

## **Action Plan of Japan**

### **1. Inspection of Catch**

#### **(1) SBT caught by Japanese Fishing Vessels**

In relation to the landing of southern bluefin tuna (SBT), Japan has designated 8 domestic ports –and has prohibited landing at other ports including foreign countries. Since 1 April 2006, government officials have implemented inspection of landings of SBT with coverage of 100% at the designated ports. 161 inspections have been implemented in 2008.

In addition to this inspection, Japan has collected data for tagged SBT (including tag number, catching year), which were caught by Japanese fishing vessels and sold at Tsukiji market, every month.

Japan has implemented CCSBT Catch Documentation Scheme since 1 January 2010. For SBT caught before 1 January 2010, Japan has required Japanese fishermen to complete the CCSBT CDS Documents in the most practicable manner.

Finally, Japan has made it compulsory that any fishermen must send RTMP reports to the Japanese government by facsimile transmission every day when they catch SBT. Moreover, they are required to provide information on by-catch to the Japanese government every 10 days.

#### **(2) Imported SBT**

Since 1 January 2010, Japan has made it compulsory that any importers should provide information on imported SBT including tag number, length and weight in order to ensure the SBT had been caught legally in line with CCSBT conservation and management measures. Japan has also introduced random DNA testing to prevent tuna import whose catch information (species/fishing area) had been falsified. If the test shows different result with the declaration for import, Japan will conduct a survey and reports the result to relevant states and RFMOs.

### **2. Scientific Observer**

Japan deployed 5 scientific observers on 6 commercial longline vessels in 2008. The observer coverage rate at CCSBT Statistical Area of 4-9 is 4.8% for vessels, 4.3% for hooks and 2.4% for the number of SBT caught.

Japan deployed 7 scientific observers on 7 commercial longline vessels in 2009. The observer coverage rate at CCSBT Statistical Area of 4-9 is provisionally 7.4% for vessels, 7.0% for hooks and 4.6% for the number of SBT caught.

Given the past results, Japan has decided to aim to deploy 12 scientific observers on 12 commercial longline vessels in order to achieve its coverage of 10% in terms of effort in 2010.

### **3. Port State Inspection of Transshipment of SBT**

For effective port state inspection, Japan has designated 15 foreign ports for transshipment of SBT and has prohibited such transshipment at other foreign ports since 26 March 2010.

Japan has also commenced to communicate with those designated port states in order to share relevant information required for effective port state inspection in a manner not to interfere with legitimate commercial transaction of SBT.

**Translated by Secretariat**