



OPRT

NEWSLETTER INTERNATIONAL AUG. 2015, No. 53

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>

FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF TUNAS

OPRT

For the recovery of the Bigeye stock in the WCPO, OPRT called for effective actions by the WCPFC

On July 28, 2015, OPRT sent a letter to Mr. Feleti P. Teo, Executive Director of Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, to call for effective actions toward the recovery of the bigeye stock in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO).

This letter was prepared based on the deliberation and the shared recognition of the OPRT members regarding the current status of tuna stocks in the region, activities of related fisheries and the provisions of the CMMs 2013-01 and 2014-01, at the OPRT membership meeting held on June 1, 2015 in Tokyo. Special attention was given to the recovery of the bigeye stock in the WCPO, deterioration of which has been caused chiefly by increased catches of juveniles in FAD (Fish Aggregating Device) sets in the Purse seine fishery. Five members representing the tuna longline industries in Japan, Taiwan, Korea, the Seychelles and Vanuatu participated in the meeting. All OPRT members were provided with a copy of the letter upon transmission of the letter to the WCPFC.



OPRT members have been deeply concerned about the current status and the future of the bigeye stock in the WCPO. The WCPO bigeye stock is of the greatest importance to our fisheries.

For this stock, overfishing has been continuing for more than a decade. The 2014 stock assessment conducted by the Scientific Committee (SC) demonstrated that overfishing has worsened (F/F_{MSY} : from 1.46(Base case 2011) to 1.57(Base case 2014)) and that the stock had been overfished ($S/S_{latest}/S_{B=0}=0.16$). The SC also provided a number of management recommendations including prescriptions for the recovery of this deteriorated stock. The WCPFC adopted CMM2013-01 at WCPFC 10 as a multi-year management program for the period between 2014 and 2017 covering the WCPO tropical tunas including bigeye. However, the Commission at WCPFC11 was not able to make effective any of the major elements of CMM 2013-01 such as the additional restrictions on operations by purse seiners associated with Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs). These restrictions were to be implemented in 2015 on

the condition that agreements on the measures are adopted at WCPFC 11 which would alleviate burdens onto SIDS. But no such agreements were reached at WCPFC11. Subsequently, no additional measures have been introduced on FAD settings or the establishment of schemes for reduction of the overcapacity of purse seine vessels. Without the implementation of those major elements of CMM2013-01, this multi-year program will not be truly workable or effective to realize the objectives including that for bigeye.

This situation shall be rectified without delay. Actually, the Vice-Chair of the Commission at the afternoon session on the last day of WCPFC 11 called for the utmost efforts from CCMs in this regard by mentioning that "CCMs will have to meet between this meeting and the next meeting and hopefully find some middle ground and bring proposals forward that are well considered." The Vice-Chair continued "this was really the Commission's main task" (paragraph 323. of the Summary Report of WCPFC 11).

The OPRT members hope the following views will be reviewed by the Executive Director and the parties of the WCPFC and reflected in their work in preparation for and deliberations at WCPFC12:

1. It shall be recalled that a series of CMMs responsible for the conservation and management of WCPO tropical tunas (CMMs 2012-01, 2013-01 and 2014-01) have the identical objective regarding bigeye stipulating that "the fishing mortality rate for bigeye will be reduced to a level no greater than F_{MSY} , i.e. $F/$

$F_{MSY} \leq 1$. This objective shall be achieved through a step by step approach through 2017 in accordance with this measure.”

Effective and fair measures shall be adopted at WCPFC12 in order to realize this objective to the maximum extent possible, and the measures should be implemented without delay. Those measures shall include the major elements of CMM 2014-01, in particular, further reductions in the number of FAD settings for the years (in and) after 2015 and the reduction of overcapacity for purse seine fleets. Those elements are indispensable for reduction in the fishing mortality rate for bigeye and may have to be reinforced, as necessary, based on updated stock assessments and management recommendations provided by the SC;

2. Rigorous and comprehensive monitoring on small scale longline fisheries shall be conducted and the timely introduction of strengthened management measures for those fisheries should be considered, as necessary, with the view to promoting the conservation and management of tropical tunas including bigeye, taking into account the recent situation in which the overall fishing capacity of small scale longline fleets has increased in recent years, and the number of vessels recently equipped with freezing capacity has also increased.

Each OPRT member is requested to make a request to its own government for expending its best efforts toward the recovery of the WCPO bigeye stock, reflecting the views expressed in the letter of OPRT to the WCPFC.

IOTC

19th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

- **Marlin Catches to be reduced to average levels for past 6 years**
- **Established the FADs Working Group**

The IOTC held its 19th Session from April 27 to May 1, in Busan, Republic of Korea. A new management measure was adopted to encourage members and cooperating non-members to reduce catches of striped marlin, black marlin and blue marlin in 2016 to the average catches for the period between 2009 and 2014. It also agreed to establish the Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) Working Group and set the maximum number of active instrumented buoys followed by any purse seine vessel at any one time at 550.

The decision was made for those marlins, in response to the recommendations made in the 2014 sessions of the Working Party on Billfish and the Scientific Committee, regarding the status of some billfish stocks which called for the reduction in fishing pressure or catches.

Regarding FADs operated by purse seine vessels, the installation or operation of surface or submerged artificial lights for the purpose of aggregating tuna, etc. is prohibited.

Although this is the first time to limit the number of active FADs operated by a purse seine vessel, some have observed

that such a measure will have little effect with respect to strengthening the conservation and management for relevant tropical tuna species including bigeye and yellowfin because the maximum number (550 active buoys) seems too large in light of the numbers of buoys that are actually used in purse seine operations conducted in the Indian Ocean.

The next Session of IOTC will be held in Réunion in May, 2016.

Current Measures continue for bigeye: IATTC

Discussion on the recovery of bluefin continues

At the 89th Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) held in Guayaquil, Ecuador from June 29 to July 3, members discussed conservation and management measures for tunas in the eastern Pacific.

As for conservation and management measures for bigeye and yellowfin, members decided to continue the current measures in 2016. Purse seine fishing will be prohibited for 62 days in the Convention Area and also a one-month-long prohibition in the designated area will be implemented. For longline fishing, national catch quotas for bigeye will apply to four members including Japan.

For Pacific bluefin, the current measures adopted last year will also apply in 2016: for commercial fisheries, the annual upper catch limit will be 3,300 tons for 2015 and 2016, respectively and catches for these two years combined should not exceed 6,600 tons in any case. The member states concerned are encouraged to reduce the amount of catch of juveniles of 30kg or less to the levels not greater than 50% of the total bluefin catch, and a review will be conducted on fishing operations in 2015 at the next year’s annual meeting.

The US presented a proposal to establish a recovery program for the Pacific bluefin stock and discussion will be continued on this issue.

The US proposed a two-story program to first recover the stock to the historical median level of the spawning biomass (SB) (approximately 43 thousand tons) by 2024 and thereafter to the ultimate target level, i.e. 20% of the initial SB (approximately 120 thousand tons) by 2030. To this end, the US argues that conservation and management measures should be adopted to attain both goals with the probability of 60% or larger. The US also suggested that projections should be carried out on the trends of the SBs according to various ways of reduction in the catch with the view to determining specific contents of the measures. Japan responded that it was not able to agree to the US proposal because it is not realistic mentioning that the vast majority of juvenile bluefin are caught in the western part of the Pacific Ocean and the consequent effect on the Japanese fisheries. Japan proposed to deal with the issue of long-term recovery goals for the Pacific bluefin

at the forthcoming meeting of the Northern Committee of the WCPFC to be held in September this year.

The next annual meeting of the IATTC will be held in July, 2016 in La Jolla, USA.

OPRT General Meeting

OPRT further promotes responsible tuna fisheries for ensuring sustainable use

OPRT held its 2015 Ordinary General Meeting on June 2 in Tokyo. President Yoshio Tsutsumi expressed in his opening remarks his strong concern over the status of the bigeye stock in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO), which was determined as “overfished” by the Scientific Committee of the WCPFC at its meeting held in August, 2014. The WCPO provides the largest amount of tuna catches in the world.

Mentioning as positive achievements the increases which were adopted last year in quotas for Atlantic bluefin tuna by ICCAT and southern bluefin tuna by the CCSBT, respectively, Tsutsumi stated that “the WCPFC failed to attain agreements at its Regular Session in December, 2014 that should have led to reductions in the number of sets by purse seine vessels associated with Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD sets) for 2015 and years ahead, as set forth in CMM2013-01. Since the degradation of the WCPO bigeye stock is deemed continuing without the timely introduction of conservation and management measures necessary for the recovery of this stock, this situation has damaged the credibility of the WCPFC as the RFMO responsible for the conservation and management of tuna and tuna like species in the WCPO. We strongly request the WCPFC at the earliest opportunity to adopt and implement effective and fair measures for tropical tuna stocks that will realize the recovery of the WCPO bigeye and also request the governments of member states to expend their utmost efforts in this regard”. Among guests, Mr. Shingo Kurohagi, Director of the Fisheries Coordination Division, FAJ, in his remarks stated “Increases in quotas for Atlantic bluefin and southern bluefin are positive signs resulting from unremitting efforts to eliminate IUU fishing activities. On the other hand, we face difficult problems such as the degradation of the WCPO bigeye stock, and the increase in the catch of tunas by small scale longline vessels, and the FAJ will continue to endeavor to support OPRT’s activities.”

In FY 2015, OPRT continues to work with the view to promoting the sustainable use of tuna stocks through the following activities: management of the total number of large scale longline tuna vessels registered to it; monitoring tuna products imported into the Japanese market; other activities to eliminate IUU fishing; and, a campaign to promote the consumption of wild sashimi tuna harvested by longline operations in a responsible manner.

OPRT also continues seeking for the adoption and implementation of effective and fair measures for the recovery of the

WCPO bigeye as a top priority, and the use of stereo video cameras for the accurate counting of southern bluefin tuna that are introduced to rearing pens in Australia.

Tsukiji Market moves to Toyosu

Mr. Urawa made a presentation about the new market to be located in the “Toyosu” area.

At the 1st OPRT Seminar held on June 2 in Tokyo, Mr. Eisuke Urawa, Director of the New Market Project Division, Tokyo Metropolitan Fisheries Wholesalers Association, made a presentation on the new Toyosu Market which is planned to enter into operation in November 2016 to replace the Tsukiji Market as the major wholesale market for fisheries products.

He emphasized “New market buildings will be fully enclosed structures, and market facilities will be fully covered by temperature conditioning and will be maintained at high hygienic levels.”

It has been 80 years since the Tsukiji Wholesale Market was established and the market facilities have become fairly old for use in recent years. When it opened for business 80 years ago, commodities were carried in by rail. Recently, only trucks have been used to carry commodities in and out, and the lines of flow for commodities have become complicated within the market site. Since the structure of the main market facilities is open-sided, temperature control is inadequate and some corners tend to be subject to the effects of weather such as wind and rain.

Overcrowded and cramped facilities which have developed in the market site over the years also pose inconveniences and difficulties.

The site of the New Toyosu Market will cover 40.7ha (as compared to 23ha for the Tsukiji Market) and three independent buildings- one for the fish wholesale market, one for the fish intermediate wholesale market and the other for the wholesale and intermediate wholesale markets for vegetables and fruits- will be constructed across high-level boulevards from each other and the flow of commodities will be connected between



the buildings through passes underneath the boulevards. In the Tsukiji Market, all facilities of those three markets are located on one lot of land.

Those three buildings of the Toyosu Market which are now under construction will be fully enclosed structures. Strict temperature controls will be maintained at 10.5°C for the fish wholesale building, 25°C for the fish intermediate wholesale building and 23°C for the greengrocery market building.

While facilities of the Tsukiji Market are located on the same single level, those of the Toyosu Market will be placed in multi-story buildings and, therefore, the vertical flow of commodities between the stories will take place. Auction areas for tuna species will be located on the 1st floor of the fish wholesale building.

Information technology systems such as in-house LANs and common platforms for monitoring and managing the entry-and-exit records will be utilized to facilitate the efficiency of work and promote communications among workers of the new market buildings.

In order to ensure the safety of foods, continuous cold chains will be established and maintained within the facilities, and the commodities will be free from outside weather including rain and high temperatures.

Hygienic conditions in the market facilities will be ensured through strict controls which are designed and conducted on a section-by-section basis. The work environment in the Toyosu market, where areas outside- and inside the enclosed buildings are clearly recognized, are expected to promote significantly the hygiene consciousness of the workers.

A much more effective and efficient flow of commodities will be realized. For the Tsukiji Market, parking spaces for visiting buyers and spaces for the disposal of goods are far deficient, but in the Toyosu Market, there will be ample spaces for parking and traffic can be controlled by utilizing the relevant information systems that will lead to the smooth entry to- and exit from- and/or movements within the market yards. Access traffic lanes will be separated according to different types of vehicles and business purposes.

The relocation of the fish wholesale market from Tsukiji to Toyosu will bring about significant changes in market facilities and contents of work. The significance of the changes may be considered as innovative or revolutionary rather than as improvements. In the Tsukiji Market, more than 10 thousand people of various professions, including wholesalers, intermediate wholesalers, visiting buyers and transporters are involved in their business activities within the market on a daily basis for decades.

However, they will have to restructure their work because in the new market they will be expected to handle perishable commodities with new market facilities and traffic flows in an effective and efficient manner.

There is no precedent for setting up a fish wholesale market to replace such a large scale fish market as the Tsukiji Market in which a tremendous variety of fish commodities are handled and transaction activities such as auctions are conducted. Under the circumstances, unless the people involved in setting up the Toyosu Market show their determination in creating a new world's largest fish market, Toyosu Market will not function

well.

Mr. Urawa works hard with the view to realizing the innovated functions of fish wholesalers, the expanded distribution of goods and advanced information systems for the new market. To this end, he is vigorously involved in various coordinating processes to come up with specific policies which are necessary well in advance for setting up the Toyosu Market.

Toyosu Market is scheduled to start its business in November next year.

White Paper on Fisheries: Summary

- Sashimi Tuna Campaign -

OPRT's Sashimi tuna campaigns appear in the "FY 2014 White paper on Fisheries" issued by the Government of Japan.

Wild sashimi tuna campaigns conducted by OPRT were mentioned in the "FY 2014 White paper on Fisheries" which was published by the Japanese Government on May 22.

This column deals with the 2014 Campaign by OPRT along with the activities of the Japan Tuna Cooperative. In cooperation with the Federation of Fish Retailers Cooperatives (Zensuisho-ren), OPRT ran a two-week long "Wild sashimi tuna Campaign" including Maguro-Day, "October 10", with approximately 230 fresh fish retail shops in all regions of Japan. In 2014, under the slogan "Discovery of Wild Sashimi-Tuna!", such materials as leaflets and posters were prepared to feature the basic information regarding the tuna species which are utilized for sashimi and sushi, the characteristics of longline tuna operations and the nutritional merits of sashimi tuna meat. In addition, blocks of sashimi tuna("saku") were presented to winners of the the lottery which was conducted early in November and for which application forms were accepted during the campaign period.

Through the above-mentioned activities, OPRT tried to disseminate the charm and merits of wild sashimi tuna for expanded consumption".

OPRT also plans to run the 2015 Campaign this autumn.

事例 「まぐろの日」キャンペーン（(一社)責任あるまぐろ漁業推進機構、全国水産物商業協同組合連合会、日本かつお・まぐろ漁業協同組合）

（一社）責任あるまぐろ漁業推進機構（OPRT）は、全国水産物商業協同組合連合会と連携し、まぐろの日とされている10月10日を中心に、全国の鮮魚小売店約230店において「天然・刺身マグロキャンペーン」を行っています。平成26（2014）年のキャンペーンでは「マグロ再発見！」を標語とし、マグロの種類や漁獲方法、栄養面等を伝えるパンフレットを店頭で消費者に配布したほか、マグロを抽選でプレゼントする企画を実施し、マグロの魅力を変えて消費者に訴え、その消費拡大を図りました。

また、日本かつお・まぐろ漁業協同組合は、まぐろの日にちなみ、平成26（2014）年10月に小学5年生の授業用に「遠洋まぐろはえ縄漁業の教材セット」の無償提供を行いました。セットには、マグロの種類やまぐろはえ縄漁法についての説明パンフレット・ポスターやDVD、実際のはえ縄漁業で使う釣り針、メバチマグロのビニール風船等が含まれています。70校を超える小学校から応募があり、この教材を使って、多くの子供達が日頃食べているマグロがどこでどのように獲られているかを学びました。また、遠洋まぐろはえ縄漁業に親んでもらうこと、マグロの本当のおいしさを知ってもらうことを目的として、14の小学校で組合職員が先生となって出前授業を実施し、その出前授業の中でメバチマグロ漬丼の試食を行ったところ、子供達から「こんなおいしいマグロを食べたことがない」等の感想が寄せられました。さらに、10月10日と30日に、主として女性層を対象としたマグロの料理教室を実施しました。日本かつお・まぐろ漁業協同組合は、こうした取組を通じ、もっと消費者にまぐろ漁業とマグロに親んでもらうよう工夫していきたいとしています。