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**Australian Government**  
**Bureau of Rural Sciences**

**AUSTRALIA'S ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE  
SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERY**

by

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## 1. Introduction

This report summarises catches and fishing activities in the 2004–05 and 2005–06 quota years<sup>1</sup> of the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*; SBT) Fishery. It also provides preliminary data on the 2006–07 surface fishery.

The Australian domestic SBT catches for the 2005 and 2006 calendar years were 5244 t and 5635 t, respectively. The 2006 calendar year catch is larger than the previously agreed national allocation to Australia of 5265 t because it represents the aggregation of catches from periods in two quota years. The 2004–05 quota year catch was 5248 t; and for the 2005–06 quota year catch was 5308 t.

**Table 1:** Total domestic catch of SBT for calendar years and quota years

| <b>Calendar Year</b> | <b>Catch (t)</b> | <b>Quota Year</b> | <b>Catch (t)</b> |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1990                 | 4586             | 1989–90           | 4849             |
| 1991                 | 4489             | 1990–91           | 4316             |
| 1992                 | 5248             | 1991–92           | 4894             |
| 1993                 | 5373             | 1992–93           | 5212             |
| 1994                 | 4700             | 1993–94           | 4937             |
| 1995                 | 4508             | 1994–95           | 5080             |
| 1996                 | 5128             | 1995–96           | 5188             |
| 1997                 | 5316             | 1996–97           | 4978             |
| 1998                 | 4897             | 1997–98           | 5097             |
| 1999                 | 5552             | 1998–99           | 5232             |
| 2000                 | 5257             | 1999–00           | 5257             |
| 2001                 | 4853             | 2000–01           | 5247             |
| 2002                 | 4711             | 2001–02           | 5262             |
| 2003                 | 5827             | 2002–03           | 5391             |
| 2004                 | 5062             | 2003–04           | 5120             |
| 2005                 | 5244             | 2004–05           | 5248             |
| 2006                 | 5635             | 2005–06           | 5308             |

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<sup>1</sup> Various time periods, such as ‘calendar years’, ‘fishing seasons’ and ‘quota years’, can be used when describing Australia’s SBT fishery. Unless otherwise indicated, we have used quota years in this report, but note that fishing seasons of the various fishery components often span quota years. The start and end dates of Australian quota years have varied and are presented in Appendix 1.

## 2. Operational Constraints on Effort

### **Regulatory Measures**

Domestic operations are managed through individual transferable quotas (ITQs) granted as Statutory Fishing Rights (SFRs) under the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Plan 1995*.

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) uses a risk based compliance strategy in the SBT purse seine and longline fisheries. This includes targeted compliance operations to check fishing vessels at sea, and at landing ports; a comprehensive audit trail from the time SBT are caught to the time they are exported, including random audits of fishing companies and export establishments; and then an annual review of compliance risks leading to refined strategies for the following season.

Australia has continued to use a combination of area restrictions, minimum quota holdings, fishery observers, and mandatory Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) to reduce the incidental catch and mortality of SBT caught in the domestic longline fishery. A SBT habitat model incorporating archival tag and observer data with sea surface and sub-surface temperatures, is used to predict likely areas of high SBT abundance and hence the location of restricted access zones. In the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF), areas with a high probability of SBT interactions have been determined and are referred to as the Core Zone and Buffer Zone. For the 2004–05 season, access to the Core Zone during the months of May to October was subject to 100% observer coverage, and mandatory minimum quota requirements. Access to the Buffer Zone was subject to 25% observer coverage, and mandatory minimum quota requirements. These requirements were modified for the 2005–06 season so that the level of observer coverage depended on the amount of quota carried, as per Table 2.

**Table 2:** SBT Quota Holdings and Related Levels of Observer Coverage

| <b>Quota holding required to access zone</b> | <b>Level of observer coverage required (%)</b> |
|--|--|
| 0 – 500 kg (core and buffer)                 | 100  |
| > 500 kg (buffer)                            | 25   |
| 500kg – 2 tonnes (core)                      | 100  |
| 2 tonnes – 5 tonnes (core)                   | 75   |
| 5 tonnes – 10 tonnes (core)                  | 50   |
| 10 tonnes – 20 tonnes (core)                 | 25   |
| >20 tonnes (core)                            | 10   |

To improve compliance and management outcomes for its domestic fishery, and to better meet international management obligations, Australia implemented a range of amendments to its *Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Plan 1995* on 1 December 2004. These included:

- revised objectives, management measures, and performance criteria;
- incorporation of the Commission's current stock-specific reference point;
- the development of a by-catch action plan and strategies to reduce broader environmental impacts;
- amendments to enhance the accountability of SBT Statutory Fishing Right holders against their allocated quota; and,

- daily at sea reporting of SBT taken and transferred into tow cages, provisional deduction of SBT quota based on at sea estimates of catch, and daily VMS or manual reporting of catch and tow vessel locations.

### 3. Catch and Effort

In 2005–06, 99.9% of the Australian catch of SBT was taken by purse seine with the remainder taken by longline. Australian catch by gear and State for the quota years 1988–89 to 2005–06 is shown in Table 1. Catch by season with number of vessels and vessel search hours is at Appendix 3. The Australian catch of SBT for the calendar years 2005 and 2006 is mapped in Figure 1 and Figure 2 respectively.

**Table 3:** Catch of SBT by fishing method in 2002–03, 2003–04 and 2004–05 Seasons

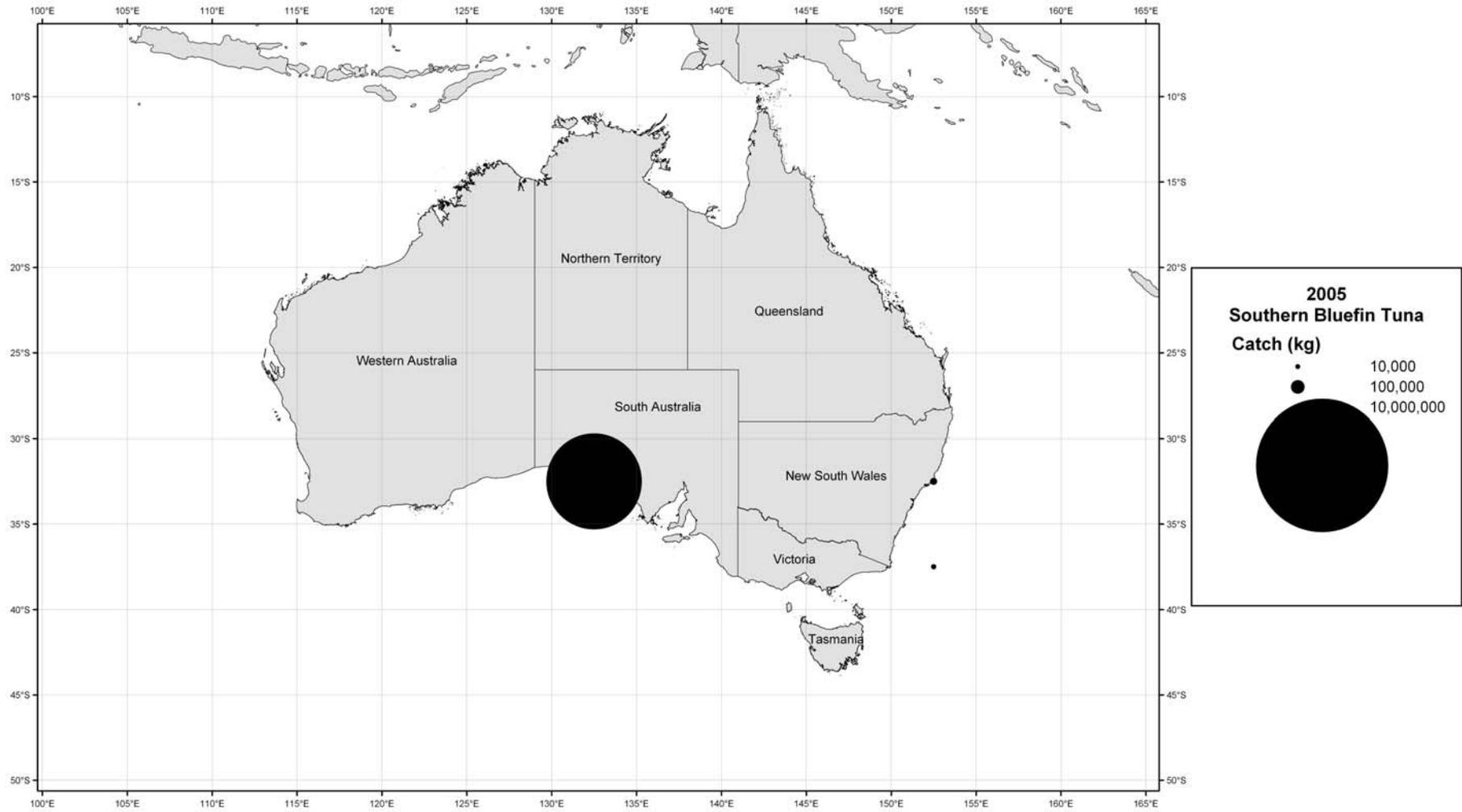
|                |                 |        |
|----------------|-----------------|--------|
| <b>2004–05</b> |                 |        |
| Purse seine    | South Australia | 5214 t |
| Longline       | New South Wales | 35 t   |
|                |                 |        |
| <b>2005–06</b> |                 |        |
| Purse seine    | South Australia | 5302 t |
| Longline       | New South Wales | 6 t    |

Insufficient data were available to provide an estimate of the recreational catch in 2005 and 2006.

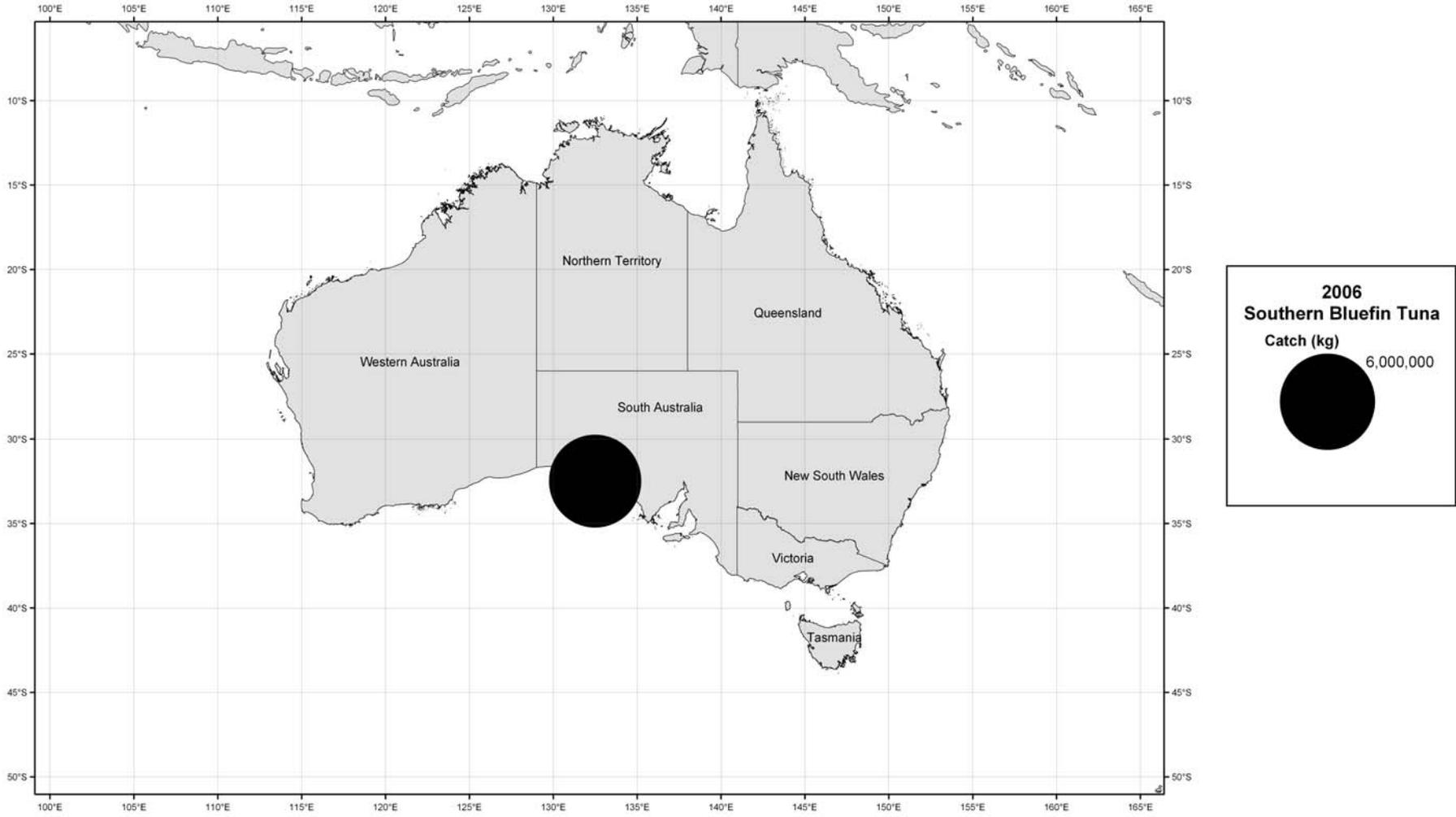
#### ***Discards***

During the 2005–06 and 2006–07 seasons, no discarding of SBT was observed or reported in logbooks collected in the purse seine fishery in the Great Australian Bight.

In 2004, AFMA observers monitored longline operations in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery during the months and areas in which SBT are most likely to be taken incidentally (i.e. south of 30°S from May to September). Observer data showed that 61% of longline caught SBT were discarded during the observed operations. In contrast, the level of SBT discards recorded in logbooks from other vessels fishing during the same period south of 30°S was only 10%. In response to this new information the Australian Fisheries Management Authority has implemented tighter access controls and implemented 100% observer coverage for the 2005 and 2006 season in areas and at times where there is a high risk of SBT being caught. Note that this definition is more restricted than the definition outlined above for when and where SBT are most likely to be taken.



**Figure 1:** Australian SBT catch in 2005



**Figure 2:** Australian SBT catch in 2006

In 2006 in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF), south of 30° S and during the months of May to September (the months in which SBT are usually caught), 17 observers monitored 126 thousand hooks of a season total of 416 thousand, representing 30.2% observer coverage of longline effort during the SBT migration. The total catch number of SBT caught while observers were on board was 39 of which 17 were retained, 21 were discarded (20 of which were released alive) and 1 was tagged. Note that tagged fish have not been included as discarded fish. Individual retained fish ranged from 116–193 cm in length. The size distribution of the discarded ETBF longline catch of SBT from 2002 to 2005 is shown in Figure 1. ETBF logbooks for 2006 showed 6 tonnes (73 fish) of SBT were retained in the ETBF fishery and only 3 (4%) were discarded. Further details on discarding are provided in Attachment 1.

During 2006, BRS observers monitored 2% of longline operations in the Southern and Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery. There were no SBT observed caught in the fishery in 2006.

#### 4. Historical Catch and Effort

Australian catch by gear and State for the quota years 1988–89 to 2005–06 is shown in Table 5. Catch and effort (number of search hours and number of vessels) by season, for seasons 1994–95 to 2006–07, in the purse seine fishery are shown in Table 4.

**Table 4:** Purse seine catch and effort for seasons 1994–95 to 2005–06

| Season  | Estimated Catch (t) | Actual Catch (t) | No. Boats | Vessel Search Hours | No. Sets | 1° Squares Fished |
|---------|---------------------|------------------|-----------|---------------------|----------|-------------------|
| 1994–95 | 2179                | 2009             | 5         | 526                 | 104      | 5                 |
| 1995–96 | 2859                | 3442             | 6         | 631                 | 89       | 11                |
| 1996–97 | 3134                | 2505             | 7         | 769                 | 118      | 13                |
| 1997–98 | 3916                | 3629             | 7         | 671                 | 143      | 8                 |
| 1998–99 | 4418                | 4991             | 7         | 972                 | 129      | 3                 |
| 1999–00 | 4746                | 5131             | 8         | 764                 | 107      | 5                 |
| 2000–01 | 5100                | 5162             | 8         | 799                 | 129      | 2                 |
| 2001–02 | 5400                | 5234             | 7         | 1309                | 159      | 3                 |
| 2002–03 | 5188                | 5375             | 7         | 1276                | 150      | 5                 |
| 2003–04 | 5299                | 4874             | 6         | 1202                | 160      | 4                 |
| 2004–05 | 5225                | 5215             | 8         | 1168                | 139      | 4                 |
| 2005–06 | 5463                | 5302             | 7         | 1304                | 156      | 6                 |
| 2006–07 | 5024                | 5231             | 6         | 1447                | 160      | 8                 |

Overall the data available on recreational catch of SBT is limited but an initial review revealed high year-to-year variability in catches and the locations in which SBT were taken. For the past ten years, indicative estimates of annual recreational catches ranged between 3 and 85 tonnes with the highest catches occurring around Tasmania (Table 6). These data are indicative estimates only and are based on a range of different data sources.

**Table 5:** Australian catch by gear and State for quota years 1988–89 to 2004–05

| Quota Year | Western Australia |                |           |       | South Australia    |            |           |       | New South Wales    |           |       | Tasmania |           |       | Large Longliners |               |       | Australia Total  |                    |                 |      | Total All Gears |
|------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|-------|--------------------|------------|-----------|-------|--------------------|-----------|-------|----------|-----------|-------|------------------|---------------|-------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------|-----------------|
|            | Albany Pole       | Esperance Pole | Long-line | Total | Pole & Purse Seine | Farm Cages | Long-line | Total | Pole & Purse Seine | Long-line | Total | Troll    | Long-line | Total | Aust. Charter    | Joint-venture | Total | Domestic Surface | Domestic Long-line | Total Long-line | RTMP |                 |
| 1988–89    | 204               | 221            | 0         | 425   | 4872               | 0          | 0         | 4872  | 0                  | 1         | 1     | 2        | 0         | 2     | 0                | 684           | 684   | 5299             | 1                  | 685             | 0    | 5984            |
| 1989–90    | 133               | 97             | 0         | 230   | 4199               | 0          | 0         | 4199  | 0                  | 6         | 6     | 14       | 0         | 14    | 0                | 400           | 400   | 4443             | 6                  | 406             | 0    | 4849            |
| 1990–91    | 175               | 45             | 0         | 220   | 2588               | 0          | 0         | 2588  | 0                  | 15        | 15    | 57       | 0         | 57    | 255              | 881           | 1136  | 2865             | 15                 | 1151            | #300 | 4316            |
| 1991–92    | 17                | 0              | 0         | 17    | 1629               | 138        | 14        | 1781  | 34                 | 90        | 124   | 36       | 20        | 56    | 59               | 2057          | 2116  | 1854             | 124                | 2240            | 800  | 4894            |
| 1992–93    | 0                 | 0              | 0         | 0     | 716                | 722        | 68        | 1506  | 16                 | 238       | 254   | 23       | 44        | 67    | 0                | 2735          | 2735  | 1477             | 350                | 3085            | 650  | 5212            |
| 1993–94    | 0                 | 0              | 0         | 0     | 621                | 1294       | 55        | 1970  | 0                  | 286       | 286   | 7        | 105       | 112   | 0                | 2299          | 2299  | 1922             | 446                | 2745            | 270  | 4937            |
| 1994–95    | 0                 | 0              | 0         | 0     | 908                | 1954       | 2         | 2864  | 0                  | 157       | 157   | 4        | 109       | 113   | 0                | 1295          | 1295  | 2866             | 268                | 1563            | 650  | 5080            |
| 1995–96    | 0                 | 0              | 0         | 0     | 1447               | 3362       | 0         | 4809  | 28                 | 89        | 117   | 0        | 262       | 262   | 0                | 0             | 0     | 4837             | 351                | 351             | 0    | 5188            |
| 1996–97    | 0                 | 0              | 0         | 0     | 2000               | 2498       | 0         | 4497  | 7                  | 229       | 236   | 2        | 242       | 244   | 0                | 0             | 0     | 4507             | 472                | 472             | 0    | 4978            |
| 1997–98    | 0                 | 0              | ^0        | 0     | 916                | 3488       | ^0        | 4403  | ~0                 | 475       | 475   | !0       | 219       | 219   | 0                | 0             | 0     | 4433             | 664                | 664             | 0    | 5097            |
| 1998–99    | 0                 | 0              | ^0        | 0     | 28                 | 4991       | ^0        | 5018  | ~0                 | 97        | 97    | !0       | 116       | 116   | 0                | 0             | 0     | 5016             | 216                | 216             | 0    | 5232            |
| 1999–00    | 0                 | 0              | ^0        | 0     | 0                  | 5130       | 13        | 5143  | 0                  | 114       | 114   | 0        | !0        | 0     | 0                | 0             | 5130  | 127              | 127                | 0               | 5257 |                 |
| 2000–01    | 0                 | 0              | ^0        | 0     | 0                  | 5162       | 6         | 5168  | 0                  | 32        | 32    | 0        | !0        | 0     | 0                | 0             | 5162  | 38               | 38                 | 0               | 5247 |                 |
| 2001–02    | 0                 | 0              | 7         | 7     | 0                  | 5234       | 0         | 5234  | 0                  | *22       | *22   | 0        | !0        | 0     | 0                | 0             | 5234  | 29               | 29                 | 0               | 5262 |                 |
| 2002–03    | 0                 | 0              | ≈0        | 0     | 0                  | 5375       | 0         | 5375  | 0                  | 17        | 17    | 0        | 0         | 0     | 0                | 0             | 5375  | 17               | 17                 | 0               | 5391 |                 |
| 2003–04    | 0                 | 0              | ≈0        | 0     | †0                 | 4874       | †0        | 4874  | 0                  | *226      | *226  | 0        | 20        | 0     | 0                | 0             | 4874  | 247              | 247                | 0               | 5120 |                 |
| 2004–05    | 0                 | 0              | 0         | 0     | 0                  | 5214       | 0         | 5214  | 0                  | 35        | 35    | 0        | 0         | 0     | 0                | 0             | 5214  | 35               | 35                 | 0               | 5248 |                 |
| 2005–06    | 0                 | 0              | 0         | 0     | 0                  | 5302       | 0         | 5302  | 0                  | 6         | 6     | 0        | 0         | 0     | 0                | 0             | 5302  | 6                | 6                  | 0               | 5308 |                 |

# Note that a further 700t of Australian quota was ‘frozen’ (not allocated) in 1990–91.

^ 1997-98 and 1998-99 WA and SA non-farm catches are included in SA pole and purse seine catch, and in 1999–00 and 2000–01 WA longline catch is included in SA longline due to confidentiality guidelines.

~ 1997-98 to 1998-99 NSW pole and purse seine catches are included in NSW longline catch due to confidentiality guidelines.

! 1997-98 and 1998-99 Tas troll catches are included in Tas longline, and in 1999–00, 2000-01 and 2001-02 Tas longline catch is included in NSW longline due to confidentiality guidelines.

\* 2001-02 and 2003-04 NSW longline catch also includes QLD longline catch due to confidentiality guidelines.

≈ 2002-03 and 2003-04 WA longline catch is included in NSW longline due to confidentiality guidelines.

† 2003-04 SA longline catch is included in NSW longline due to confidentiality guidelines.

‡ 2003-04 additional SA purse seine catch that did not go into farm cages is included in SA farm cages catch due to confidentiality guidelines.

While there are insufficient data at present to quantify the total recreational catches of SBT for 2004–05 and 2005–06, high spatial catch variability was evident from anecdotal reports. 2004–05 was a good season in South Australia but poor elsewhere, especially in Tasmania where the annual southern bluefin tuna tournament produced very disappointing catches of SBT (i.e. no SBT were caught). In 2005–06, South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania experienced a good season for recreational SBT catches.

**Table 6:** Indicative estimates of recreational catch (tonnes) by Australian recreational fishers, 1994 to 2006 (Source: NSW Fisheries).

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Recreational Catch (t)</b> |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 1994        | 16                            |
| 1995        | insufficient data             |
| 1996        | insufficient data             |
| 1997        | insufficient data             |
| 1998        | 38                            |
| 1999        | 3                             |
| 2000        | 10                            |
| 2001        | 60                            |
| 2002        | 85                            |
| 2003        | insufficient data             |
| 2004        | insufficient data             |
| 2005        | insufficient data             |
| 2006        | insufficient data             |

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

In 2005–06, a total of 14 commercial fishing vessels landed SBT in Australian waters.

### ***South Australia***

The one- to five-year-old SBT, which school from late spring to autumn in surface waters of the eastern Great Australian Bight, South Australia, were fished by seven purse seiners during the 2005–06 quota year, but various live bait, pontoon-towing and feeding vessels were also involved. Fishing commenced in mid December 2005 and finished in mid March 2006 for the season. There was some further finishing at the end of November 2006, which falls into this quota year.

### ***Western Australia***

There was no fishing for SBT off Western Australia in the 2005–06 quota year.

### ***New South Wales***

During 2005–06, seven domestic longliners participated at some time in the area of the fishery for older juveniles and adults in deeper waters off NSW. Longline fishing off NSW commenced in early June 2006 and finished at end of September 2006.

## ***Tasmania***

There was no fishing for SBT off Tasmania in the 2005–06 quota year.

## ***Queensland***

There was no fishing for SBT off Queensland in the 2005–06 quota year.

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

Troll catches of SBT were reported as early as the 1920s off the east coast of Australia but significant commercial fishing for SBT commenced in the early 1950s with the establishment of a pole-and-live-bait fishery off New South Wales, South Australia and, later (1970), Western Australia. Purse seine gear overtook pole as the predominant method and catches peaked at 21 500 t in 1982. The bulk of this early Australian catch of SBT was canned. Following quota reductions in 1983–84, the Western Australian pole fishery for very small juveniles closed down and the south-eastern fishery began to target larger juveniles to supply the Japanese sashimi market. Surface catches were further reduced between 1989 and 1995 when about half of the Australian total allowable catch (TAC) was taken by Australia–Japan joint venture longliners in the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ). The joint venture ceased in late 1995. From 1992 to 1998, domestic longliners operating off Tasmania and New South Wales also took around 5–10% of the total Australian catch.

In 1990–91 about 20 t of SBT tuna were transferred to fattening cages in Port Lincoln, South Australia, to enhance their value. Utilisation of the Australian SBT TAC in ‘farming’ operations increased from 3% of the TAC in 1991–92 to 98% in 1999–00 and it has remained at similar high levels since.

Following declaration of the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) in 1979, Japanese longliners fished under a range of bilateral conditions, real time monitoring program and joint-venture arrangements until 1997 when Japanese longliners were excluded from all AFZ fishing operations following failure to reach agreement on global TAC within the CCSBT. Caton and Ward (1996) provide copies of annual subsidiary agreements for the operations of bilateral-licensed longliners in the AFZ from 1979–80 to 1994–95.

## **7. Fisheries Monitoring**

There are a series of logbooks and associated catch records that are required by law to be completed by fishers and fish receivers and sent to AFMA for the purposes of monitoring, compliance and research. The type of form used is dependent on the type of method used to catch SBT in the fishery. All of the data provided from Logbooks and Catch Disposal Records must be supplied to AFMA within specified time periods specific to each record.

### ***Catch Disposal Records***

Catch disposal records for SBT are for recording SBT taken by fishers for the purposes other than farming and are signed by the fishing concession holder and the first receiver immediately after unloading the catch. Catch disposal records provide a means to verify logbook data.

### ***Australian Daily Fishing Log and Farm Transit Log***

A logbook form is required to be completed by fishers when using pelagic longlining or when fishing with minor line methods. The Australian Pelagic Longline Daily Fishing Log is required to be completed for longline fishing. In the purse seine fishery the Master of the catcher vessel (with quota assigned) is required to complete the Australian Purse Seine and Pole Daily Fishing Log – for farmed SBT only. A specific permit called the Farm Transit Log is completed by the holder of the SBT carrier boat permit or representative, and provided to the monitoring company which undertakes the fish count when fish are transferred from tow cages to farm cages.

### ***Farm Disposal Record***

A specific process has been designed to obtain data to allow for research and monitoring from farming operations. An independent company is contracted annually by AFMA to monitor the farming operations. All mortalities that occur during the capture and towing operations must be recorded on the appropriate form and must be available for inspection if requested by an AFMA officer.

When SBT are transferred from tow cages to the fish farms, a video record must be carried out by the AFMA contracted monitoring company. The video recording is then used to undertake a count of the fish that are transferred into the fish farm. This count of captured fish will be multiplied by the average fish weight (derived from a 40 fish sample) and decremented from quota using the Farm Disposal Record. AFMA Compliance Officers observed at sea operations during both the 2005/06 and the 2006/07 seasons.

### ***Observer Program***

Observer programmes for the purse seine fishery have been in place since the 2002/03 season, and for the longline fishery (south-eastern part of the ETBF) since the middle of 2002.

The monitoring arrangements in the SBT fishery continue to be reviewed and refined in order to improve monitoring and compliance. To minimise the risk of non-quota take of SBT by longliners off New South Wales, since 2000, access to the waters through which SBT migrate has been restricted to vessels holding SBT quota.

## **8. Other Factors**

### ***Import/Export Statistics***

The Trade Information Scheme that records all exported Australian fish has been implemented and refined. A Trade Information Scheme (TIS) form is completed by an authorised signatory from the export-registered establishment that is the last to handle the consignment before the product leaves Australia and validated by a Government officer. The form is used for both farmed and non-farmed SBT. This program provides a complete record of SBT exports that can be compared with the Japanese Import Statistics.

### ***Markets***

In 2005/06, 19.5t of SBT were retained for the Australian domestic market.

During the period January 2006 to December 2006, SBT was exported to China (533kg); Great Britain (2,841kg); Hong Kong (158kg); Republic of Korea (489kg); Philippines (10kg); Thailand (74kg); United Arab Emirates (196kg); United States (72t); and Japan (8,561 t).

During the period June 2006 to August 2006 SBT imports from New Zealand amounted to 1,261kg.

### ***Observer Coverage***

#### ***Purse Seine Fishery – Great Australian Bight 2006–07***

The purse seine observer programme for the 2006–07 Australian SBT fishing season monitored fishing and tow operations between 33 and 34°S and 131 and 133°E in January, February and March 2006. One Australian and one South African observer monitored 9 purse seine sets representing 5.6% of the total sets in which fish were taken in 2006–07. From these observations an estimated 280 tonnes of SBT were caught during observed sets representing 5.6% of the estimated tonnage caught for the 2006–07 season. Less than the 10% target coverage occurred during the 2006-07 season due to an unexpectedly low number of sets (effort), and as a result catches, that occurred on the observed voyages. The low level of catches was likely to have been influenced by the time of year and environmental factors.

Observers also monitored and recorded SBT mortalities on two towing operations. Observer coverage on purse seine vessels was limited to January, February and March hence the data is not necessarily representative of the entire fleet over the December to April purse seine fishing season.

#### ***Longline Fishery***

In 2006 in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF), south of 30° S and during the months of May to September (the months in which SBT are usually caught), 17 observers monitored 126 thousand hooks of a season total of 416 thousand, representing 30.2% observer coverage of longline effort. The total catch number of SBT caught while observers were on board was 39 of which 17 were retained, 21 were discarded (20 of which were released alive) and 1 was tagged. Note that tagged fish have not been included as discarded fish. Individual retained fish ranged from 116–193 cm in length. The size distribution of the

discarded ETBF longline catch of SBT from 2002 to 2005 is shown in Figure 1. ETBF logbooks for 2006 showed 6 tonnes (73 fish) of SBT were retained in the ETBF fishery and only 3 (4%) were discarded.

In 2006, in the Southern and Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery 2% of operations were observed. There were no SBT observed caught in the fishery in 2006.

## Appendix 1: SBT Season Dates 1988–89 to 2005–06

| <b>Quota Year</b> | <b>Start Date</b> | <b>End Date</b>   |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1988–89           | 1 October 1988    | 30 September 1989 |
| 1989–90           | 1 October 1989    | 30 September 1990 |
| 1990–91           | 1 October 1990    | 30 September 1991 |
| 1991–92           | 1 October 1991    | 31 October 1992   |
| 1992–93           | 1 November 1992   | 31 October 1993   |
| 1993–94           | 1 November 1993   | 31 October 1994   |
| 1994–95           | 1 November 1994   | 15 December 1995  |
| 1995–96           | 16 December 1995  | 15 December 1996  |
| 1996–97           | 16 December 1996  | 30 November 1997  |
| 1997–98           | 1 December 1997   | 30 November 1998  |
| 1998–99           | 1 December 1998   | 30 November 1999  |
| 1999–00           | 1 December 1999   | 30 November 2000  |
| 2000–01           | 1 December 2000   | 30 November 2001  |
| 2001–02           | 1 December 2001   | 30 November 2002  |
| 2002–03           | 1 December 2002   | 30 November 2003  |
| 2003–04           | 1 December 2003   | 30 November 2004  |
| 2004–05           | 1 December 2004   | 30 November 2005  |
| 2005–06           | 1 December 2005   | 30 November 2006  |
| 2006–07           | 1 December 2006   | 30 November 2007  |