



OPRT

Sankaido Bldg. (9th Floor)1-9-13 Akasaka,
Minato-ku ,Tokyo, Japan 107-0052

Tel: 03-3568-6388; Fax:03-3568-6389

Website:<http://www.oprt.or.jp>

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FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF TUNAS

Chinese Taipei's Vessel Scrapping Program

Chinese Taipei Reduces 194 Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels

The consultation between Chinese Taipei(CT) and Japan was held in Tokyo on 2nd June, 2006 for solving the problem of over-fishing capacity of CT tuna longline fishing vessels in high seas. In order to ensure sustainable use of tuna resource, CT agreed to reduce a total of 194 large scale bigeye tuna longline fishing vessels by the end of next year. With reduction of 194, the number of large scale bigeye tuna longline fishing vessels will be reduced to 280 in comparison with 474 vessels registered by CT in 2005.

Last November, CT has already committed to scrapping 160 vessels by the end of this year in compliance with the recommendation by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) regarding control of Chinese Taipei's Atlantic Bigeye Tuna Fishery to rectify CT's excessive catches and laundering activities in bigeye in the Atlantic

CT agreed to scrap additional 34 tuna longline fishing vessels to solve the excessive



scrapping in progress

fishing capacity in other areas than Atlantic as the result of consultation with Japan.

Both Japan and CT also agreed to cooperate in ensuring sustainable tuna resource by tackling the problems such as elimination of IUU fishing and excessive tuna fishing capacity. CT committed to voluntarily refrain from its bigeye longline fishing activities east of 130 degree W of the Pacific.

OPRT Seminar

Does the current global fishing capacity allow sustainable use of tuna ?

-Lecture by Dr. Miyake at OPRT Seminar-

On June 8, OPRT held a seminar for OPRT members including tuna fishing operators, traders and consumers in Tokyo under the theme titled "Does the present global fishing capacity

allow sustainable use of tuna resource? " Dr. Makoto Miyake, expert member of FAO Technical Advisory Committee for management of fishing capacity (FAO TAC), explained the situation that major tuna

species in the world are overly used and emphasized the need to control purse seine fishing capacity and small-size (less than 24 meters in total length) longline fishing capacity in particular.

The outline of the lecture is as follows.

1. Almost all of world tuna stocks except skipjack and albacore in the South Pacific are used very near to the maximum sustainable yields, with a few stocks being overly used. Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) has recommended that the increase in the current level of catch would cause serious impact to the stocks. In short, the world fishing capacity of tuna is in excess. The figure below indicates the world major tuna catches by fishing gears. For almost all gears, the catches are increasing, suggesting increasing trends in fishing capacity. The tuna catch by purse seine exceeded the catch by longline in 1970s and rapidly increased after 1990s. The number of purse seiners did not largely increase, but the efficiency of seiners have been drastically increasing yearly by using more powerful sonar, adoption of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and other technical developments.

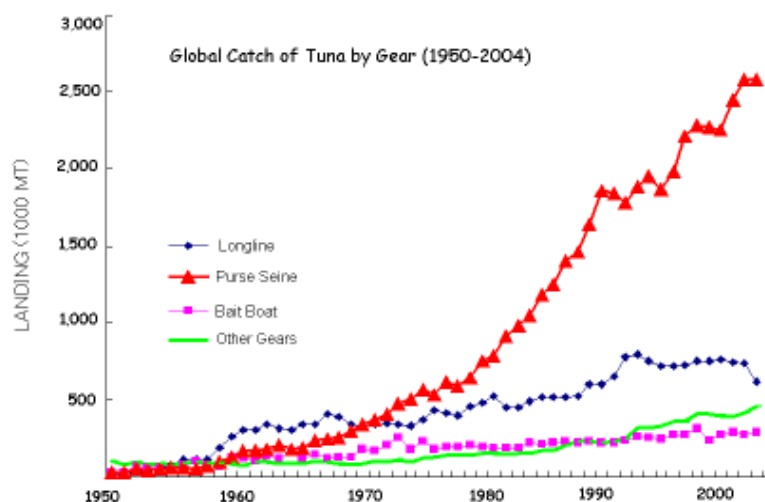
2. International efforts to control fishing capacity are continued. In the beginning of 1990s, IUU (Illegal, Unregulated, Unreported) fishing operations have been rampant and escaped the management measures by RFMOs. ICCAT has taken initiative to tackle with this problem and introduced measures such the statistical document scheme in 1995 to identify the situation of IUU fishing operations. In 1999, International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing was adopted by UN FAO Fisheries Committee.

In the meantime, the issues of excess fishing capacity in the world fisheries have become an increasing concern. In 1997, the FAO Committee of Fisheries (COFI) requested FAO to

address the issue of fishing capacity. Thus, FAO organized a Technical Working Group on the Management of Fishing Capacity. FAO finally adopted the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity in 1999. In the plan, the immediate objective was set to achieve globally by not later than 2005 an efficient, equitable and transparent management of fishing capacity.

But, the plan was not effectively implemented. In fact, the large scale purse-seiners increased by at least 30 % since 1999. Small scale longliners have also significantly increased, while number of large scale longliners have been reduced by various effort to combat IUU activities.

3. Effective and concrete measures to control the global fishing capacity should be urgently introduced. A moratorium on entry of additional vessels in longline and purse-seine regardless the size should be imposed. The positive list scheme should be applied to a smaller vessel less than 24 meter in length as well in order to fill the loophole to eliminate IUU fishing operation. Advanced nations should assist the developing coastal nations for data collection and management of fishing vessels. The joint meeting of Tuna RFMOs scheduled next January in Kobe, Japan will become an important meeting to make the international community to step forward to solve the issue of excess of fishing capacity.



Special Report

Responsible Fisheries was discussed at the IIFET 2006 Portsmouth Conference

Report by
Yoshiaki Matsuda

Professor Emeritus of Kagoshima University, Japan

With 518 participants from 54 countries, the International Institute of Fisheries Economics & Trade (IIFET) was held in Tokyo, two years ago with great success. About 160 participants were from developing countries. The conference theme was **what are responsible fisheries?**

The IIFET 2006 Portsmouth Conference organized by Center for the Economic and Management of Aquatic Resources (CEMARE) was held at the University of Portsmouth, UK during 11-14 July, 2006.

Over 300 researchers were participated in the conference but many from developing countries were missed due mainly to financial problems. The conference theme was **“rebuilding fisheries in an uncertain environment”**. Two hundred and seventy-eight presentations and discussions were carried out at one plenary session except for the last day, five sub-sessions of aquaculture, marketing, modeling, development, policy & management and two special sessions every day.

All presentations and discussions were concentrated on how to improve the current fisheries situations and the conference provided a very good place for communications among fisheries socio-

e c o n o m i c scientists in the world. Both African and Asian Network Groups of Fisheries Socio-Economic Scientists have developed during the conference.



The JIFRS (Japan International Fisheries Research Society) Dr. Yamamoto Session was held on Thursday morning and participated were over 20 people including Dr. Lee Anderson, IIFET 2006 Distinguished Award Winner, Ann Shriver, IIFET Executive Director, Rebecca Lent, Director of Office of International Affairs, NOAA. During the session, Dr. Yamamoto presented FAO Fisheries Statistics and also introduced activities of the Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT). Dr. Yamamoto emphasized the importance of the private initiative such as OPRT to promote responsible fisheries. The idea of responsible fisheries has been accepted among participants and the issues are how to communicate with fishers as well as with governments concerned. There were proposals to have special sessions on Improvement of FAO Fisheries Statistics, Fisheries Extension Service and Responsible Fisheries at the next conference. The JIFRS Yamamoto Prize Competition is for the promotion of responsible fisheries and all participated papers will be published in JIFRS e-Journal beginning in the near future. The conference was closed after the announcement of the next IIFET 2008 conference site as University of Fisheries, Nha Trang, Vietnam. (For details of IIFET, visit website -- URL: <http://www.oregonstate.edu/Dept/IIFET>)



Moves of Regional Tuna Fisheries Management Organizations

All the Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations to Meet next January in Kobe, Japan

A Joint Meeting of Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) will be held from 22nd to 26th January, 2007, in Kobe, Japan hosted by the Japanese Government with UN FAO's technical cooperation. It is the first time that all the five tuna RFMOs in the world (Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission) jointly meet and address the common issues for conservation and management of tuna. The joint meeting was proposed by Japanese government at the Committee of Fisheries (COFI) of FAO held in March 2005 and was supported by COFI. More than 200 people from 76 countries and territories will get together and discuss the issues such as control of excess fishing capacity, elimination of IUU fishing activities and coordination of management measures adopted by RFMOs in order to improve management of tunas.

Conservation of tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean -Current management measures extended-

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) held its annual meeting in Busan, Korea from 26 to 30 June. Fifteen parties including Japan, US, Ecuador, Mexico, Korea participated the meeting. Considering the scientific recommendation, introduction of additional management measures on bigeye and yellowfin tuna were discussed but no agreement was reached. Extension of the current measures for one year, including closure of purse seine fishing for 45 days and bigeye tuna's catch limit of longline fishing, was agreed. Requirement of purse-seine vessels to retain fish including

juvenile tunas on board was also extended for one more year.

IOTC adopted the limitation of number of tuna fishing vessels in the Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) held its 10th annual meeting in Goa, India from May 22 to May 26, with participation of 23 countries including Japan, China, Australia, India plus EU. IOTC adopted the measure to limit the number of tuna fishing vessels in the Indian Ocean to the current level of 2006. Establishing the bigeye tuna catch quota was discussed but it was not adopted since no consensus was made among parties. Concern over the bigeye stock remains unsolved.

Topics

Sushi is tasty – OFCF trainees experience Japan's food culture

On July 27, fisheries trainees of Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation had a special training session at a sushi restaurant in Tokyo with the cooperation of OPRT. They are senior government officials from China, Indonesia,

Morocco, Kiribati and Chile, who participated in the fisheries management training programs provided by OFCF.



During the course of the training, the tasting experience of sashimi and sushi tuna was arranged. OPRT staff briefed on a history of tuna diet in Japan and its cultural background of eating tuna as sashimi. They were all impressed by the traditional fish eating culture in Japan and enjoyed the taste of all dishes. A trainee from China said: "In major cities in China such as Beijing and Shanghai, sashimi and sushi are getting popular."