China-Pakistan Cooperation in Fishery Trade: Present Status and Future Possibilities

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Received 25 April 2017; revised 4 June 2018

China and Pakistan have the closest and the friendliest long-standing ties since 1951. These good relations certainly have obvious reasons among which economic concerns are at the top of the list. Trade liberalization policies of these two countries have resulted in increased commercial cohesion through fishery trade. Thus, the aim of this study is to further strengthen economic and friendly relation between China and Pakistan through in-depth analysis of the cooperation status and future possibilities in fishery trade between both the countries. To this end, we conducted a survey and collectively interviewed 37 adults who belonged to fishermen community, businessmen and government persons working in Pakistan. Obtained results indicate due to the awake of CPEC and trade liberalization, a new era of enhanced fishery trade between China and Pakistan is imminent. After EU ban, China is the largest emerging potential market for Pakistani fishery products. Fishery exports from Pakistan to China are gaining momentum. In 2015, Pakistan exported 142,848 t (metric ton) of fishery products to China and in future this figure expected to increase significantly. Although, fishery trade is getting pace, however, fishery production augmentation in Pakistan is direly needed to be coupled with revised policies related to technical barriers to fishery trade. Since, China and Pakistan share cordial relations, which are improving continuously, therefore, it is the need of the hour to formulate joint fisheries business policies and find fishery trade expansion possibilities.

[Keywords: Fishery; Trade; Status; Future Prospects; China; Pakistan]

Introduction

China and Pakistan have long-standing ties since 1951. Their bilateral relations are the closest and the friendliest. These relations rely on trust and cooperation, which exist between these two countries. Chinese and Pakistani societies have very warm and friendly attitude towards each other. Such an environment facilitates increased cooperation and further diversification of existing good relations. These relations certainly have obvious reasons among which economic concerns are at the top of the list. Pakistan gets substantial financial support from China to develop various sectors including agriculture. These two countries have started to boom their development through joint ventures, therefore, several agreements of cooperation have been signed between them. One of the most important agreements between these two countries is free trade agreement of 2007, which has entirely changed the pace of cooperation between them. As a result, trade volume reached up to 20 billion USD (United States Dollar) in 2015 between the two states. Mutual trade has continually grown, 18.8% y⁻¹ on average, from 2012 to 2017. Despite the prevalence of gravity model, trade liberalization has resulted in this enhanced trade.

In the past, trade was sluggish between the two countries. This retarded trade is usually considered because of non-tariff barriers and informal trade. But, now the scenario has changed due to trade liberalization policies between the two countries. In this increased commercial cohesion, mainly two factors have played central role i.e. China’s accession to World Trade Organization (WTO) and awake of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Both of these factors promise brighter economic connection between these two countries.

Complementary resources of China and Pakistan can play a vital role in further strengthening existing cooperation. The fisheries sector is an important agricultural sub-sector in both the countries which plays an important role in national economy. Fishery trade also takes place between China and Pakistan. Export of various fishery products to China brings a lot of revenue to Pakistan. The aim of this study is to further strengthen economic ties and
friendly relationship between China and Pakistan through in-depth analysis of cooperation status and future possibilities in fisheries sector between the two states. For this purpose, we conducted a survey and collectively interviewed 37 adults who belonged to fishermen community in Sindh, businessmen doing fisheries business, people working with Marine Fisheries Department of Pakistan and fishermen community residing around Gwadar. A majority of the interviewed people, 89%, agreed that China and Pakistan have a very good relationship. Most of them highlighted that both the countries can further boost their economies through cooperation in fisheries sector as each of them has economic potential.

**Fisheries Sector in China**

China is an East Asian coastal country. It is surrounded by four seas viz. the South China Sea, the East China Sea, the Yellow Sea and the Bohai Sea. Its coastline is 18,000 km long and stretches between Bohai and Tonkin Gulf on the North and South respectively. Shelf area of China spreads over an area of 1,013,154 km² whereas its EEZ is about 2,285,872 km². In order to manage all the coastal areas, three management zones comprising of seas viz. the Yellow Sea and the Bohai Sea, the East China Sea and the South China Sea, are formed in China. Diverse biota dwells marine waters of China. The reported number of Chinese marine species is over three thousand among which around one thousand aquatic species are targeted for capture. Major captured fishery resources belong to finfish, cephalopods, crustaceans, jellyfish and seaweed.

In China, fisheries play a much more significant role in the national economy than in Pakistan. Around 10%, 30.52 billion USD, of all the agricultural output comes from fishery products. In 2004, around thirteen million people were engaged with fisheries in China among which eight million people were full-time workers associated with the primary sector. Most of the primary sector workers, 4.5 million, are associated with aquaculture whereas their very less number, 1.8 million, is engaged with capture fisheries.

China’s contribution in the total global fisheries production is about 35%. In China, total fisheries production figures, 1997 – 2015, have grown so much. Apparently, this trend is an output of fisheries promoting policies of China. However, when we look at the contribution from different sub-sectors such as marine, inland and aquaculture, it is found that the fisheries production from the marine sector has not increased so much form 1997 (12,788,817 t = metric ton) to 2015 (15,314,001 t) (Fig. 1). It is necessary to mention that marine and inland production denotes capture fisheries production from these areas whereas aquaculture refers to fisheries production through aquaculture from all aquatic environments i.e. inland and marine. Despite the increase in fishing effort, fisheries capture production is not increasing which indicates that Chinese marine waters are overharvested. In fact, Chinese marine waters are harvested under open-access regime, which has resulted in increased cost and less revenue.

China is a world leader in aquaculture production. The pattern of aquaculture production can be seen in Fig. 1. It is reported that two third of the aquaculture production around the globe belongs to China. Diverse aquatic habitats are used for aquaculture production such as tanks, lakes, ponds and cages. In 2005, aquaculture production was 32.4 million t. The most common way of aquaculture in inland is the pond culture. Mostly, major carps, such as grass, black, bighead and silver carp, are used for aquaculture in China. Common carp is the most aqua-cultured fish in China. Its production quantity supersedes the total quantity of all the fish species such as salmon and trout produced by aquaculture all over the world. However, since 1980, other animal species viz. molluscs, seaweeds and crustaceans are also produced through aquaculture.

Fishery processing industry in China has emerged as a leading industry employing millions of people. It has been estimated that around 400,000 people work in this industry in Dalian, Fujian and Qingdao provinces. China fish processing industry is the largest in the world. It has established its fishery processing sector very rapidly. There were only 52 fish processing companies in 1979. Their number has increased enormously with the passage of time and

Fig. 1 — Sources of Fishery Products in China (1997-2015)
reached at 9,774 in 2013. Overall, these companies have a capacity to process 19 million t of fishery products annually. These products are of diverse nature and are for local consumption and export as well\textsuperscript{21}. It has been reported that in 2011 there were 718 approved freezer vessels, factory vessels and processing establishments for the export of fishery products to EU. Among approved processing establishments, 294 factories are authorized to process only capture fisheries. More than 90\% of these authorized factories are situated in the cities of Qingdao and Dalian\textsuperscript{13}. Statistics related to fishery product commodities production for export are given in Fig. 2.

FAO has classified fisheries commodities products into four groups viz. fish; crustaceans; molluscs, aquatic invertebrates; and fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates. The first three groups comprise edible products whereas the last category caters the inedible fishery products made up of corals, shells, fish soluble, silages, meals, oils, seaweeds, aquatic plants, sponges, wastes etc. Total fishery commodity production quantity has considerably increased in China from 1997 (4,287,139 t) to 2015 (16,700,075 t). Processed fish is the most produced fishery commodity for export in China. In 1997, fishery commodity production quantity of fish; crustaceans and molluscs, aquatic invertebrates was 3,549,476 t, 72,758 t and 122,727 t which has increased and reached up to 15,213,555 t, 354,450 t and 692,070 t in 2015 correspondingly (Fig. 2). However, the commodity production of fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates increased from 542,178 t (1997) to 440,000 t (2015).

**Export and Import of Fishery Products in China**

China is the top fishery products producer in the world\textsuperscript{21}. Since 1989, China is the top fishery products exporter with respect to volume whereas since 2002 it is the top fishery products exporter with respect to value. Fig. 3 illustrates aggregate exports and imports of fishery products in China from 1997 to 2015. It is vivid that exports and imports have considerably increased from 1997 to 2015. China exports preserved or canned fishery products to almost every country around the globe. Spain, Germany, UK and Netherland are the main fishery markets in EU for Chinese fishery products\textsuperscript{13}. Processed fish is the most exported commodity (Fig. 4) whereas crustaceans are the most imported fishery commodity (Fig. 5). Major fishery commodities exported from China include tilapia, calm, lobster, eel and yellow croakers\textsuperscript{22}. In 2007, these fishery products, 76\% of total exports, were exported to the USA, Japan and South Korea. Most of the fishery products exports were in the form of frozen fillets\textsuperscript{23}. Moreover, canned fishery products of salmon and tuna are also exported. Potential markets of canned fishery products are the USA, EU and Japan. The USA imports most of its canned tuna

![Fig. 2 — Fishery Commodity Production for Trade in China (1997-2015)\textsuperscript{15}](image)

![Fig. 3 — Aggregate Export and Import of Fishery Products in China (1997-2015)\textsuperscript{15}](image)

![Fig. 4 — Commodity-wise Export of Fishery Products in China (1997-2015)\textsuperscript{15}](image)
from China. The EU and Japan receive 10 – 45% and >5% of canned tuna from China respectively. In 2013, fishery trade brought a revenue of 11.6 billion USD to China. This year, fishery products trade comprised 15.6% of the total global trade.

Thus, this sector is playing a vital role in the economic development. In 2015, revenue generated through this industry climbed up to 58.3 billion USD as result of 8% per annum increase during the previous five years.

There is a growing concern about the competitiveness of China as a fishery products processing hub. The reasons for this distress are increasing labour and fish costs but stable prices of processed fishery products. According to CAPPMA (the China Aquatic Products Processing and Marketing Alliance), some smaller fishery products processing units have closed as a result of these factors. However, it is expected that fishery trade in China will further expand in coming years. China’s 2015 Agricultural Reports declare that in the next decade China will still remain the world’s top fishery products trader. In 2024, fishery export is expected to reach 5.4 million t as compared to 4.3 million t in 2015.

Fisheries Sector in Pakistan

Pakistan is a coastal country geographically located in South Asia. Its coastline is stretched between Iranian border on the West side and Indian border on the East side. Full length of Pakistan’s coastline is 1,120 km and runs through Sindh, 348 km long, and Baluchistan, 772 km long, provinces. Shelf area along the coastline of Sindh province extends between 40 – 120 km and is mostly smooth forming good trawling grounds. Indus river delta and creeks along the coastline of Sindh make it an ideal habitat for fin and shellfish resources. On the other hand, Baluchistan coastline is relatively narrow, 12 – 32 km, sheer and uneven. The total area of Pakistani marine waters, including exclusive economic zone, is 240,000 km² in which fishery resources are explored and exploited. Pakistani main fishery resources are comprised of 20 large, 15 medium sized pelagic and 250 demersal fish species.

In Pakistan, fisheries play a vital role in the economic uplift by employing thousands of people. The contribution of the fisheries sector in GDP (gross domestic product) is around 1% and 1% of labour force is associated with this sector. It is reported that 400,000 people are associated directly with fisheries sector in Pakistan, whereas, 600,000 people work with auxiliary industries. Fisheries sector supports around one million people along the entire coastline of Pakistan. Marine fisheries form the main fisheries sub-sector in Pakistan as about 70% of fisheries production belongs to it.

The total fisheries production in Pakistan, 1997 – 2015, has increased with the passage of time. However, the average growth rate, 1.58% y⁻¹, during the study period, remained very low. Several studies declare Pakistani marine waters under an open-access regime. The consequences of fisheries operating at open-access can be witnessed in subsequent decreased fisheries biomass production with the passage of time bringing more costs and less revenue to fishermen. Pakistani marine fisheries sector is a victim of this situation, which can be observed by analysing marine fisheries catch pattern in Pakistan. Despite the overall increase in total fisheries production in Pakistan, the contribution of the marine fisheries sector has decreased. In 1997 marine fisheries production was 422,329 t which has reduced to 359,653 t in 2015 (Fig. 6). Moreover, the marine fisheries production seems to remain almost stable after 2005, but due to...
CPUE (catch per unit effort) phenomena, marine fisheries production indicates and represents declining trend. This is possibly ongoing open-access regime in Pakistan.

Regarding our conducted survey, 92% of the interviewed people stated about the decreased marine fisheries biomass with the passage of time especially for fishes having high economic value. Most of them reported that in the past more than twenty fishes with high economic value were caught in large quantities from Pakistani marine waters but now their number and quantity has enormously decreased. On the other hand, inland capture production has increased considerably from 182,930 t (1997) to 283,511 t (2015). Aquaculture production has also boomed with the passage of time. The contribution of inland capture fisheries has increased with the passage of time. In 1997, fisheries capture production from inland was 1,982,930 t, which rose and reached at 283,511 t in 2015. Capture fisheries production has shown negative growth rate in several years, however, after 2006 the contribution from this sector is gradually increased with an average growth rate of 2.65% y\(^{-1}\) (Fig. 6).

In Pakistan, a plenty of aquatic resources, marine and inland, are present which can be used for aquaculture\(^3\). However, as compared to the potential of these resources for aquaculture the growth in aquaculture sector is very low. Despite having coastline, only inland aquaculture is practiced in Pakistan. Mostly, earthen pond system is preferred for the aquaculture of carp fish species\(^3\). Three carp fish species viz. Cirrihinus mrigala, Ctenopharyngodon idella and Hypophthalmichthys molitrix are usually aqua-cultured. All of these three carp fish species contribute almost equally, around 25,000 t y\(^{-1}\), in aquaculture production. Their production quantity has increased from 2003 to 2013. However, after 2006, their production has substantially increased. The most aqua-cultured fish species in Pakistan is Labeo rohita. During 2003 – 2013 period 36,208 t y\(^{-1}\) of this fish was produced through aquaculture\(^3\).

It is reported that with aquaculture about 50,000 people are involved. Total fish pond area used for aquaculture in Pakistan is 49,170 ha (hectare) with 5-10 ha of pond size on average\(^3\). Aquaculture production in Pakistan has considerably increased from 1997 (15,464 t) to 2015 (151,174 t). Only the year 2000 had shown a negative growth rate of -45.89 in this sector, otherwise, every following year showed positive growth rate (Fig. 6).

In Pakistan, several different kinds of fishery products are processed which include frozen, chilled, canned and cured products. Beside these fishery products, fishmeal is also produced. This fishmeal is formed by using by-catch, small pelagic fish and offal of other fisheries. It has been reported that there are twenty-seven fish processing plants which have the capacity of processing 273.25 t of fishery products daily. Out of these fish processing plants, one is involved with canning and eight are used for fish processing. However, most of these plants are not operational now\(^3\).

The fishery commodities production is categorized into four types viz. fish; crustaceans; molluscs, aquatic invertebrates and fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates by FAO. Among all of these fishery commodities, fish and crustaceans are the first and second fishery commodities produced for export. Although, the total fishery commodity production quantity has increased with the passage of time from 1997 (139,818 t) to 2015 (169,771 t), the growth, 21.42% y\(^{-1}\), is very low during this two decades period. In 1997, fisheries commodity production quantity of fish; crustaceans; fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates; and molluscs, aquatic invertebrates was 72,427 t, 20,862 t, 38,455 t, 8,074 t which has increased and reached up to 93,792 t, 16,769 t, 55,365 t, 3,845 t correspondingly (Fig. 7).

Export and Import of Fishery Products in Pakistan

Fish consumption in Pakistan is very low. Almost, all the processed fishery products are exported to various countries of the world\(^3\). It is estimated that the revenue generated through fishery product exports is increasing about 9% per annum\(^3\). The export

![Fig. 7 — Fishery Commodity Production for Trade in Pakistan (1997-2015)](image-url)
volume of fishery products has enormously increased from 83,166 t in 1997 to 142,848 t in 2015, however, this increase has followed ebb and flow. The average growth rate in the export volume remained 3.81% \(y^{-1}\) during the study period. The maximum export volume, 167,077 t, is observed in 2014. As compared to the export volume of fishery products, import volume is very low. However, the import volume has also shown rising trend with the passage of time. In 1997, the export volume was just 78 t which increased and reached up to 10,482 t in 2015 (Fig. 8).

During the period between 1999 – 2003, frozen fishery products were exported to forty-seven countries of the world. Major importing countries were USA, Belgium, Netherland, Japan and UK. However, in order to make poultry feed bulk of the processed fishmeal is used. In 2009, fishery products were exported to forty-six different countries of the world. The main importing countries in this year were USA, UAE, Sri Lanka, Japan and UK.

Commodity-wise export of fishery products from Pakistan is graphically represented in Fig. 9. According to FAO, the exported fishery commodities are placed in four groups viz. fish; crustaceans; molluscs, aquatic invertebrates and fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates. Fish is the most exported fishery commodity in Pakistan. In 1997, exported fish quantity was 52,837 t, which increased in the following years and reached at 114,365 t in 2015. It is worthwhile to note that, in 1997, the share of fish in total exports was 63%, which has considerably increased to 80% in 2015. All other fishery commodities have decreased in terms of quantity and their share in exports. This trade shift is a reflection of changing market composition, which can be related to the EU (European Union) ban on Pakistani fishery products. Pakistani exports markets diverted to other regions between 2003 and 2010 because of the ban on Pakistani seafood export to EU. The total share of Pakistani seafood export to Europe market was 31%, which after ban became zero. The share to Japan was also reduced from 7% in 2003 to 2% in 2010 due to less interest in Pakistani seafood after EU ban. The countries which benefited more from this ban were China, UAE, and new markets also include Vietnam, Thailand, and Indonesia.

However, China is the emerging biggest fishery market for Pakistan. In 2009, 1.694 t of fish meal valued at 0.201 million PKR (Pak Rupees) were mainly exported to China.

Fig. 10 shows details of commodity-wise import of fishery products in Pakistan. The pattern of fishery products import in Pakistan is not uniform. Moreover, the import quantity is very small. Fish is the most imported fishery commodity in Pakistan. According to our survey released, 84% of the respondents indicated that due to the change in the market composition the proportion of traded fishery products in trade is also changed. They also indicated that

![Fig. 8 — Aggregate Export and Import of Fishery Products in Pakistan (1997-2015)](image8)
![Fig. 9 — Commodity-wise Export of Fishery Products in Pakistan (1997-2015)](image9)
![Fig. 10 — Commodity-wise Import of Fishery Products in Pakistan (1997-2015)](image10)
meager import of fishery products in Pakistan sometimes used to satisfy local market needs and sometimes for re-export.

**China and Pakistan Fishery Industry and Discussion**

The Chinese economy has shown incredible steady growth during the past two decades. This increase is witnessed by GDP per capita which has enormously risen from 609.7 USD in 1995 to 8123 USD in 2016\(^6\). China is continuously striving to improve fisheries sector by making various legislations. In contrast to China, in Pakistan performance of GDP shows more flattering trend\(^{40}\). Moreover, fisheries sector is still in infancy. It has been found that China’s GDP and Pakistan’s exports are positively correlated with each other. An increase of 1% in China’s GDP results in the 1.88% rise in exports from Pakistan. On the other hand, Pakistan’s GDP has opposite effect on the exports. The decrease of 0.69% in the exports from Pakistan is observed against 1% increase in Pakistan’s GDP\(^{41}\). Pakistan’s economy has tremendous potential to increase exports to China. Thus, growing GDP of China offers an excellent opportunity to enhance mutual trade if trade promoting measures are taken on both sides\(^6\).

In 2003, Pakistan exported 23,158 t (20,121,000 USD) of various fishery products to China. According to the reported data, instead of an increase in fishery exports with the passage of time they have decreased by 11% from 2003 to 2016. In 2016, only 20,571 t (47,995,000 USD) of fishery products were exported to China. These fishery products are categorized into eight HS groups (4 level) and are graphically represented, by their specific numbers, in Fig. 11 and Fig. 12\(^{42}\). Frozen fish (HS0303) is the most exported fishery commodity. Its average export quantity during the period from 2003 to 2016 was computed as 15,614 t y\(^{-1}\) (21,700,000 USD y\(^{-1}\)). The second most exported fishery commodity is fish dried, salted or smoked (HS0305). Aquatic invertebrates live, fresh, chilled or dried (HS0308) is the least exported fishery commodity group. On the other hand, import of fishery products, 2003-2016, from China to Pakistan showed a flattering and stumpy pattern (Fig. 13 and Fig. 14). In 2003, Pakistan just imported 1 t (3 thousand USD) of fishery products. In the following two years, there is no reported import of fishery products. However, Pakistan is continuously importing fishery products from China since 2006. Overall, the import quantity has significantly increased from 2006 (1 t; 1,000 USD) to 2016 (11 t; 17,000 USD) (See Fig. 10).

Although, China and Pakistan have very good mutual relationships, however, our conducted survey revealed interesting results. According to our conducted survey, 82% of the surveyed people stated that these relationships are very positive; 13% declared these ties positive, whereas, 5% were with
the opinion of not positive. The comment “not positive” given by a very small surveyed group of people is probably a reflection of their scanty knowledge about the fishing industry. Another factor for this that the Chinese companies have concerns about their food transportation and food security. Further, the survey participants (95%) also suggested to minimize the communication gap between the two nations and recommended governments to play their vital role in lessening this gap. In this regard, several projects are already on the way through CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor), a derivative of the “Belt and Road Initiative”. Such as under the auspicious of transfer of knowledge, cooperation is planned between China and Pakistan. Joint efforts related to marine resources through research institutions are also planned. Moreover, cooperation is also planned related to the development of fisheries sector along the CPEC in the areas of increased production, handling, processing, storage, transportation, post-harvest losses, trade models etc.

After the EU ban in 2007 on Pakistani fishery products, the export market diverted to China, South Korea, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Japan, Malaysia and some West African countries. Even after the removal of this ban in 2013 these markets are still efficiently continued to cater. Now, China is the biggest importer of Pakistani oyster, crab, shrimp and lobster and for fish, it is the second largest market.

There is a growing trend of mutual fishery trade between China and Pakistan. Fishery products of 16 different types and weighing 2 t and originating from the Indian Sea, Pakistan reached Xinjiang Uyghur, China through the “Belt and Road Initiative” roads. The fishery products were packed and transported by the first Chinese company “Yufei International Fishing Co” having a business license in Pakistan. The company aims to sell fishery products in China and in future Dubai and Iran as well. Survey participants (95%) indicated that more Chinese fishery products trade companies are expected to operate in Pakistan in near future. In order to promote mutual trade, trade liberalization is in the spotlight. Development of free trade zones in both the countries is planned which promises brighter mutual trade future. Export of fishery products can be boosted to 1 billion USD in coming few years if there is a persistent increase in fisheries production. The production can be amplified by putting a ban on the catch of juvenile fish from breeding places, the introduction of modern methods of fish caught in inland areas and promoting intensive fish culture all around the country.

Although, the fishery trade is gaining momentum between China and Pakistan. However, there are several factors from both sides which affect this sector’s performance. Such as, in Pakistan the technical barriers to trade (TBT), concentrate on agricultural products. Standardization bodies viz. Pakistan National Accreditation Council and Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) are collaborated with the Ministry of Commerce. These organizations are responsible to access TBT standards implementation by importers and exporters. Moreover, in order to enhance trade, these bodies also advise on standardization policies. Pakistan has signed TBT agreement with WTO. According to the article 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3 of this agreement, PSQCA is the national inquiry point regarding TBT. Every importer or exporter needs to register with PSQCA and ensure to follow TBT regulations. In order to standardize exports (2002 – 2015), 89 TBT notifications have been imposed by China until now in Pakistan. China has implemented a number of TBT since 2002. In China, TBT standardization is monitored by The Standardization Administration of China (SAC). This organization works under The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of China (AQSIQ) which is national inquiry point for TBT in China. In China, AQSIQ plays the same role as PSQCA in Pakistan. Pakistan and China joined WTO in 1995 and 2002 respectively. According to article XXIV of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade of WTO, these states can engage with regional as well as bilateral agreements. As compared to Pakistan, China is submitting more and more TBT with the passage of time. Pakistan exports are smaller in volume and less diversified as compared to China.
Fisheries products exported from Pakistan are confronted by TBT imposed by China. The effect of TBT on exports from Pakistan is difficult to quantify due to various incomputable factors such as distribution restrictions, extra licensing requirements, etc. Tariff reduction can help a little to manage TBT but controlling TBT as a whole is hard because it involves various constituencies and ministries. During the period from 2005 to 2015, one TBT is enforced by China on fisheries products, HS code 103 which includes products of fish, crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, exported by Pakistan. In Pakistan, fisheries products are among the major commodities exported to China. Export earnings from these products have increased from 20,121,963 USD (2003) to 46,167,960 USD (2015) i.e. 56% increase. Pakistan and China have signed free trade agreement (FTA) in 2006. According to this agreement both the states planned to either reduce or eradicate tariff on more than 90% of traded products. Currently, the fisheries sector is not a priority sector in Pakistan. However, seafood export exhibits a rising trend during the last two decades. Since the EU ban on the export of fishery products in Pakistan, there is a growing trend of adaptation of international standards in handling, processing and transportation of seafood. Consequently, the export of seafood is increasing as witnessed in this study. Moreover, Pakistan is also committed on removing the tariff on fishery products exported to China in future. In addition, Pakistani fishery products are gaining popularity in China. All of these circumstances make the environment very conducive to further boost fishery trade in future. Likewise, a majority of the surveyed people (95%; yes, 5%; may be) agreed that fishery trade is expected to increase between China and Pakistan in imminent. Furthermore, export of fishery products can also be enhanced by increased cooperation through high commissions and embassies in export meetings, by promoting fishery products exhibitions and stimulating public and private sector partnerships. In a nutshell, we can say that future of fishery trade between China and Pakistan is bright. Thus, in order to get maximum benefit from this prevailing situation, there is a dire need to augment fisheries production and resolve fisheries trade-related issues so the China-Pakistan cooperation can be further enhanced in this sector. Thus, further more in-depth studies are recommended in this regard.

**Conclusion**

Due to the awake of CPEC and trade liberalization, a new era of enhanced fishery trade between China and Pakistan is imminent. After EU ban, China is the largest emerging potential market for Pakistani fishery products. Fishery exports from Pakistan to China are gaining momentum. In 2015, Pakistan exported 142,848 t of fishery products to China and in future this figure expected to increase significantly. Although, fishery trade is getting pace, however, fishery production augmentation in Pakistan is direly needed to be coupled with revised policies related to technical barriers to fishery trade. Since, China and Pakistan share cordial relations, which are improving continuously, therefore, it is the need of the hour to formulate joint fisheries business policies and find fishery trade expansion possibilities.

**Acknowledgement**

First author is thankful to College of Economics, Ocean University of China and Qingdao Government for funding this study. This study is funded through post-doc project.

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