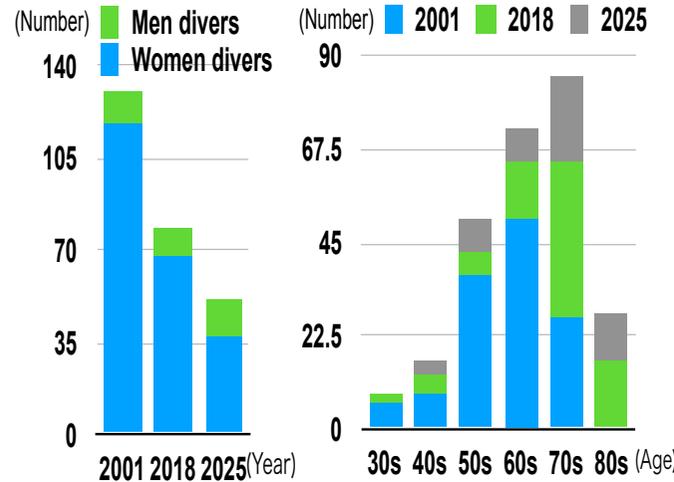


# Historical Background



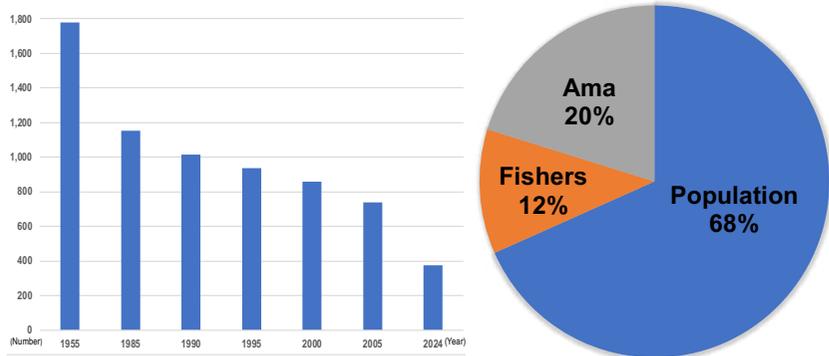
**Fig.1 Geographical location and fishing grounds of the Ōura, Yamaguchi, Japan**



**Fig.2 Age and gender distribution of Ama over time**



**Fig.3 Graves of Ama from Kanesaki Fukuoka, who migrated to Ōura between 1428 and 1888**



**Fig.4 Population Trends in Ōura and the Proportion of Ama**

**Ōura Ama fishing, begun in the early 15th century by Kanesaki Ama, is a small-scale, family-based, women-centered traditional diving fishery.**

**The Ama population has declined by half over the past 50 years.**

**Ama are aging: The average age of Ama is in their 70s. But men divers, maintaining a number above ten.**

# Factors Influencing Changes in Gender Roles



Fig.5 Fundō Ama (weighted diver) with mother operating the boat



Fig.6 Oke-uke Ama heading out to sea for diving



Fig.7 Elderly Kachi Ama after the sea urchin harvest

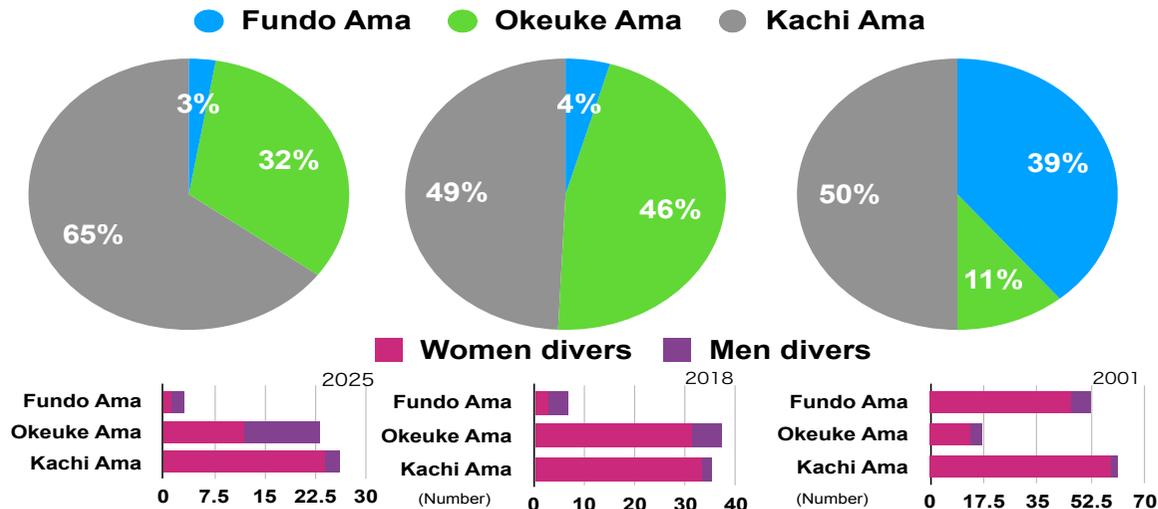


Fig.8 Gender Ratios by Fishing Method and Their Changes

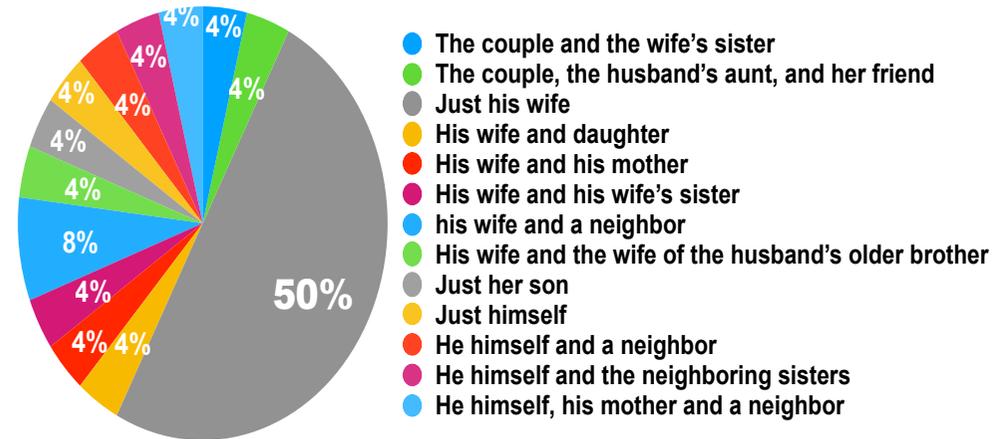


Fig.9 Over 90% of Ama work in family-based fisheries where the husband is the boatman and the wife dives

# Key Features & Implications

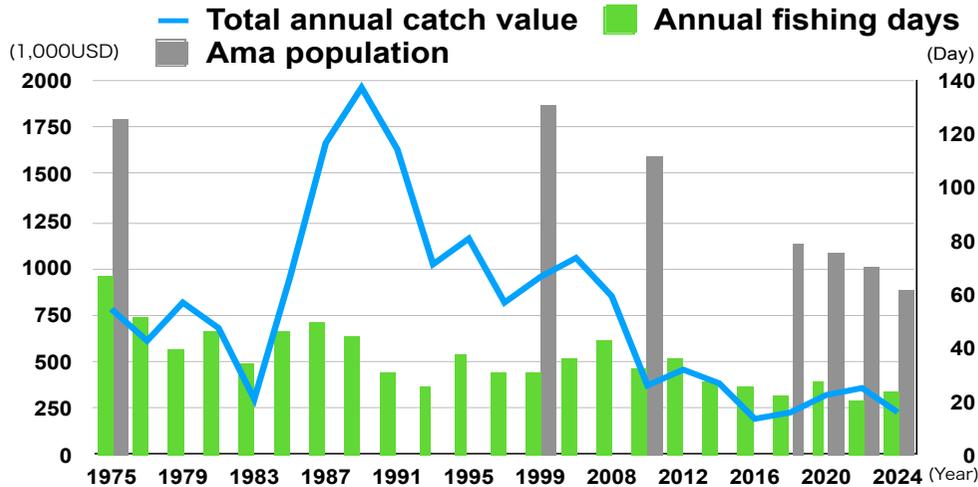


Fig.10 Annual Trends in Total Catch Value, Fishing Days, and Ama Population

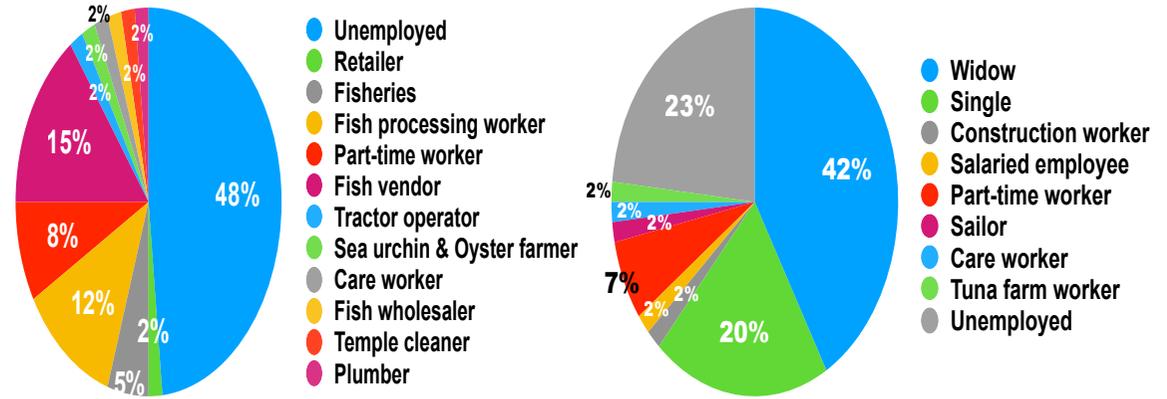


Fig.11 Fishing Strategies in Response to Aging Ama and Resource Decline: Shift from Abalone to Sea Urchin

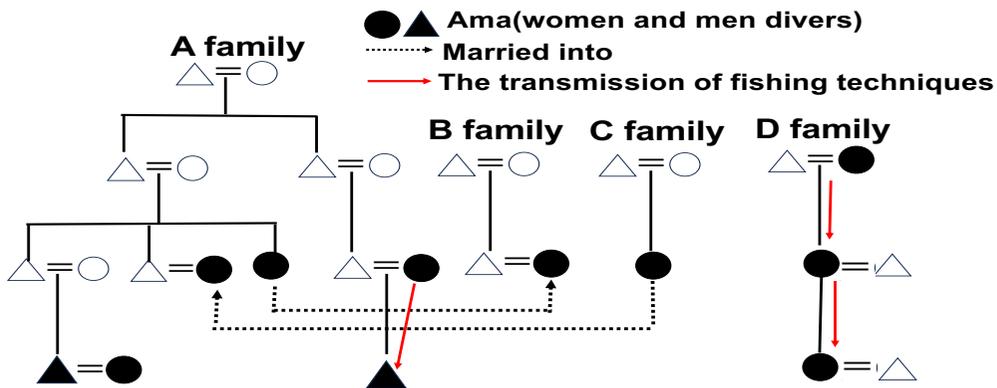


Fig.12 Kinship and the Transmission of Fishing Techniques among Ama Divers

## Social Factors and Implications of Men's Entry into Japan's Traditional Diving Fishery:

1. Wetsuits (since 1988) enabled men to dive.
2. Family-based fisheries required mutual support.
3. Skill-based methods: beginners in shallow waters (Kachi-ama), group boat-diving (Oke-uke ama), and deep-weight diving (Fundō ama).
4. Seasonal restrictions allowed off-season side jobs.
5. Sea urchins preferred over abalone in festive food culture.