

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Study on Introducing Marine Living Zones for Integrated Development of Fishing Communities and Coastal Areas

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1. Overview

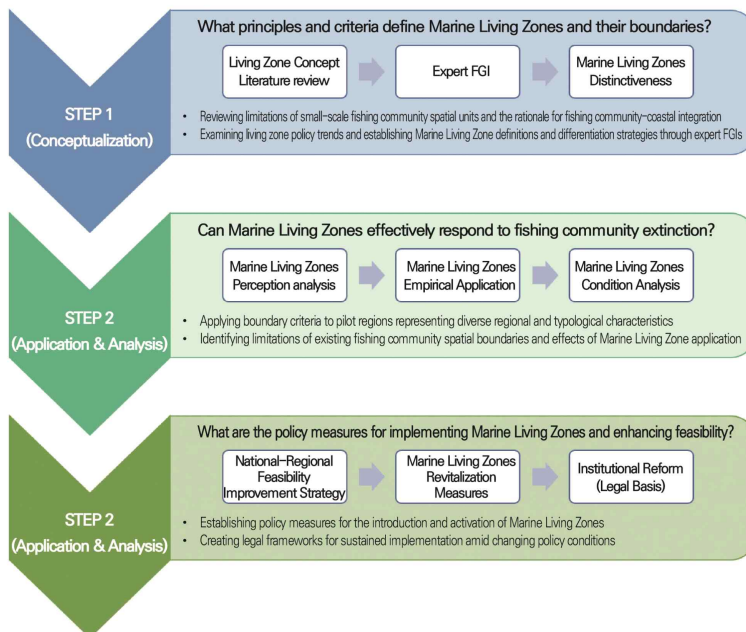
- The government and local authorities have implemented various policies aimed at balanced national development to enhance the quality of life in fishing communities, including revitalizing the local economy and improving settlement conditions.
- Under national agenda item #71, the new government has created effective frameworks to promote fishing community and coastal economies through initiatives such as hub fishing ports, fishing community special development zones, and the Fishing Community New Deal 3.0 program.
- Given the strengthening of local autonomy and increased municipal discretion over the Special Account for Balanced Regional Development, there is an increasing need to reinforce

local government-led planning and implementation systems.

- Unlike fishing communities facing the crisis of extinction, coastal areas attract high public interest in marine and leisure tourism, necessitating a new approach different from conventional methods.
- This study aims to establish the concept of 'Marine Living Zones' to overcome spatial limitations of small-scale fishing communities and fishing ports while achieving balanced growth, and develops integrated revitalization measures for fishing communities and coastal areas.
- Create legal and institutional foundations for local government-led Marine Living Zone revitalization.
- Present directions for optimized spatial boundaries of Marine Living Zones and regionally-specialized commercialization models.
- Propose a governance framework and roadmap outlining strategic tasks for implementing Marine Living Zones.
- This research covers designated marine and terrestrial zones including islands, coastal areas, and fishing communities within specific spatial boundaries. However, inland waters are excluded from this study due to limited availability of statistical information.
- Marine zones (coastline and sea) and terrestrial zones (within 500-1,000m of the land boundary) in accordance with the Coastal Management Act

- Areas surrounded by sea at high tide, as stipulated in the Island Development Promotion Act
- Entire Eup and Myeon areas (towns and rural districts) primarily dependent on fisheries, and Dong areas (neighborhoods, excluding commercial and industrial areas) as defined by Act on the Development of Fishing Communities and Harbors
- This study is conducted in three stages: STEP 1 (conceptualizing Marine Living Zones), STEP 2 (application and analysis of Marine Living Zones), and STEP 3 (implementation measures for Marine Living Zones).

〈Summary Figure 1〉 Research Process Flowchart



Source: Prepared by authors

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- This study distinguishes itself through the establishment of living zones that consider both marine and land areas, empirical application of Marine Living Zones based on criteria and principles, and development of concrete policy measures including legal foundations and governance structures.

2. Establishing the Concept of Marine Living Zones and Analyzing Current Status

1) Theoretical Review

- The concept of living zones in spatial structure originated from the perspective of functional linkages and self-sufficiency. Subsequently, it evolved into small-scale and super-regional living zones with advances in transportation and communication.
- Early studies of regional systems and spatial structures laid the conceptual groundwork for living zones, introducing key concepts such as threshold population, effective demand, self-sufficiency, and neighborhood.
- The development of regional transportation networks and communication technology later extended the living zone concept beyond urban administrative boundaries to "daily living zones" encompassing routine commuting and school travel.
- Recently, discussions have evolved to embrace flexible space

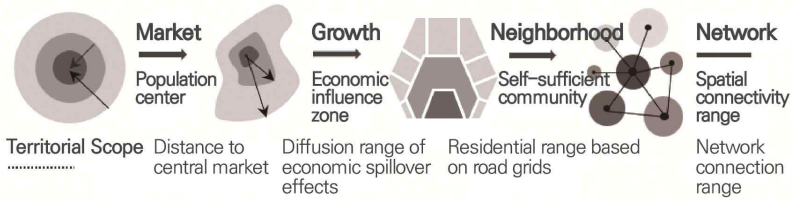
concepts ranging from small living zones focused on daily convenience, such as "n-minute cities," to super-regional living zones extending beyond metropolitan areas.

- As planning units, living zones function as both statutory planning (administrative) frameworks and function-oriented practical units.
- Countries such as Korea and Japan incorporate living zones into spatial planning as the fundamental framework for national and regional planning, aiming to establish zones and collaborative governance structures that transcend administrative boundaries.
- The EU and others utilize living zones as practical units in regional planning, expanding their application into living zone strategies that encompass functional urban areas along with rural areas and small cities.
- Discussions on restructuring living zones from critical perspectives on spatial structure emphasize regional values, functions, and spatial utilization, which require consideration for Marine Living Zones.
- First, establishing regional values requires prioritizing local identity and community self-reliance.
- Second, from a functional perspective, smart shrinkage and integrated spatial management are applied to activate socioeconomic activities in Marine Living Zones.
- Third, spatial utilization should adopt compact-network models grounded in shrinking city strategies with user-focused design.

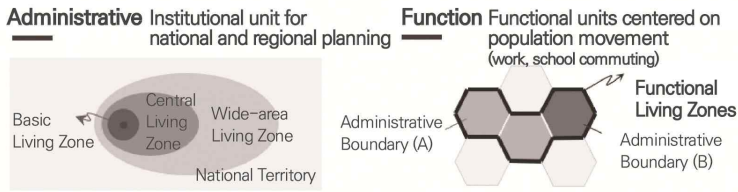
〈Summary Figure 2〉 Theoretical Background
for Conceptualizing Marine Living Zones

Living Zone Theory

Spatial Structure Shift from hierarchical to network structures



Planning Units Coexistence of statutory and practical planning units



Changes and Implications

Marine Living Zones Reflecting value-function-space elements in restructuring fishing community-coastal zones



Source: Prepared by authors

2) Establishing the Marine Living Zone Concept

- Marine Living Zones need spatial flexibility and scalability to resolve long-accumulated structural problems across fishing grounds, ports, and communities and address related socioeconomic challenges.
- Fishing communities face extinction crises from population decline and aging, yet living populations are increasing. Coastal areas require institutional foundations for economic revitalization through marine leisure activities.
- Fishing communities and coastal areas have diverse resources and infrastructure, but integrated platform-based approaches are needed to improve fragmented development.
- Despite annual fiscal investments to respond to extinction crises in fishing communities and fishing ports, results have been limited. Hub-and-spoke strategies and linkages with hinterland spaces are required to create scalability and synergy.
- Fishing grounds, fishing ports, fishing communities, and coastal areas are pursued independently with insufficient interconnection. Comprehensive and systematic integration through Marine Living Zones is necessary to advance this transformation.
- The central government should establish policy directions, while local governments build implementation systems tailored to regional conditions.

〈Summary Table 1〉 Necessity for Introducing Marine Living Zones

Category	Key Content
Responding to fishing community extinction and expanding living population	Institutional foundations to respond to socioeconomic crisis in fishing communities and coastal areas required
Improving fragmented and independent financial support	Integrated platform approach in fishing communities and coastal areas needed
Overcoming small-scale spatial hierarchy	Fishing community development and spatial scalability needed
Establishing integrated spatial planning foundation	Integrated approach from fishing grounds to coastal areas required
Building spatial planning implementation system	Local government-led spatial strategy and execution needed

Source: Prepared by authors

- Considering the "Plan for Revitalizing Fishing Communities and Coastal Areas" and the necessity of introducing 'Marine Living Zones,' this study establishes a more explicit and purpose-driven operational definition.

〈Summary Table 2〉 Definition of 'Marine Living Zones'

Category	Definition
Plan for Revitalizing Fishing Communities and Coastal Areas (May 2024, Joint announcement by relevant ministries)	• Living zones for citizens who earn livelihoods through ocean-based jobs and income sources in 'fishing communities' and 'coastal areas,' or who enjoy the ocean in their daily lives
This Study Operational Definition	• A spatial scope based on homogeneous tangible and intangible resources from fishing grounds to coastal areas. This scope achieves ocean identity and self-sufficiency through integrated functions including daily life, fisheries, fishing community industries, and leisure.

Source: Joint announcement by relevant ministries (*Policy Briefing*, May 14, 2024, p. 4);
Prepared by authors

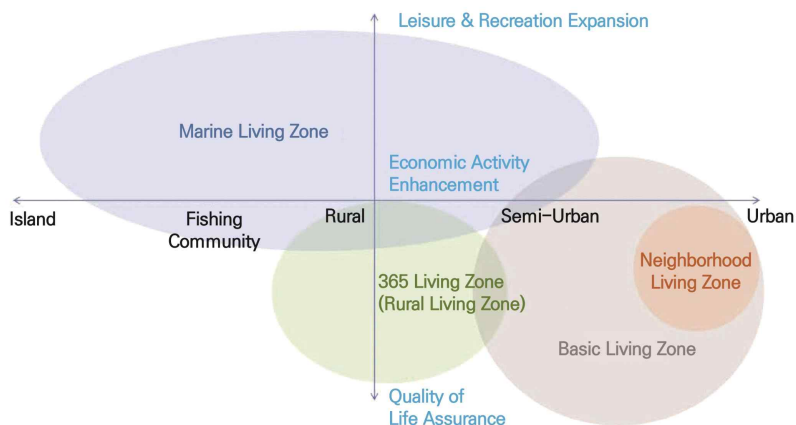
- Marine Living Zones distinguish themselves by encompassing both maritime and terrestrial areas as spatial domains, aiming to achieve integrated fishing community-coastal development, economic revitalization, and improved quality of life.
- While living zone policies focused on improving service delivery for resident populations, Marine Living Zones aim to improve economic revitalization and quality of life.
- Marine Living Zones designate all citizens (including residential population, temporary residents, and economically active population) as new policy targets within spaces encompassing both maritime and terrestrial areas.

〈Summary Table 3〉 Distinctive Elements of Marine Living Zones

Category	Neighborhood Living Zone	365 Living Zone	Basic Living Zone	Marine Living Zone
Purpose	Improving residents' quality of life	Ensuring quality of life	Ensuring quality of life	Enhancing economic vitality Expanding detailed living welfare
Spatial Domain	Territorial area	Territorial area	Territorial area	Maritime + Terrestrial areas
Region	Urban	Rural	City, County	Urban-Fishing community-Island
Spatial Hierarchy	Dong district	Eup, Myeon district	City, County	Fishing ground-Port-Community (Distinct delineation)
Key Functions	Life services (15 min)	30 min (health/childcare) 60 min (culture/leisure) 5 min (emergency services)	Expanding living infrastructure Regional development	Enhancing economic activity Expanding leisure activities Daily life

Source: Prepared by authors

〈Summary Figure 3〉 Distinctive Positioning of Marine Living Zones



Source: Prepared by authors

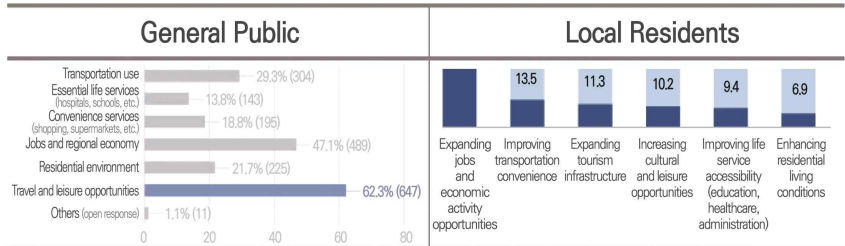
3) Survey on Marine Living Zone Perceptions: General Public and Local Residents

- Both conceptual understanding and policy necessity for Marine Living Zones scored high. Regarding spatial scope, 'coast + inland within 15 minutes' received the highest response.
- Understanding of the Marine Living Zone concept stood at 83.0% for both the general public and local residents. Based on satisfaction scores, local residents have a relatively high level of understanding.
- Regarding policy necessity for Marine Living Zones, 82.9% of local residents and 74.7% of the general public viewed it positively, with local residents showing particularly strong

support in the 'very necessary' category.

- Both the general public and local residents identified 'coasts + adjacent inland within 15 minutes' as the most appropriate spatial boundary for Marine Living Zones.
- For priority Marine Living Zone policies, the general public emphasized 'leisure opportunity creation,' while local residents prioritized 'jobs and economic activity,' showing different perceptions.
- The general public perceived 'expanded travel and leisure opportunities' as the top policy effect at 62.3%, followed by 'job creation and regional economic revitalization' (47.1%), 'improved transportation convenience' (29.3%), and 'improved residential environment' (21.7%).
- In contrast, local residents ranked 'job creation and regional economic revitalization' highest at 67.0%, followed by 'tourism infrastructure expansion' (49.7%), 'improved transportation convenience' (42.7%), 'expanded cultural and leisure activity opportunities' (38.0%), and 'improved life service accessibility' (34.5%).

<Summary Figure 4> Marine Living Zone Policy Implementation Measures
 (General Public vs. Local Residents)



Source: Prepared by authors

- If Marine Living Zone policies were implemented, respondents perceived 'residents of coastal areas and islands' as the primary beneficiaries, with this view held by 66.4% of the general public and 51.3% of local residents.

3. Domestic and International Policy Trends and Cases

1) Review of Domestic and International Cases

- International living zone cases examined include the UK's Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) for spatial unit restructuring and multifunctional complex spaces, the US's Complete Neighborhoods, and Japan's Settlement Self-Reliance Spheres.
- Domestic living zones examined include Neighborhood Living Zones, Rural 365 Living Zones, and Basic Living Zones, which are structured according to individual ministry policy objectives and emphasize public service delivery systems and region-specific strategies.

〈Summary Table 4〉 Domestic and International Policy Trends and Cases

Category		Key Review Content
International Cases	Local Enterprise Partnership (UK)	- Following the dissolution of Regional Development Agencies, wide-area functional living zones were introduced (cooperation structures transcending administrative boundaries) - These zones feature inter-regional functional linkages and private sector-led strategic planning (38 LEP zones established).
	Complete Neighborhoods (US)	- Neighborhood revitalization targeting housing inequality and regional gaps through integrated housing-industrial-public service planning. - Features neighborhood-centered walkable living zones (15-minute public transit + 5-10 minute walking distance) with incentive systems introduced.
	Settlement Self-Reliance Spheres (Japan)	- Responds to regional decline crisis by linking living zones between central cities and municipalities to restore self-sufficient living areas. - Operates through a combined system of complex hub living zones and small living zones, with 130 Settlement Self-Reliance Spheres designated.
	〈Issues and Limitations〉	(Evaluation System) Limited to qualitative assessment, lacking long-term effects and quantitative performance outcomes (Sustainability) Agreement-based (guideline) operations expose vulnerability to policy changes (Effectiveness) Regional capacity gaps and insufficient implementation mechanisms including incentives
Domestic Cases	15-Minute Living Zone City (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport)	- Within 1 km radius, 15-minute walking distance range (neighborhood-centered walkable living zone) - Introduces living zone planning that incorporates neighborhood hubs.
	Rural 365 Living Zone Rural Spatial Planning (Ministry of	- Addresses deteriorating rural living conditions (Act on Rural Spatial Restructuring and Revitalization Support) - Entire city, county administrative areas (5-30-60 minute driving range), centered on eup, myeon

Category	Key Review Content
Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs)	towns + surrounding communities • 75 city, county, district agreements (from 2021), 554.9 billion won support (2024–2028)
Basic Living Zone (Ministry of the Interior and Safety)	• Addresses the need to ensure minimum living standards in response to widening disparities in basic living infrastructure. • Encompasses city, county, and district administrative areas (basic living zones), with national minimum standards established and resources concentrated for targeted investment.
Regional Happiness Living Zone (Presidential Committee for the Era of Local Autonomy)	• Shifts planning from administrative units to broader regional zones, encompassing central city living zones, urban–rural linkage living zones, and rural–fishing community living zones. • A total of 56 regional living zones have been designated nationwide with living zone agreements signed, identifying 2,146 projects.
〈Issues and Limitations〉	• (Evaluation System) Inadequate performance evaluation and feedback systems, limitations in verifying policy effectiveness and impact • (Regional Disparities) Capacity differences among stakeholders intensify disparities between living zones • (Integrated Governance) Lack of inter–ministerial policy coordination and limitations in integrated spatial management

Source: Compiled and authored by the author based on HM Government (2022), pp. 5–9; National Audit Office (2016), pp. 45–46; San Francisco Planning Department (2011), pp. 10–22; SPUR (2020), pp. 19–22; Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan (2013), pp. 6–12; Watanabe Kohei & Yasuda Koichi (2022), pp. 30–35; Nakamura Shinichi (2015), pp. 108–110; Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan (2008); Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Korea (2023); Kim Soo-yeon et al. (2022), pp. 39–46; Kim Yu-ran et al. (2024); Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of Korea (2023); Presidential Committee on Regional Development (2010); Seoul Institute (2019), pp. 44–49; Jang Min-young et al. (2022); and Cha Mi-sook et al. (2014)

2) Implications and Directions

- Domestic and international cases provide implications for establishing Marine Living Zones and formulating policy directions.
- Living zone policies emphasize function-centered spatial restructuring and the development of integrated structures for multiple functions.
- Successful living zones depend on operation structures based on autonomy and flexibility within institutional and implementation frameworks.
- Performance evaluation systems and implementation capacity are essential for assessing the effectiveness and sustainability of living zone policies.
- Regulatory improvements must accompany clear public-private role division to enable effective implementation.

4. Marine Living Zone Establishment Plans

1) Basic Principles for Marine Living Zone Establishment

- Marine Living Zones are established through the comprehensive application of three basic principles that organically combine resident settlement and daily life, economic and industrial activities, and transportation- network systems.

〈Summary Table 5〉 Basic Principles for Marine Living Zone Establishment

Detailed Direction	Detailed Content
Population Centrality	Marine Living Zones are delineated based on the centrality of administrative districts and fishing community populations. – Residential population centers located in administrative districts (eup, myeon, dong) within 1 km of coastline – Proportion of settled population in fishing survey zones by administrative district (eup, myeon, dong)
Industry Centrality	Marine Living Zones are established reflecting industry characteristics (fisheries and aquaculture, tourism industry) – Analysis of industrial spaces within 5 km radius of residential population centers (fishing grounds, aquaculture facilities, salt farms, etc.)
Transportation & Logistics Centrality	Marine Living Zones are established considering maritime and land transportation network characteristics – Hub review through vessel departures, passenger ferry usage, and urban rail users

Source: Author's compilation based on Park Sang-woo et al. (2021), pp. 117–132.

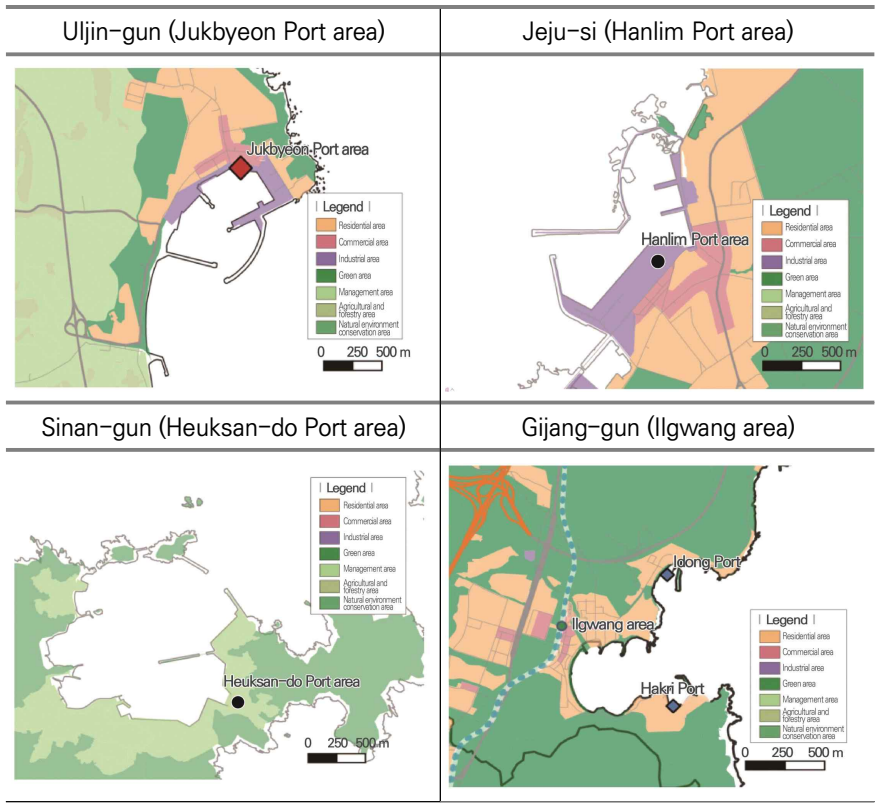
- Fishing communities are classified into three types based on locational characteristics: coastal fishing communities, island fishing communities, and urban fishing communities. Application areas are selected by the research team considering the availability of basic statistics and representativeness.
 - Coastal fishing communities: Uljin-gun
 - Island fishing communities: Sinan-gun, Jeju-si (Chuja-do, Udo area)
 - Urban fishing communities (peri-urban type): Jeju-si (dong areas), Gijang-gun

〈Summary Table 6〉 Classification and Characteristics
of Fishing Community Areas

Category		Type 1 (Coastal Fishing Communities)	Type 2 (Island Fishing Communities)	Type 3 (Urban and Suburban fishing communities)
Key Features		Fishing ground and port scale formed according to maritime characteristics	High fisheries proportion in regional economic activities	Adjacent to industrial, commercial, and residential areas, combined with other functions
Spatial Structure		Spatial structure considering fisheries and aquaculture production functions		Production-consumption combined functional spatial structure
Transport	Maritime	Connected to major hub cities	Inter-island connections	Connected to international hub cities
	Land	Connected to agricultural activity areas via national highways	Connected to agricultural activity areas via national highways (utilizing land-linking bridges and island-connecting bridges)	Connected to city centers via expressways and urban rail
Examples		Uljin-gun / Jeju coastal areas	Sinan-gun / Jeju (Chuja-do, Udo)	Jeju-si urban areas / Gijang-gun

Source: Prepared by authors

〈Summary Figure 5〉 Policy Implementation Plan for Marine Living Zones



Source: Prepared by authors

2) Marine Living Zone Establishment

(1) Establishment Criteria and Procedures

〈Summary Table 7〉 Marine Living Zone Delineation Procedures

Category	Details	Remarks
[Step 1] Basic Status Review	- Administrative and legal districts, fishing community survey zone status - Public and private big data (telecom, credit card, fishing community port entry and exit, etc.) - Fishing community spatial structure status (fishing ports and grounds, roads, urban development status) - Fishing community natural environment status (rivers, mountains, etc.)	G.I.S-based data preprocessing
↓		
[Step 2] Centrality Review	- Population – Residential population, actual resident population within fishing community survey zones - Industry – Fishing grounds, aquaculture facilities, small business scale, etc. - Logistics & Transportation – Fishing vessel entry and exit frequency, passenger ferry usage status	Grid analysis (500x500 m)
↓		
[Step 3] Centrality Sphere of Influence Establishment	Define sphere of influence for logistics and transportation functions (fishing port influence zone)	Registered vessels Departure (O)– Arrival (D)
↓		
[Step 4] Administrative District Establishment	- Identify administrative districts with centrality and surrounding districts within approximately 5 km - Establish hinterland zones using legal ri units adjacent to coastline - Separate remote independent islands (e.g., Heuksan-myeon in Sinan-gun, Chuja-myeon in Jeju-si)	Eup, myeon, dong, legal ri, dong boundaries

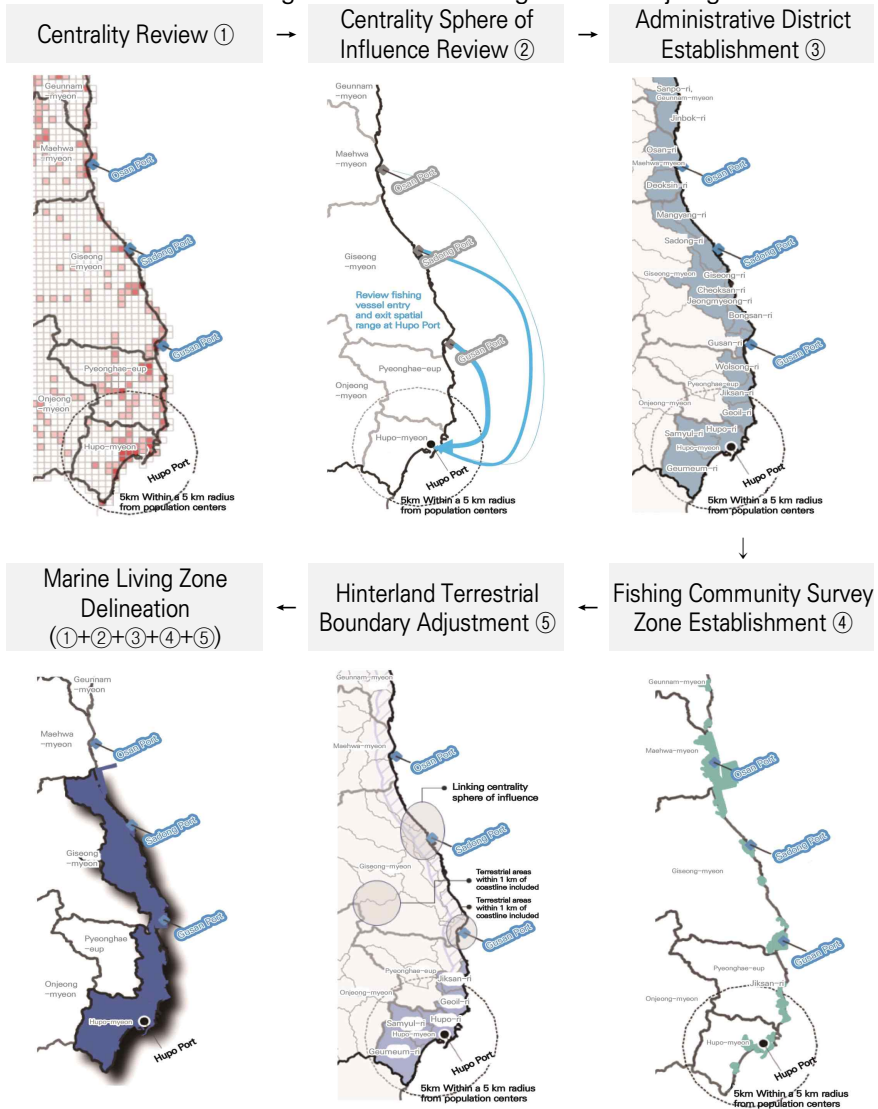
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Category	Details	Remarks
↓		
[Step 5] Fishing Community Survey Zone Establishment	• Zone delineation of fishing community survey zones (maritime and terrestrial areas) considering hinterland areas • Review of fishing community survey zone characteristics: population, fisheries, maritime transportation	2,915 fishing community survey zones nationwide (Fishing grounds – Fishing ports – Fishing communities)
↓		
[Step 6] Hinterland Terrestrial Boundary Adjustment	• Adjust based on spatial structure (fishing ports, roads) and topography (elevation) • Adjust the boundary to approximately 1 km from the coastline • Exclude areas with exceptional natural environment requiring high conservation priority	Guideline application ←
↓		
[Step 7] Marine Living Zone Delineation	• Delineate Marine Living Zones considering the centrality of fishing grounds – fishing ports – fishing communities	–

Source: Prepared by authors

(2) Case Example of Marine Living Zone Establishment in Uljin-gun (3 Zones)

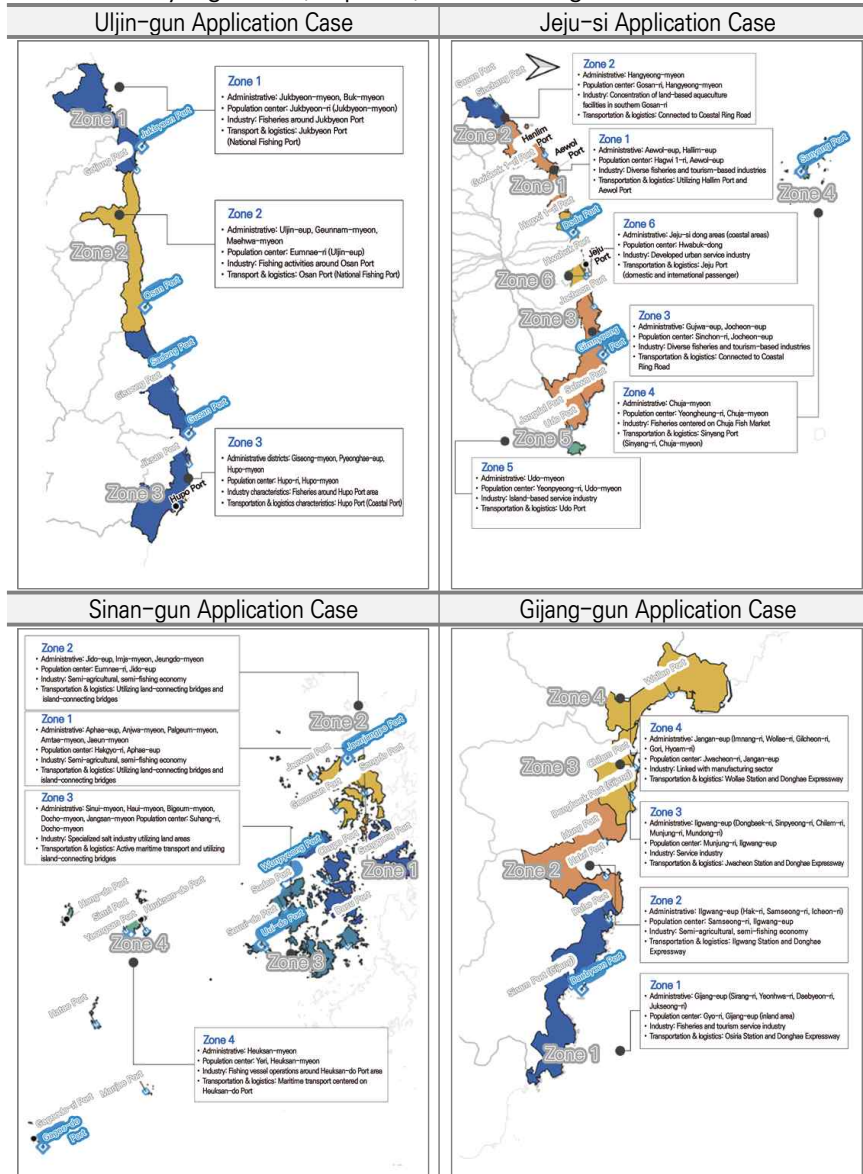
〈Summary Figure 6〉 Step-by-Step Procedures
for Delineating Three Marine Living Zones in Uljin-gun



Source: Prepared by authors

(3) Application Cases of Marine Living Zones

〈Summary Figure 7〉 (Proposed) Marine Living Zone Establishment



Source: Prepared by authors

5. Introduction and Revitalization Strategies for Marine Living Zones

1) Conceptual Framework for Introducing Marine Living Zones

- This study positions Marine Living Zones as an innovative spatial strategy to address regional inequalities and the demographic collapse crisis facing peripheral territories.
 - Functioning as a catalyst space that drives balanced development in peripheral national regions, while serving multiple roles as marine workplaces, community living environments, and public recreational facilities
- Marine Living Zones reflect policy domain expansion through adaptation to evolving policy contexts, discovery of emerging policy needs, and transformation toward area-unit spatial governance.
 - Effectively embracing future policy environment transformations including fisheries and fishing community infrastructure preservation, accelerating climate change, carbon neutrality targets, technological advancement, and social shrinkage.
 - Identifying new policy beneficiaries including fisheries as well as residence, economic activities, stays, and inflowing population within Marine Living Zones, and linking with the direction of fishing community and coastal economic revitalization

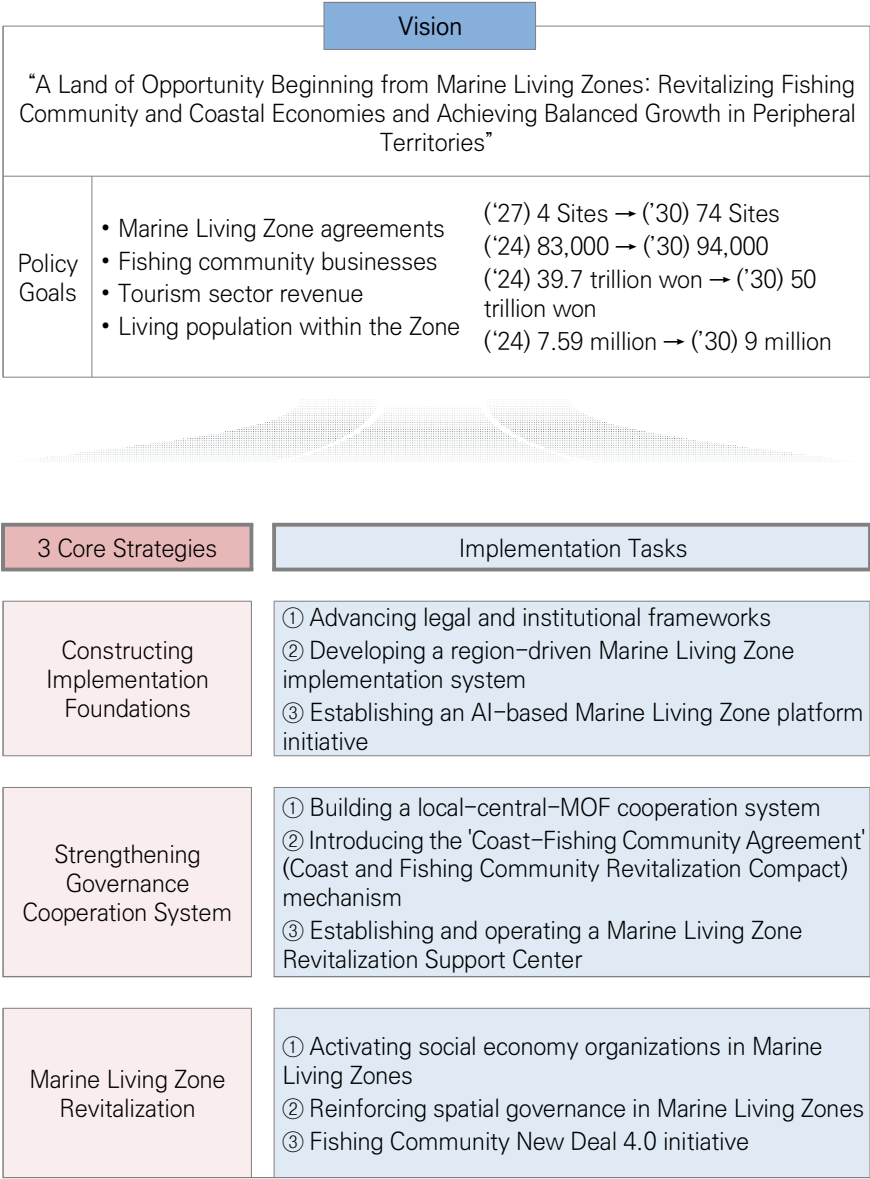
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- Transitioning to a myeon-level approach where multiple projects by central ministries, local governments, and the private sector are implemented through a build-up process following temporal phases (short-term, medium-term, long-term)
 - The differentiated strategies of Marine Living Zones primarily consist of ① Hub-and-Spoke dualization, ② region-driven implementation systems, ③ introduction of a 'Coast-Fishing Community Agreement System', and ④ efficient spatial management
 - Hub development strategies are necessary for spaces with economic and living centrality, whereas peripheral areas should enhance sustainability by building comprehensive social safety nets throughout fishing communities and coastal regions.
 - Institutional mandates requiring local governments (at both metropolitan and basic levels) to formulate and execute Marine Living Zone plans, coupled with a compact system establishing accountability mechanisms among implementation stakeholders.
 - Strategic transformation from autonomous and segmented spatial development and administration toward integrated management of fishing grounds, fishing ports, and fishing communities as a unified spatial unit within Marine Living Zones.

2) Revitalization Strategies for Marine Living Zones

(1) Vision and Strategy-Based Initiatives

- The concept of Marine Living Zones is established in alignment with national agenda and policy direction keywords (economic revitalization, balanced growth), ensuring no region faces exclusion and opportunities are equitably provided across all areas.
- The vision is presented as follows: "A Land of Opportunity Beginning from Marine Living Zones: Revitalizing Fishing Community and Coastal Economies and Achieving Balanced Growth in Peripheral Territories".
- Strategic approaches to Marine Living Zone revitalization are classified into three primary domains: ① construction of an implementation foundation, ② enhancement of governance cooperation system, and ③ Marine Living Zone revitalization, encompassing nine implementation initiatives

〈Summary Figure 8〉 Vision and Strategies for Marine Living Zone Introduction

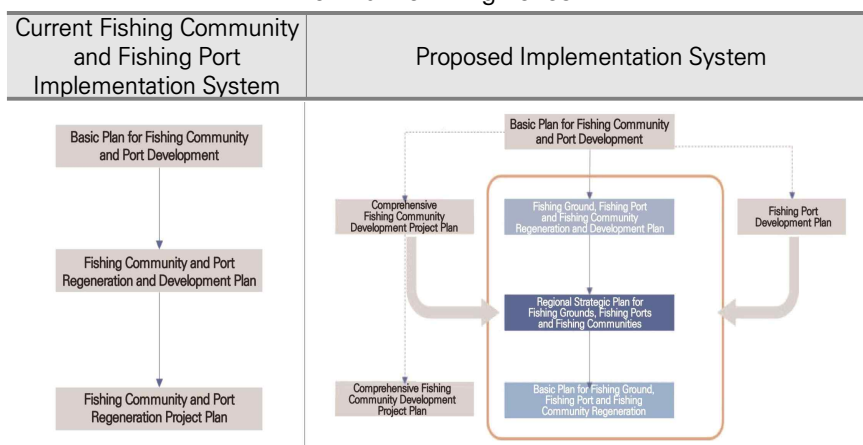


Source: Prepared by authors

(2) Implementation Tasks by Strategy

- This study proposes establishing an implementation foundation through new legislative enactment that institutionalizes integrated regeneration and spatial governance of fishing grounds, fishing ports, and fishing communities.
- Separating six regeneration articles from the Act on the Development of Fishing Communities and Harbors, and enacting the Act on Integrated Spatial Management and Regeneration Support for Fishing Grounds, Fishing Ports, and Fishing Communities by consolidating provisions on the Coast-Fishing Community Agreement System and spatial management.
- Marine Living Zones involve reorganizing the planning system whereby the central government, metropolitan local governments, and municipal local governments each formulate plans for fishing grounds, fishing ports, and fishing communities.
- Metropolitan local governments prepare comprehensive Marine Living Zone development strategies suited to their regional conditions, based on which municipal local governments take the lead in formulating detailed plans.

〈Summary Figure 9〉 Region-driven Implementation System
for Marine Living Zones



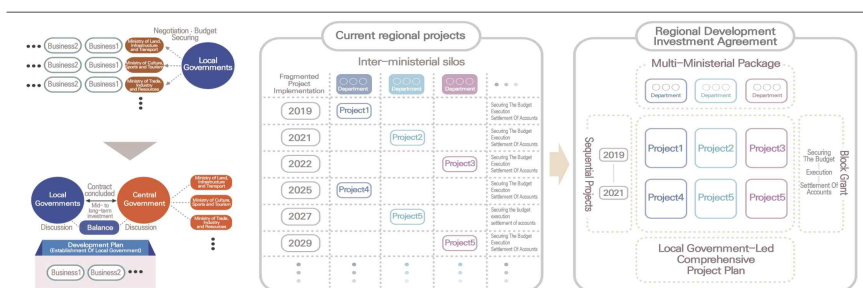
Source: Prepared by authors

- A digital twin-based platform is established for setting the scope of zones and enhancing connectivity, spatial management, utilization, and post-implementation performance management.
- Minimizing the likelihood of errors stemming from the limited knowledge and experience of regional planners, and supporting scientific data-driven and optimized decision-making (analysis, prediction, judgment).
- Effectively applied to diagnosis and forecasting, and policy decision-making within Marine Living Zones, including product and service development and marketing strategies, commercial area analysis and site suitability analysis within zones.
- The governance structure is dualized into a local government-central ministry-Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries

cooperation system and a marine cooperation system between local governments and stakeholders, with jurisdictional municipal governments taking a leading role bridging the public sector and public-private partnerships.

- Constructing an integrated support mechanism that coordinates ministerial programs highly relevant to Marine Living Zones, linking fishing community and coastal revitalization with dense living service delivery networks.

〈Summary Figure 10〉 Regional Development Investment Agreement between Central Government and Local Governments



Source: Presidential Committee for Decentralization and Balanced Development, *NAB/S* (National Balanced Development Information System), <https://www.nabis.go.kr/termsDetailView.do?menucd=189&gbnCode=S51&eventNo=330> (accessed September 24, 2025).

- Public-private Marine Living Zone cooperation requires jurisdictional local governments to recruit a minimum of two specialists with private sector career backgrounds dedicated exclusively to Marine Living Zone revitalization initiatives
- The 'Coast-Fishing Community Agreement' establishes an accountability mechanism through flexible institutional arrangements grounded in autonomy and creativity. This

approach departs from the rigid project execution framework where local governments simply implement centrally-designed policies.

〈Summary Table 8〉 Overview of the
Coast–Fishing Community Agreement System

Category	Details	
Legal basis	• Article 31, Paragraph 2 of the Special Act on Local Autonomy and Decentralization, and Balanced Regional Development – The central government and local governments shall give priority to supporting the Special Account for Balanced Regional Development under Article 74 in order to promote projects under regional development investment agreements, and shall take measures to implement the agreements, including organizing necessary budgets every year.	
Agreement parties	• (Government) Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries • (Local governments) Metropolitan or municipal local governments	• Public agreement concluded between the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and individual local governments
Support content (Proposed)	• (Economic hubs) Establishing hubs for fisheries and fishing community industries including production, distribution and processing, export, and consumer tourism • (Living and welfare safety net) Improving deteriorated living conditions and establishing living service delivery systems • (Safety enhancement) Reinforcing and upgrading infrastructure in fishing grounds and fishing ports highly vulnerable to natural disasters • (RE100) Achieving energy self-sufficiency, improving basic income in fishing communities, and alleviating fishing cost burdens including electricity fees • (Fishing ground productivity) Restoring productivity through fishing ground diagnostic assessment and customized fishing ground environment improvement • (Restoring fishing community identity) Enhancing preservation and utilization of fishing community public design and fisheries heritage	

Source: Prepared by authors

- The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and local governments shall enter into agreements as an institutional procedure for the systematic development and implementation of Marine Living Zone plans.
- The first stage prioritizes candidates based on their alignment with provincial strategic visions and their eligibility.
- The second stage involves the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries developing specific assessment indicators, evaluating Marine Living Zone plans from local governments recommended by provincial governments, and selecting final candidates that meet minimum score requirements.
- A critical component of Marine Living Zone revitalization involves transitioning, attracting, or nurturing social economy organizations.
- Building a Marine Living Zone ecosystem that accelerates the transformation of fishing communities into social economy organizations through partnerships with external entities that share common goals and values.
- Enabling newly established social economy organizations to integrate stably within Marine Living Zones and stimulating their growth through zone-specific specialized projects.
- More precise and systematic spatial management is essential for cultivating centrality in population, industry, logistics, and transportation, and to resolve fishing community problems that have accumulated over long periods

-
- The Bill on Integrated Spatial Management and Regeneration Support for Fishing Grounds, Fishing Ports, and Fishing Communities stipulates eight use zones and presents specific measures for their implementation.

(3) Phased Roadmap and Investment Plan

- The revitalization roadmap for Marine Living Zones outlines a five-year mid-term strategy covering 2026 through 2030. Total project investment is estimated at 3.8106 trillion won, distributed across two phases: 216.44 billion won in the initial phase (2026-2027) and 3.5942 trillion won in the subsequent phase (2028-2030).

〈Summary Table 9〉 Marine Living Zone Revitalization Roadmap (2026–2030)

Unit: Hundred million won

Category	Total	Short-term (2026~2027)		Medium-term (2028~2030)		
		'26	'27	'28	'29	'30
Total	38,106.4	11	2,153.4	10,282	10,282	15,378
I. Establishing Implementation Foundation	306					
		11	115	60	60	60
① Advancing legal and institutional frameworks	1	Legislative promotion 1				
② Developing a region-driven Marine Living Zone implementation system	225	Plan established by MOF 10	Plans established by local governments 35	Plans established by local governments 60	Plans established by local governments 60	Plans established by local governments 60
③ Establishing an AI-based Marine Living Zone platform initiative	80		AI Platform construction 80			
II. Strengthening Governance Cooperation System	578.4					
			26.4	162	162	228
① Building a local-central-MOF cooperation system	118.4		Specialists recruited (8) 6.4	Specialists recruited (40) 32	Specialists recruited (40) 32	Specialists recruited (60) 48
② Introducing the 'Coast-Fishing Community Agreement' system	90			First-year agreements 30	Second-year agreements 30	Third-year agreements 30
③ Establishing and operating a Marine Living Zone Revitalization Support Center	370		4 Sites 20	20 Sites 100	20 Sites 100	30 Sites 150
III. Marine Living Zone Revitalization	37,222					
			2,012	10,060	10,060	15,090
① Activating social economy organizations in Marine Living Zones	74		4 Sites 4	20 Sites 20	20 Sites 20	30 Sites 30
② Strengthening spatial management in Marine Living Zones	148		Suitability Assessment			
			8	40	40	60
③ Supporting regional investment agreements for Marine Living Zones	37,000		Support for the Marine Living Zone Coast-Fishing Community Agreement			
			2,000	10,000	10,000	15,000

Source: Prepared by authors