Report of the 2019/2020 RMA utilization

and

application for the 2020/2021 RMA

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要約

日本は、2019/2020 に許可された調査死亡枠（RMA）1.0 トンのうち、240.2 kg を使用した。2020/2021 年に実施予定の調査に関する調査枠 1.0 トンを要求する

Summary

In the Research Mortality Allowance (RMA) of 1.0 ton for 2019/2020, Japan used 240.2 kg. Japan request 1.0 ton of RMA for the 2020/2021 research.

1. Report of the 2019/2020 RMA utilization

Following the reporting obligation on the Scientific Committee in accordance with "Research Mortality Allowance (RMA) within the Framework of CCSBT" (CCSBT/0011/23), Japan reports here that the total number and amount of used RMA during the period between April 2019 and March 2020 was 95 individuals with 240.2 kg.

Two individuals (1.6 kg) were from the age-0 SBT distribution surveys, and 93 individuals (238.6 kg) were from the age-1 SBT trolling survey.

2. Application for the 2020/2021 RMA

Japan would like to propose a scientific research program which will be conducted from December 2020 to February 2021 and will use the research mortality allowance (RMA) within the framework of CCSBT (CCSBT/0011/23). Objectives and estimated level of research mortality are as follows:

Two trolling surveys for Juvenile SBT in Western Australia

1. For age-0 SBT in the North West Australia (Attachment A)

- Objectives: To investigate age-0 SBT distribution and migration in northwestern Australia in December 2020.

- Research vessel: Australian vessel
- The estimated level of research mortality: Total 0.1 ton.

2. For age-1 SBT in South West Australia

- Objectives: To collect the scientific information in order to provide a relative abundance index of age-1 SBT in South West Australia. Trolling survey will be conducted from January to February 2021.
- Research vessel: Australian vessel
- The estimated level of research mortality: Total 0.9 ton.

Attachment A

The new research plan for investigation of the distribution and migration of age-0 Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) in northwest Australia.

Background:

It has been hypothesized that the juvenile of Southern bluefin tuna, *Thunnus maccoyii* (SBT) after hatch arrive Australian coastal area from their spawning ground in the south of Java and Northwest of Australia. The fish is thought to migrate to further south along the west coast of Australia, and then the fish at age-1 reaches to the south of Western Australia where is the survey area of the trolling survey of Japan. However, there are few pieces of knowledge that evaluate this hypothesis of distribution and migration in their young life stage. There are some clues that juveniles (less than 25cm) were collected in the northwest of Australian coastal area in November and December by the Shoyo-maru survey cruises operated by National Research Institute of Far Sea Fisheries (NRIFSF), Japan in the early 1990s. To understand the distribution and migration of juveniles, a trolling survey that targeting small SBT will be conducted in the northwestern Australia. This research will be used to improve the trolling recruitment index for age-1 fish from the trolling survey in the southwestern Australia and explore the possibilities of the new recruitment monitoring survey at age-0. The first survey was carried out in December, 2019. Two SBT individuals including 24 cm in fork length were collected.

Objective:

To collect the scientific information of age-0 SBT distribution and migration.

Materials and Methods:

- Survey period: 2weeks in December 2020
- Survey area: off the coast of northwestern Australia in Western Australia (Carnarvon – Exmouth)
- Target: age-0 Southern bluefin tuna (20-25cmFL)
- Fishing method: Trolling
- Vessel: Australian vessel
- Sampling: catch location, size, weight, biological sample

The results of this research will be reported at the next ESC meeting in 2021.