

# Over Conflict between Agriculture and Fishery in Abashiri River Basin in Japan

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### Abstract

The Hokkaido Regional Development Bureau, MLIT, proposed the regional sustainable development plan called Salmon Action Plan (SAP) in Abashiri River basin in 2007.

The SAP aims at the rehabilitation of river salmon population, bringing the positive image of local agricultural products to consumers by using river salmon as a symbol of environmental friendly mark and attracting people's attention to river environment.

Some leaders of agriculture and fishery, who were interested in this proposal, have continued discussions on SAP voluntary, and realized joint activities by themselves such as planting trees at the riverside of Abashiri River and having study tours on their working sites mutually. As agriculture is usually regarded as one of the biggest emissions source to the water body such as soil sediments, fertilizers and pesticides, fishermen always blame for farmers. But they overcame this typical conflict by the process of collaboration activities. They have reached mutual understandings for the regional sustainable development.

Consequently the representatives of an agricultural cooperative and two fisheries cooperatives signed on the Joint Declaration for the sustainable development of agriculture and fishery in the Abashiri river basin on November 25 in 2010. It is the first positive case of Japan.

This paper explains the overview of the circumstances about the joint declaration and its future development.

**Keywords:** agriculture, fishery, joint declaration, salmon action plan, sustainable development