

Korean Self-Assessment of Fishing Capacity

1. Recent History of the Korean SBT Fleet

1.1 Commercial Fishing for SBT

In case of Korea, long-liners target southern bluefin tuna. Korea's commercial fishing for SBT commenced in 1991 with three long-liners and the number of vessels targeting SBT peaked in 1998 until it dropped to less than 10 in recent times. The size of the vessels ranges from 300 to 500 gross tons.

Table1. Number of Korean-flagged Fishing Vessels that caught SBT and its Catches

Fishing year (April.1 st -March.31 st)	Number of authorized commercial long-liners	Catches (metric tons)
1991	3	246
1992	1	41
1993	1	92
1994	1	137
1995	3	365
1996	8	1,320
1997	14	1,424
1998	19	1,796
1999	16	1,462
2000	13	1,135
2001	10	845
2002	10	746
2003	4	254
2004	7	131
2005	7	38
2006	9	150
2007	12	521
2008	19	1,134
2009	19	1,117
2010	9	867
2011	7	705
2012	7	922

1.2 Main Fishing Grounds for SBT

Main fishing grounds for Korean-flagged vessels varies depending on their fishing period. From April until July/August, they target SBT mainly in the western Indian Ocean (on the high sea). From July/August through December, the eastern Indian Ocean serves as a main fishing ground for Korean fishing vessels. Incidental bycatch of SBT was rarely reported by other fisheries.

2. Korea's SBT Capacity Allocation

2.1 Capacity Allocation System

Korea determines a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of Southern Bluefin Tuna for the domestic fishery (by vessel) within 95 percent of Korea's national allocation from the CCSBT. The rest of 5 percent is allocated, if necessary, to vessel taking into account its fishing conditions.

When a vessel exceeds its catch limit, the proceeding year's quota will be 20 percent deducted from its previous year and the vessel shall be subject to penalty and business suspension. These are designed to ensure that Korean-flagged fishing vessels are in full compliance with quota allocation and conservation measures adopted by RFMOs.

2.2. Authorities Responsible for Capacity Allocation

All relevant agencies in charge of capacity allocation include the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries; the National Fisheries Quality Management Service; and the National Fisheries Research Development Institute.

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries is responsible for the allocation and authorization of SBT catch limit and fulfilling report obligations to the Secretariat. The National Fisheries Quality Management Service issues catch certificate by validating catches and their trade. The National Fisheries Research Development Institute collects and analyzes relevant data necessary for stock assessment such as catches and efforts in addition to training of scientific observers.

In conclusion, Korea's current management system for the SBT fishery provides sufficient and appropriate tools for SBT quota and stock management, which include criteria for quota allocation, catch report (including bycatch) and data analysis and issuance of catch certificate for monitoring transshipment and landing.