



# 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>

## NEWSLETTER INTERNATIONAL Dec. 2006, No.12

FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF TUNAS

### Tuna Fishing Capacity

## IATTC Workshop Recommends Substantial Reduction of Existing Fishing Capacity by All Tuna RFMOs

**Joint Tuna RFMO meeting in Kobe next January should address global measures to reduce fishing capacity**

*In response to OPRT's request, Dr. Robin Allen, Director of the IATTC, kindly informed of the results of the workshop on regional economic cooperation in the Pacific fishery for tropical tunas as follows:*

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the University of California held the workshop in La Jolla, California, on October 10-12, 2006, to discuss means of addressing the problem of overcapacity of the tuna fleets in the Pacific Ocean.

The workshop prepared a statement on the issues identifying the need to manage fleet capacity as an essential step in the management of these fisheries. (For the full text of the Statement, see Page 2.)

The workshop followed other studies of overcapacity, most recently the FAO Project on the Management of Tuna Fishing Capacity. It focused more closely on the causes of overcapacity and on incentives that might be used to address these.

Over-capacity is a consequence of the demand for fish exceeding the production of fish stocks, and the price for the fish exceeding the cost of producing it.

Limiting entry to a fishery is often used to try to avoid overcapacity. The IATTC's Regional Register for purse-seine vessels is an example of this. However, the effectiveness of this type of measure often diminishes over time as new technology



*Dr. Allen*

makes existing vessels more efficient and owners invest in uncontrolled inputs to the fishery. Regulations must be regularly adjusted to compensate for innovations in fishing practices.

Providing rights to catch specified amounts of fish is an alternative to regulating inputs. This strengthens the interests of participants in the fishery in conservation. They must make their own adjustments in capacity when they improve the efficiency of their vessels. Restricting the fishery to rights holders and

ensuring that they do not exceed their allocated catches are critical to the success of this approach. That requires more demanding monitoring systems than those generally found in international fisheries. Rights based systems have been used very successfully within countries, but not in any international arena. For international tuna fisheries, they offer improved conservation and profitability, but require the development of much stronger international monitoring and enforcement institutions than those that exist today.

**Comments by Dr. Miyake  
on the Workshop**

Dr. Makoto Miyake, former Assistant Executive Secretary of ICCAT and Expert Member of FAO TAC, who participated in the workshop from Japan, commented as follows:

The Working Group endorsed the statement from the FAO Methodological Workshop on the Management of Tuna Fishing Capacity of

May 2006, which concluded that over fishing capacity has occurred in all tuna fishing at all oceans. (For an excerpt of the FAO statement, see Page 3.)

The workshop recommended to limit the entry of any additional tuna fishing capacity as the first step to address the issue.

The important point is that the joint Tuna RFMO meeting scheduled in Kobe next January should seriously discuss the issue and introduce a global measure to reduce fishing capacity.

(Note) A Joint Meeting of Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations is scheduled for 22nd (Mon.) to 26th (Fri.) January, 2007, at the International Conference Center, Kobe, Japan. The meeting is expected to adopt an Action Plan and Recommendations to further harmonize tuna conservation and management measures among RFMOs.

---

**Statement of the Workshop on Regional Economic Cooperation  
in the Pacific Fishery for Tropical Tunas (La Jolla, Calif.)**

**S**tates and Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) should be encouraged to give the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity full, effective, and immediate implementation.

Management of fishing capacity depends on the target levels for the stock or stocks at which the fishery is directed. The target level for a stock should not be below the level that supports the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). In the setting of target levels, the precautionary approach, the ecosystem approach (as referred to in the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), and socio-economic considerations should be taken into account.

There is a need to provide sufficient resources for the effective operation of RFMOs and for the implementation of their recommended measures. Also, there is a need to ensure the meaningful participation in RFMOs by developing states.

Management of fleet capacity is a necessary, but not sufficient, tool for the management of fisheries. It is, however, an important early step for the effective conservation of the fisheries resources.

The Working Group endorses the statement from the FAO Methodological Workshop on the Management of Tuna Fishing Capacity of May 2006.

In addition, the Working Group recognized that over the longer term it is important to improve conservation and management approaches of the RFMOs. To this end, country allocations of shares of the Total Allowable Catch and other rights-based approaches should be included among the approaches considered for conservation and management.

For the more immediate term, and specifically in regard to the matter of limiting fleet capacity, the Working Group also identified the following actions to be considered by all tuna RFMOs:

1. Substantial reduction of existing fishing capacity by all tuna RFMOs, recognizing that the reduction could vary according to the specific circumstances of the regions, the types of fisheries, and the target species.<sup>1</sup>

2. Implementation or maintenance of an immediate moratorium on the entry of additional tuna fishing vessels into the fishery to limit increases in fleet capacity, without prejudice to the other measures taken by the RFMOs.

3. Creation or maintenance of closed regional registers for all commercial tuna fishing vessels.

4. Development, through coordination of the RFMOs, of a global register of all commercial tuna fishing vessels.

5. Evaluation of buybacks of vessels, of rights to fish, such as permits, and of gear. Increases in profitability of the fishery due to buybacks should justify any initial loans made to vessel owners, and may be the basis of repayment.

6. Addressing the elimination of subsidies, economic incentives, and other factors contributing to overcapacity and overfishing.

7. Development of a system of agreed measures to discourage Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing and to ensure compliance with capacity limits.

These actions, which should be equitable, enforceable, and verifiable, should be applicable to all states and fishing entities, not only to members of the RFMOs, and should involve participation and commitment by other stakeholders.

**(Footnotes)**

<sup>1</sup> For example, the FAO Technical Working Group on the Management of Fishing Capacity, which met in 1998, recommended a 20 to 30% reduction for the large-scale longline fleet. The second meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the FAO project, Management of Tuna Fishing Capacity, which met in 2004, provided an estimate of a 10 to 35% reduction for the purse seine fleet.

**Statement of the FAO  
Methodological Workshop on  
the Management of Tuna Fishing  
Capacity (May 2006)**

**-- An excerpt --**

- A moratorium should be imposed on the entry of additional large-scale tuna vessels into the fisheries until an efficient, equitable and transparent management system of fishing capacity is achieved.
- Within the constraints of capacity limits, the regional tuna fishery management organizations should have a system for allowing the transfer of fishing capacity.
- Any country or fishing entity that has expanded or is expanding its tuna fishing capacity should strengthen its management of fishing capacity as recommended above.
- The regional tuna fishery management organizations should collect information on the numbers, capacities and vessel characteristics for tuna vessels other than purse seiners and longliners (such as pole-and-line vessels and trollers) to determine if excess of capacity exists for these fleets.

**Southern Bluefin Tuna**

**Tough decisions made by CCSBT  
for rebuilding  
southern bluefin tuna stock**

**T**he 13th Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) was held from October 10 to 13 in Japan. Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei, Korea, Philippines, Indonesia and EC participated.

The Commission agreed to reduce the global catch limit from 14,925 metric tons to 11,530 tons to allow the SBT fishery to be rebuilt. Under this agreement, Japan halved its allocated catch (from 6,065 tons to 3,000 tons) for the next five years to deal with its overcatch. Some members agreed to reduce their allocation voluntarily to ensure that the level of catch remains within the level recommended by the Scientific Committee. Japan introduced stricter monitoring and compliance measures for their fleet and

domestic market.

The CCSBT also agreed to develop and implement a number of compliance measures to reduce illegal catch in the fishery. Australia committed to undertake research to investigate uncertainties relating to weight of SBT during farming.

**Japan committed to expedite recovery of Southern Bluefin Tuna stock**

**-Stricter management measures introduced-**

In April 2006, the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) introduced a series of strict management measures designed to ensure the effective management of Japan's southern bluefin tuna (SBT) fishery.

After examining domestic SBT management measures at the beginning of 2006, the FAJ identified areas that needed to be strengthened to improve compliance with fisheries regulations.

The new measures have been enforced since April 2006 and are as follows;

1. An individual catch quota (IQ) of SBT is now allocated to individual vessels and operators. (Previously, fishing was permitted on a first-come first-served basis until the total catch quota was reached).
2. All SBT that is caught is required to be tagged with the IRCS (International Radio Call Sign) of the vessel and a serial number.
3. Landing of SBT is allowed only at ports designated by the FAJ and must be monitored and inspected by FAJ officers. The inspection officers have already been increased accordingly.
4. SBT distributors are now also subject to FAJ controls. Distributors who trade in SBT that is caught in violation of the regulations now face up-to 2-years imprisonment. (Previously, distributors had not been subject to SBT fisheries management measures).

Overall these measures are designed to prevent illegal SBT catch and their entering into the Japanese market. They will be carefully monitored to ensure their effectiveness. Other measures are also in

place, including the deployment of dedicated patrol vessels that monitor SBT fisheries.

**Atlantic Bluefin Tuna**

**ICCAT agreed to reduce TAC of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea and eastern Atlantic Ocean**  
**-Chinese Taipei's catch quota reverted-**

The ICCAT annual meeting was held from November 17 to 26 in Dubrovnik, Croatia, with participation of 42 nations. For rebuilding of bluefin tuna in these areas, which was under over fishing due to the lack of proper enforcement, ICCAT adopted several measures including a gradual reduction in the total allowable catch (TAC) from the current 32,000 tons to 25,500 tons in 2010. National quotas will be determined at a meeting scheduled for next January.

Meanwhile, ICCAT decided to revert Chinese Taipei (CT)'s bigeye tuna catch to previous quotas (14,900 tons) after being satisfied with CT's efforts over the past year in addressing the issue of the alleged overfishing.

**Tuna prices in major cities in the world double that in Tokyo**

The Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries reported the results of its survey on retail prices of tuna for "sashimi" in major cities around the world.

The survey, conducted in November 2005, compared the retail prices of 100 gram of sashimi tuna. It showed that the retail price in Tokyo was almost half of other cities, possibly suggesting that demand of tuna for sashimi and sushi dishes is increasing around the globe.

The price index in comparison with Tokyo (based 100) are as follows.

New York	180
London	260
Geneva	219