

## **Review of Japanese SBT Fisheries in the 2005 Fishing Season**

### **1. Introduction**

In the 2005 fishing season, the total catch of SBT by Japanese tuna vessels was 7,855 MT, and this resulted in exceeding our national allocation by 1,790 MT. We considered this sincerely, and we have established a new management system to prevent over catch any more in the future. The new management system introduced an individual SBT quota system for individual fishing vessels. It includes a tagging system that requires Japanese fishermen to tag each individual SBT caught. It also requires Japanese fishermen to land their SBT only at eight designated ports, and all SBT landings are inspected by governmental-official inspectors from the Fisheries Agency. This system was implemented from 1 April 2006 (see Appendix 3).

For the 2006 fishing season, we set a voluntary catch limit at 4,523 MT, which is 1,542 MT less than 6,065 MT.

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

In the 2005 fishing season, the Japanese fishing industry has voluntarily 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. Furthermore, to monitor Japanese tuna vessels, GOJ dispatched its fishing patrol vessels for the three sub-fishing areas before and after the areas were closed.

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

The fishing operations for the three sub-fishing grounds on high seas were closed on 31 July of 2005 with the catch of 879 MT by 45 vessels off Tasmania/Sydney, closed on 27 August with the catch of 3,687 MT by 119 vessels off Cape Town and closed on 13 December of 2005 with the catch of 2,603 MT by 58 vessels in Southern Indian Ocean, respectively.

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 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 were 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.

- (2) 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.
- (3) In the 2002 fishing season, fishing operations were started with a tentative catch limit of 6,065MT, and the actual catch was 6,192MT.
- (4) 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) In the 2004 fishing season, GOJ set the voluntary catch limit as 6,007 MT, which were subtracted 127 MT from 6,065 MT and added 69 MT, and the actual catch was 5,982 MT.

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

The number of fishing vessels selected for targeting SBT in the 2005 fishing season was 168. The number of vessels on the high seas off Tasmania/Sydney was 45, the number of vessels on the high seas off Cape Town was 119, and the number of vessels in Southern Indian Ocean was 58 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, 2003 and 2004 fishing season, the number of vessels for SBT was 227, 224, 221 and 222 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) Three of the enforcement vessels were allocated to the SBT fishing grounds.

(4) 16 scientific observers were dispatched. Observer coverage of Japanese SBT tuna vessels were: 9.9% in the number of vessels, 4.9 % in the number of hooks used and 4.0% in the number of SBT caught. The total cost of these observers was US\$395,000.

## **8. Others Factors**

### **Import/Export Statistics**

The amount of imported SBT in 2005 was 9,774 MT (product weight), less than 1,599 MT compared with the year of 2004. Most of SBT imported to Japan was from CCSBT members (1: Australia, 2: Taiwan, 3: New Zealand, 4: Republic of Korea, 5: Philippine, 6: Indonesia). In particular, SBT imported from Australia was 8,740 MT, which accounted for 89.4% of the total SBT imported to Japan.

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

		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Allocation of catch	original	6,065mt	4,578mt	6,065mt	6,065mt	5,839mt	6,007mt	6,065mt
	revised		6,065mt(**1)	6,421mt(**3)				
Actual catch		5,354mt	6,027mt	6,647mt	6,192mt	5,770mt	5,982mt	7,855mt
Number of vessels	original	227vessels	172vessels	227vessels	224vessels	221vessels	236vessels	222vessels
	revised		199vessels(**2) )					

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	2005 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	8,740,606
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	765,758
Korea	75,836	562,573	671,497	1,649,851	1,056,953	785,426	932,889	954,285	491,446	138,277	51,752
New Zealand	202,636	128,249	88,640	120,176	213,576	212,316	199,813	240,338	260,731	228,905	147,431
Indonesia	207,758	317,687	368,634	282,265	310,552	127,012	77,528	181,322	48,825	23,899	23,744
Seychel					1,129		32,435	176,740			
Philippines		182		4,415	69,170	15,041	16,197	54,828	44,678	84,897	44,835
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	9,774,126

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.

## Appendix 3

### Japanese New SBT Fishery Regulation

The followings are outline of our new regulation which executed from 1 April 2006.

- The new regulation introduced an individual SBT quota system for individual fishing vessel. 142 vessels have been allocated individual quota for 2006 fishing season.
- It includes a tagging system that requires Japanese fishermen to tag each individual SBT caught, and the tag must have a serial number and fishing vessel's call sign.
- It also requires Japanese fishermen to land their SBT at eight designated ports only, and all SBT landings will be inspected by governmental-official inspectors from the Fisheries Agency.
- In the new regulation, not only the fishermen, but also companies (i.e. buyers and sellers) that knowingly purchase or process illegally caught and landed SBT will be considered to have committed a criminal offence and will be subject to penalties. The penalties could be up-to 2-years imprisonment and/or up-to five hundred thousand yen fine.
- In case of serious offenses, the concerned fishermen will be deprived all SBT quota for over the next five years.