

Ecology of Food Taboos and Fishing Technology: A Complex System of Resource Partitioning among Jalari of North Coastal Andhra Pradesh

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KEYWORDS Jalari. Food Taboo. Fishing Technology. Resource Partitioning

ABSTRACT The present study attempts to bring out how indigenous fishermen groups maintain resource partitioning in undifferentiated open seas. The present research focuses at Jalari caste in the region of Visakhapatnam on the North Coastal Andhra Pradesh. Food taboos of Jalari caste at the descent group level is viewed from a hitherto untouched area of resource partitioning: a unique system of delineating fish resources, which helps each group within the community to achieve resource partitioning: this is achieved with the use of food taboos, prohibition of use of particular technology and the behavioural pattern of certain species of fish. Food taboos are here seen to establish micro resource utilization areas for different descent groups. Thus, complex distinctions of food taboo, 'technology restrain' and species behaviour makes the different descent groups to operate at different distances from the coastline, creating micro resource zones and facilitating resource partitioning.