

## **Review of Japanese SBT Fisheries in the 2004 Fishing Season**

### **1. Introduction**

Japanese far-seas tuna longline fisheries industry has suffered a severe economic situation due to the fall in tuna price caused by oversupply of tuna, most of which are imported from all over the world. To make the situation worse, the industry has been severely damaged by rise in oil price.

### **2. Operational Constrains on Effort**

Fishing operations in the 2004 fishing season have been started with 6,007 MT as a substantial national allocation, which is subtracted 127 MT (the figure was overcaught in 2002) and added 69 MT (the figure was unused in 2003) from 6,065 MT as agreed at the 2003 CCSBT Commission.

The Japanese fishing industry has voluntary set starting days for three sub-fishing areas (high seas area off Tasmania/Sydney, off Cape Town and in Southern Indian Ocean) and limited the total number of vessels for each sub-fishing area.

To monitor Japanese tuna vessels, GOJ dispatched its fishing patrol vessels for the three sub-fishing areas before and after the areas were closed.

Landing inspection was randomly conducted by landing inspectors of Fisheries Agency to check whether or not reported SBT catch was exactly same as landed SBT. No violation was found in the year 2004.

### **3. Catch and Effort**

In the 2004 fishing season, total SBT caught by Japanese tuna vessels was 5,982 MT.

The fishing operations for the three sub-fishing grounds on high seas were closed on 31 July of 2004 with the catch of 1,134 MT by 46 vessels off Tasmania/Sydney, closed on 9 August with the catch of 3,174 MT by 123 vessels off Cape Town and closed on 23 December of 2004 with the catch of 1,667 MT in Southern Indian Ocean, respectively. 7 MT of SBT was reported as bycatch.

No discards by Japanese tuna vessels were reported. No SBT catch by recreational fishing was reported. All SBT caught by Japanese tuna vessels were presumed to be consumed domestically.

### **4. Historical Catch and Effort**

(1) In the 1999 fishing season, GOJ originally took the same voluntary measures as for the 1998 fishing season, in the absence of a decision on TAC by the Commission. However, following the prescription of provisional measures by ITLOS concerning the

experimental fishing conducted by Japan, the actual catch for the 1999 season was 5,354 MT reduced by 711 MT.

- (2) In the 2000 fishing season, GOJ set the voluntary catch limit as 4,578MT, 1,487MT less than 6,065MT, which was the national allocation to Japan agreed in 1997. However, since the provisional measures prescribed by ITLOS was revoked in August 2000, the voluntary catch limit was changed to 6,065MT in September 2000. The actual catch in the 2000 season was 6,027MT.
- (3) In the 2001 fishing season, fishing operations were started with a tentative catch limit of 6,065MT, and GOJ set the voluntary catch limit of 6,421MT after the consultation with the relevant Members. The actual catch in the 2001 season was 6,647MT.
- (4) In the 2002 fishing season, fishing operations were started with a tentative catch limit of 6,065MT, and the actual catch was 6,192MT.
- (5) In the 2003 fishing season, GOJ set the voluntary catch limit as 5,839 MT, which were subtracted 226 MT from 6,065MT, and the actual catch was 5,770 MT.

## **5. Annual Fleet Size and Distribution**

The number of fishing vessels selected for targeting SBT in the 2004 fishing season was 236. The number of vessels on the high seas off Tasmania/Sydney was 46, the number of vessels on the high seas off Cape Town was 123, and the number of vessels in Southern Indian Ocean was 67 respectively.

## **6. Historical Fleet Size and Distribution**

- (1) In the 1999 fishing season, 227 fishing vessels (30 vessels less than the 1998 fishing seasons) operated, since Japan cut the number of far-seas tuna longliners following the Plan of Action agreed by FAO.
- (2) In the 2000 fishing season, the number of vessels for SBT was reduced to 172 in accordance with the reduction of the catch limit based on the provisional measures prescribed by ITLOS. However, since the provisional measures were revoked, 27 vessels were added to the original, and, consequently 199 vessels operated for SBT based on the increase of the catch limit in September.
- (3) In the 2001, 2002 and 2003 fishing season, the number of vessels for SBT was 227, 224 and 221 respectively.

## **7. Fisheries Monitoring**

- (1) GOJ issued a notification to the industry that every vessel targeting SBT must submit catch and effort report to GOJ every 10 days for the management of the catch limit.
- (2) GOJ took necessary measures to control and monitor the fishery, which include dispatching enforcement vessels to the fishing areas, dispatching scientific observers

onboard randomly selected from SBT operating vessels, and requesting to install VMS for all the SBT targeting vessels and to report their positions to GOJ on daily basis.

(3) In the 2004 fishing season, 2 enforcement vessels were dispatched to the SBT fishing grounds.

(4) In the 2004 fishing season, 16 scientific observers were dispatched, and 14 observers conducted research onboard. 2 observers could not embark on fishing vessels because schedule was unfit between reefer and fishing vessels and consequently they failed to conduct research. Observer coverage of Japanese SBT tuna vessels were: 8.3% in the number of vessels, 5.0 % in the number of hooks used and 4.0% in the number of SBT caught.

## **8. Others factors**

### **Import/Export Statistics**

The amount of imported SBT in 2004 was 11,373 MT (product weight), more than 3,000 MT compared with the year 2003. Most of SBT imported to Japan was from CCSBT members (1: Australia, 2: Taiwan, 3: Republic of Korea, 4: New Zealand). In particular, SBT imported from Australia was 9,749 MT, which accounted for 85.7% of the total SBT imported to Japan.

### Trend in catch and fishing effort in Japanese SBT fisheries

		total	vessels selected for targeting SBT			others	
			high seas off Tasmania/Sydney	high seas off Cape Town	high seas in Southern Indian Ocean	by-catch only	
1999	allocation of catch by area	6,065mt	1,720mt	3,000mt	1,345mt	-	
	actual catch	5,354mt	1,539mt	2,513mt	1,113mt	189mt	
	numbers of vessels	227vessels	69vessels	99vessels	59vessels	-	
	fishing period	-	from April 15 to May 31 from July 1 to August 10	from May 1 to August 10	from September 1 to December 1	from March 1 to February 29	
2000	allocation of catch by area (**1)	original	4,578mt	1,298mt	2,265mt	1,015mt	-
		revised	6,065mt	1,298mt	2,265mt	2,502mt	-
	actual catch	6,027mt	1,260mt	2,235mt	2,400mt	132mt	
	numbers of vessels (**2)	original	172vessels	52vessels	75vessels	45vessels	-
		revised	199vessels	52vessels	75vessels	72vessels	-
fishing period	-	from April 15 to August 1	from May 1 to August 1	from September 1 to December 27	from March 1 to February 28		
2001	allocation of catch by area (**3)	original	6,065mt	1,720mt	3,000mt	1,345mt	-
		revised	6,421mt	1,850mt	3,226mt	1,345mt	-
	actual catch	6,647mt	1,816mt	3,212mt	1,594mt	25mt	
	numbers of vessels	227vessels	69vessels	99vessels	59vessels	-	
	fishing period	-	from April 15 to July 16	from May 1 to August 2	from September 1 to November 29	from March 1 to February 28	
2002	allocation of catch by area	6,065mt	1,720mt	3,000mt	1,345mt	-	
	actual catch	6,192mt	1,960mt	3,312mt	854mt	66mt	
	numbers of vessels	224vessels	69vessels	96vessels	59vessels	-	
	fishing period	-	from April 15 to July 19	from May 1 to July 5	from September 1 to November 30	from March 1 to February 28	
2003	allocation of catch by area	5,839mt	1,392mt	3,056mt	1,391mt	-	
	actual catch	5,770mt	1,556mt	2,884mt	1,074mt	257mt	
	numbers of vessels	221vessels	53vessels	105vessels	63vessels	-	
	fishing period	-	from April 15 to July 30	from May 1 to July 8	from September 1 to Dec 16	from March 1 to February 29	
2004	allocation of catch by area	6,007mt	1,191mt	3,118mt	1,698mt	-	
	actual catch	5,982mt	1,134mt	3,174mt	1,667mt	7mt	
	numbers of vessels	236vessels	46vessels	123vessels	67vessels	-	
	fishing period	-	from April 15 to July 31	from May 1 to August 9	from September 1 to Dec 23	from March 1 to February 28	

Note: Japanese Fishing season of SBT is from March to February.

(\*\*1) Original allocation of catch was revised because of the provisional measures prescribed by ITOLS were revoked by the arbitral tribunal.

(\*\*2) Original numbers of vessels were revised because of the provisional measures prescribed by ITOLS were revoked by the arbitral tribunal.

(\*\*3) Original allocation of catch was revised after consultations with the relevant members

**SBT Import Statistics of Japan****Japanese Import of SBT by Country/Area (Fresh • Chilled and Frozen)**

(unit: kg)

	1995 from January to December	1996 from January to December	1997 from January to December	1998 from January to December	1999 from January to December	2000 from January to December	2001 from January to December	2002 from January to December	2003 from January to December	2004 from January to December
Australia	3,272,990	3,195,903	6,125,027	6,256,201	6,987,421	7,831,621	8,185,820	8,237,206	6,368,352	9,748,627
Taiwan	1,276,474	1,396,915	516,055	1,481,378	1,611,250	1,357,906	1,478,751	1,005,656	991,599	1,089,597
Korea	75,836	562,573	671,497	1,649,851	1,056,953	785,426	932,889	954,285	491,446	138,277
New Zealand	202,636	128,249	88,640	120,176	213,576	212,316	199,813	240,338	260,731	228,905
Indonesia	207,758	317,687	368,634	282,265	310,552	127,012	77,528	181,322	48,825	23,899
Seychel					1,129		32,435	176,740		
Philippines		182		4,415	69,170	15,041	16,197	54,828	44,678	84,897
China *	9,183				373	3,738	3,172	15,173	35,004	1,508
South Africa									4,201	
Honduras	146,574	179,918	55,286	144,138	244,423	17,048				
Singapore	1,968	43,835	17,199	18,936	21,827	3,423				
Guam		680	454	3,673	2,429	1,900				
Fiji	445		396	181	972	526				
EQ Guinea				130,846	32,258	446				
Palau		569	690		1,073	166				
Thailand		333	376		645	125				
Belize	3,380	9,534	278	91,849	39,580					
Combodia				17,301	4,374					
Malaysia				271	836					
Greece					502					
Uruguay	342	102	1,028		186					
Tonga	138				162					
USA	1,320			2,062						
Panama			212,632							
Croatia			729							9,980 <sup>1</sup>
F.S of Micronesia			195							
Maldives			163							
New Caledonia			119							
Portugal			93							
Vanuatu		17,855								
France		2,995								
Chile		334								
Cook Islands		140								
Spain	11,061									
Tunisia	124									47,144 <sup>1</sup>
Toral	5,210,229	5,857,804	8,059,491	10,203,543	10,599,691	10,356,694	10,926,605	10,865,548	8,244,836	11,372,834

Source: Japan Trade Statistics, Ministry of Finance

<sup>1</sup> These figures are believed to be northern bluefin tuna so they should not be considered part of the global SBT catch.