得寂寥空曠。

漁巷仔邊遇見已經70好幾的老船長：「還討海嗎？」他回答：「只討些輕苦的。」

「真勇健喔。」

「自己很滿意了，去年冬天還站鏢頭鏢旗魚，啊，人生到此已經可以了。」

問起今年的煙仔虎漁況，老船長簡單說：「沒來。」

This spring I went back to a familiar fishing boat along the coast for a project.

I'd been fishing in the same area for over 20 years. I remember well the boiling splashes on the water surface during the capricious spring; those were actually clumps of frightened Japanese anchovies (*Engraulis japonica*), fleeing from the attack of striped tunas (*Sarda orientalis*).

Long wing-like poles would also be set up on boats during this season in order to troll for striped tunas. All the hustle and bustle was probably resulted from the arrival of a large number of some fish spawns or planktons that attracted Japanese anchovies, which then brought striped tunas. Involved herein was not only some maritime ecology, but the Kuroshio fishing culture of an island.

Then in the evening, trolling fishing boats returned with harvest to the harbor one after another and loaded the whole fish auction market with fresh striped tunas. Fishermen and fish vendors bustled around, and the air was infused with oozing joy.

Now I am back here 20 years later. Also in this capricious spring.

Not a single boat is seen at the loading dock; laid in the market are a few unattractive fish and many other imported farm-raised fish. Without people, the auction market appears lonesome.

I met there an old captain in his seventies. "Still fishing?" I asked. "Only for some easy ones. I'm gratified with such a career," he answered. When asked about the fishing condition of striped tunas this year, "haven't seen any," he sighed. "And I don't think they'll ever come again."

As for those old acquaintances fishing around the same area 20 years ago, some get old, some sick, and some have passed away.

「慢來，還是沒來？」

「唉，我看是不會再來了。」

談起20年前同個海域，同個漁港進出的某某某；老的老、病的病、走的走。

魚不來，船少了，人走了，20年前的榮景，對比如今的蕭條；無比感傷。其實這1、20年來，魚體變小，漁獲量急遽下滑，不用科學專業，每個漁人都清楚明白這樣的事實。更讓人傷心的是，除了順勢快速凋零，至今沒看到有效的人為努力來挽拉這場觸目驚心的頹勢。

我懷疑這場崩盤已經到谷底了嗎？

魚源枯竭，也許一般解讀為「魚產少了」、「魚價貴了」，其實，如同海島與海洋多元且密切的生態牽涉，海島子民損失的絕不只是海鮮層次問題而已。魚源枯竭 → 漁業沒落 → 漁業文化式微 → 海洋精神不彰 → 海洋文化萎靡 → 海洋環境敗壞……環境、生態、文化間的自然循環回饋機制，我們沿海現況已經走到惡性循環的地步，已經到了不能再放手不管的地步。

別說積極、進取等符合海洋精神的作為，我所觀察到目前相關的人為現況，大抵上仍然是態度退縮且安於現狀的居多。

上游跟下游兩個終端方向，這兩個重點不立刻著手進行，可能就太慢了：

一、廣設沿海資源保護區：不是劃在圖上而是真正落實管理的沿海資源保護區。

二、廣泛的搜集、記錄沿海漁業文化。

一是為了生養及奠基我們的海洋自然資產，二是為了搶救留下已經累積數十年且即將消失的海洋人文資產。

20年後終於回到沿海，但魚不來了，人們更是背海發展，多變的春天三月讓人心情沉重。🇺🇸

The fish is gone; the number of boats shrinks; the fishermen left. They don't have to be scientists to know that fish are getting smaller and catch has greatly plunged. Even worse, no effective measures are taken to reverse the shocking decline.

I wonder if this is it.

The problems following the exhaustion of fishery resources are far more complicated than the over-simplified words of “decrease of fishery production” and “soar of fish prices.” There are also the fall of local fishing industry, the decline of maritime culture, and the deterioration of the marine environment. The environment, ecology, and culture actually constitute a chain.

Now the coast condition in Taiwan has fallen into a vicious circle and certainly demands more proactive measures.

Actions should be taken right away to save our coastal fishing and culture:

1. To establish coastal reserves to effectively manage our resources.
2. To collect and record extensively local coastal fishing culture.

These are to nurture our maritime natural resources and to salvage our long-accumulated but rapidly fading maritime cultural assets.

I am back here 20 years later, but the fish have long gone, and the people have left. And the capricious spring has turned into a gloomy one. 🇺🇸

簡介 Profile

廖鴻基 Hung-gee Liao

1957年生，花蓮人。曾為討海人、從事鯨豚生態調查、規劃及推動賞鯨活動，為黑潮海洋基金會發起人；著有《討海人》、《漂島》、《後山鯨書》、《飛魚百合》等十數本海洋文學作品，其海洋文學作品充份表現人與海的深層生命牽繫，曾獲時報文學獎散文類評審獎、聯合報讀書人文學類最佳書獎、1996年吳濁流文學獎小說正獎、第一屆台北市文學獎文學年金及第十二屆賴和文學獎。

Liao was born in 1957 in Hualien. Once a fisherman, he used to conduct research on whales and dolphins, plan and promote the whale-seeing activities. He was also the founder of the Kuroshio Ocean Educational Foundation. He has written over a dozen works of ocean literature, including *The Fisherman*, *lonely Island*, *The Book of Whale and Dolphin*, *Flying Fish & Lilies*, etc. His works show the strong connection between humans and the ocean, have won many awards such as the Judge Prize of China Times Literature Awards, the Best Book Prize of United Daily News Literature Awards, etc.



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