

## **Review of Southern Bluefin Tuna Fisheries of Japan for the 2003 Fishing Season**

### **1. Summary**

- (1) The total amount of catch of SBT for the 2003 fishing season (1 March 2003 - 29 February 2004) was 5,570 MT.
- (2) Japanese distant-water tuna longline fisheries industry has faced a severe business situation due to a fall in the price of tunas caused by a decline of demand for tunas because of the long-term recession of Japan and the continuing high-level import of tunas.

### **2. Management of Catch and Effort for SBT**

- (1) Government of Japan (GOJ) has been managing the catch of SBT for each fishing season based on TAC and national allocations agreed by CCSBT.
- (2) Fishing operations for the 2003 fishing season was set catch limit of 5,839MT, which was subtracted 226MT from a voluntary catch limit of 6,065MT because no agreement was reached for this season at CCSBT Commission.
- (3) Moreover, GOJ has conducted the time/area closure to protect spawning grounds and juveniles.
- (4) Every year 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 limits the total number of vessels for each sub-fishing area.

### **3. Catch and Effort for 2003 period (refer to Appendix 1)**

In the 2003 fishing season, the total amount of actual catch by Japanese fishing vessels was 5,770 MT by 221 vessels. This amount is divided into three sub-regional areas: high seas off Tasmania/Sydney with the catch of 1,556 MT by 53 vessels, high seas off Cape Town with 2,884 MT by 105 vessels and high seas in the Southern Indian Ocean with the catch of 1,074 MT by 63 vessels, respectively. The amount of by-catch was 257 MT.

### **4. Historical Catch and Effort (refer to Appendix 1)**

- (1) In the 1999 fishing season, GOJ set catch limit as 6,065 MT, which was same as for the 1998 fishing season in the absence of the decision on TAC by the Commission. However, following the prescription of provisional measures by International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) concerning the experimental fishing conducted by Japan, the actual catch for the 1999 season was 5,354 MT.
- (2) In the 2000 fishing season, GOJ set the voluntary catch limit as 4,578MT, which was 1,487MT less than that of 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 However, since the provisional measures prescribed by ITLOS was revoked in August 2000, the voluntary catch limit was changed to 6,065MT in September 2000.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 the original catch limit as 6,065MT and GOJ set revised catch limit as 6,421MT after consultations with the relevant Members. The actual catch in the 2001 season was 6,647MT.
- (4) In the 2002 fishing season, fishing operations were set as a voluntary catch limit of 6,065MT, and the actual catch was 6,192MT.

#### **5. The Historical Number of Vessels and Distribution (refer to Appendix 1)**

- (1) In the 1999 fishing season, the number of vessels for SBT was 227, which was 30 vessels less than that of 1998 fishing seasons since Japan cut the number of distant-water tuna longline vessels 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 more vessels were added to the original, and consequently 199 vessels operated for SBT because of the increase of the catch limit in September.
- (3) In the 2001 and 2002 fishing season, the number of vessels for SBT was 227 and 224, respectively.

#### **6. Fisheries Monitoring**

- (1) GOJ issued a notification to the industry that each vessel targeting SBT must report to GOJ every 10days for the management of the catch limit.
- (2) GOJ took necessary measures to control and monitor the fishery including dispatch of enforcement vessels to the fishing area and requirement for fishing vessels to install VMS on-board and to report a daily position to GOJ.
- (3) In the 2003 fishing season, 3 enforcement vessels were dispatched to the SBT fishing grounds.

#### **7. Others factors (refer to Appendix 2 for Japanese import of SBT)**

- (1) From 1995 to 1998, the amount of SBT imported to Japan had significantly increased. From 1998 to 2002, the amount of SBT import had been stable at around just over 10,000MT (product weight).
- (2) The amount of import of SBT in 2003 was 8,244MT (product weight), approximately 2,000 MT less than that of 2002. Of SBT exporting countries, the biggest 4 exporting country/entities (1: Australia, 2: Taiwan, 3: Republic of Korea, 4: New Zealand) accounts for 98.4% of the total amount.
- (3) In 2003, the amount of SBT import from Australia, the biggest exporting country/area of SBT to Japan, was 6,368 slightly decreased from 2002. This amount of SBT accounts for 77.2% of the total import of SBT to Japan.

### Trend in catch and fishing effort in SBT fisheries by Japan

		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	

note: 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)

Source: Japan Trade Statistics, Ministry of Finance

(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
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
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
Korea	75,836	562,573	671,497	1,649,851	1,056,953	785,426	932,889	954,285	491,446
New Zealand	202,636	128,249	88,640	120,176	213,576	212,316	199,813	240,338	260,731
Indonesia	207,758	317,687	368,634	282,265	310,552	127,012	77,528	181,322	48,825
Seychel					1,129		32,435	176,740	
Philippines		182		4,415	69,170	15,041	16,197	54,828	44,678
China *	9,183				373	3,738	3,172	15,173	35,004
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						
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								
Total	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

\*Notes :

Imported SBT from China is originally captured by Japanese vessel and then processed at the factory in China which owned by Japanese company then reimported to Japan. The factory mentioned above was located in the Special Tariff area, therefore these imported tuna is treated specially on tax (reduction of taxes). For this reason Japan has not requested China to attach TIS documents.