

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 fishermen and fishing vessels.
- It includes a tagging system that requires Japanese fishermen to tag each individual SBT caught for market, 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, and all SBT landings will be inspected by governmental-official inspectors from the Fisheries Agency.
- In the new regulation, not only the producers, 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.