

## **ABSTRACT**

# **PROBLEMS OF AQUATIC PRODUCTS EXPORT FROM SHANDONG PROVINCE TO BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE COUNTRIES**

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According to existing literature, most studies focus on the trade status between China and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) countries on the national level. However, there are no detailed studies concerning trade between major manufacturing provinces in China and countries along the “Belt and Road” routes. As a result of this, this dissertation will firstly explain the policy design and requirements to construct the Belt and Road Initiative from the national perspective, and provide policy suggestions to promote business transactions of aquatic products between China and these countries based on empirical results. Secondly, this dissertation will investigate how Shandong province implements its policies, mainly discussing Shandong’s policy defects and deficiencies in the implementation of the Belt and Road strategies and put forward measures and suggestions to deal with these problems. In short, it aims to describe the trade of aquatic products between Shandong and countries along the Belt and Road route, proving whether the export of aquatic products from Shandong is affected by the trade and technical efficiencies of the BRI countries. Stochastic frontier gravity model is established to overcome the shortcomings of traditional gravity model. Trade resistance is also measured. Measuring the frontier level and the optimal trade level has become a reliable way to investigate trade potential. Therefore, the stochastic frontier gravity model is adopted to study the export potential of aquatic products from Shandong to BRI countries, which is of great theoretical, practical and innovative significance. As a non-parametric analysis method, envelop analysis is effective in calculation without assuming the specific form of production function in advance. Since the trade environment is a complicated system, this method is appropriate to give a realistic picture of trade efficiencies.

*Keywords: Belt and Road Initiative, Trade efficiency, Aquatic products.*