

Does vertical shear current affect catch rates of tuna longline fisheries and do we need in CPUE standardization?

Preliminary study for yellowfin, bigeye, albacore and swordfish exploited by Japanese tuna longline fisheries in the Indian Ocean (1980-2015)

Part I: Basic study (this document)
Part II: Examination in CPUE standardization (to be conducted in the future)

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Abstract

We investigated effects of vertical shear currents on tuna longline fisheries (LL) for three LL categories in terms of number of hooks between floats, i.e., shallow/Regular, Deep and Ultra-deep. As a case study, we analyzed nominal CPUE from Japanese tuna LL operating in the Indian Ocean and covered four species, i.e., YFT (yellowfin tuna), BET (bigeye tuna), ALB (albacore tuna) and SWO (swordfish). Major fishing ground of each species was used for analyses. As for vertical shear currents data, we used Global Ocean Data Assimilation System (GODAS) data available in National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) (NOAA, USA). We classified vertical shear currents data into three classes, i.e., Strong, Medium and Low and applied also for major fishing grounds of four species. We analyzed month and 1°x1° based data for 36 years (1980-2015). Followings are summary of this study:

- There are a number of uncertainties in this study, thus results should be looked with caution;
- Four major uncertainties are (a) vertical shear currents data are derived by assimilations, (b) time-area scales of vertical shear currents are unknown, (c) actual LL depth ranges may be different from predicted ones and (d) materials of main and branch lines, which were not used in this study;
- Although there are a number of uncertainties, we could get results very close to predicted ones in case for BET and ALB, while not for YFT and SWO, which particularly disturbed by uncertainties, (c) and (d);
- It will be worth to attempt CPUE standardization incorporating vertical shear currents and line materials in the future (Part II). In such case, we also need to use other influential environmental factors because effects on nominal CPUE may be integratedly created; and
- The IOTC First CPUE workshop (2013) suggested that CPUE standardization should be conducted in specific areas (not whole Indian Ocean), where the variability pattern of the environmental signature is well identified. Thus, the future study may be a good opportunity to examine this suggestion.

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1. INTRODUCTION

We investigated effects of vertical shear currents on tuna longline fisheries (LL) for three LL categories in terms of number of hooks between floats, i.e., shallow/Regular, Deep and Ultra-deep. As a case study, we analyzed nominal CPUE from Japanese tuna LL operating in the Indian Ocean and covered four species, i.e., YFT (yellowfin tuna), BET (bigeye tuna), ALB (albacore tuna) and SWO (swordfish). Major fishing ground of each species was used for analyses. As for vertical shear currents data, we used Global Ocean Data Assimilation System (GODAS) data available in National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) (NOAA, USA). We classified vertical shear currents data into three classes, i.e., Strong, Medium and Low and applied also for major fishing grounds of four species. We analyzed month and $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$ based data for 36 years (1980-2015).

2. DATA

(1) Japanese tuna longline fisheries data in the Indian Ocean

We use set-by-set nominal CPUE data (YFT+BET+ALB+SWO) available in the database of National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries for 36 years (1980-2015) by year, month and $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$ block. We excluded low effort data (number of hooks less than 1,000).

(2) Shear currents

We used horizontal currents data available in the NCEP Global Ocean Data Assimilation System (GODAS) monthly data (<http://cfs.ncep.noaa.gov/cfs/godas/monthly>) (1980-2015). The original data include temperature, salinity and horizontal currents (u , v) digital data for 28 depth layers, i.e., every 5 m starting from 5m depth to 225m with extra 4 deeper depth layers, i.e., 5m, 15m, 25m, 35m, 45m, 55m, 65m, 75m, 85m, 95m, 105m, 115m, 125m, 135m, 145m, 155m, 165m, 175m, 185m, 195m, 205m, 215m, 225m, 238m, 262m, 303m, 366m and 459m.

The resolutions of the original data is $(1/3)$ degrees in latitude and 1 degree in longitude. These depth specific data were estimated by assimilation using the spatial models developed by the NCEP. For details refer to the above mentioned web site.

The vertical shear currents, as defined by Bigelow et al (2006), is calculated throughout the water column, as an integration of the horizontal current (\bar{u}) from the near-surface to a given depth (Z), usually defined as the maximum depth reached by the hooks of the longline gear:

$$K = \log \left(\frac{\int_0^z \left\| \frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial z} \right\| dz}{Z} \right)$$

that can be approximated by

$$\tilde{K} = \log \left\{ \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \left[\left(\frac{u_{n+1} - u_n}{z_{n+1} - z_n} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{v_{n+1} - v_n}{z_{n+1} - z_n} \right)^2 \right]^{1/2} (z_{n+1} - z_n)}{\sum_{n=1}^N (z_{n+1} - z_n)} \right\}$$

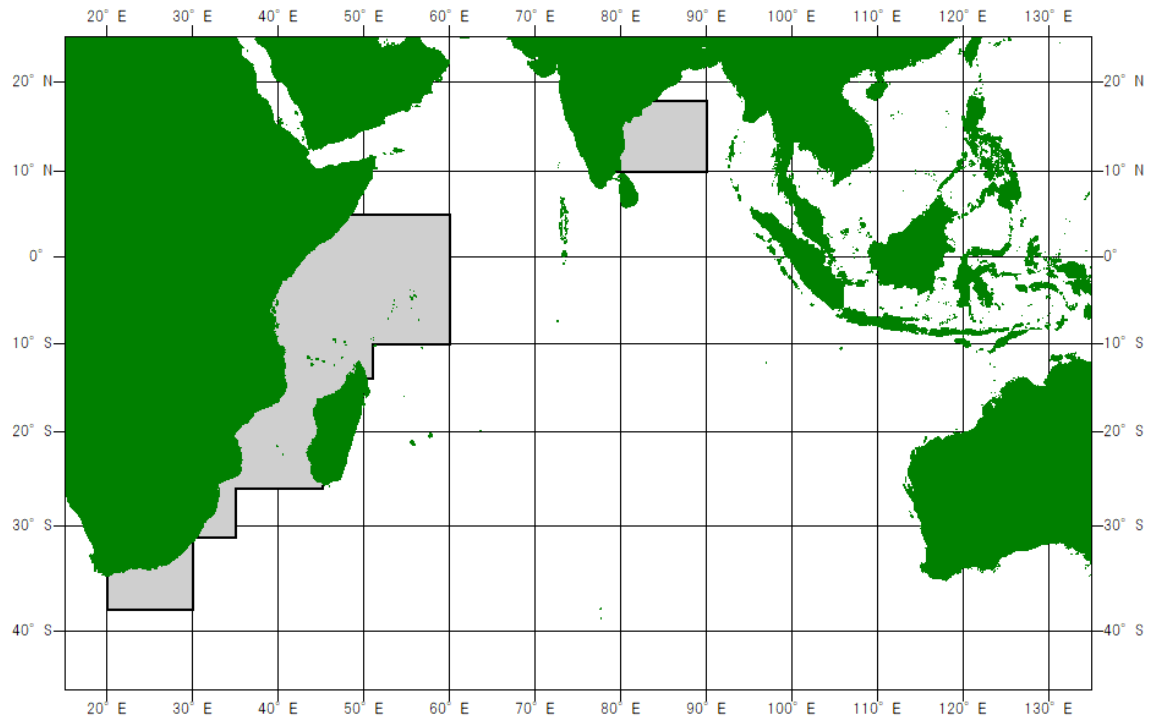
where \tilde{K} is the log-transformed vertical shear [(cm/second)/m], u_n the zonal (east-west) velocity (cm/second) component of layer n , v_n the meridional (north-south) velocity (cm/second) component of layer n and z_n is the depth (m) of layer n . The vertical shear currents in this study was estimated from the NCEP model by integrating from 5m to 366 m. We estimated the vertical shear currents by year, month and $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ block (same resolution as for nominal CPUE data).

3. STUDY AREAS

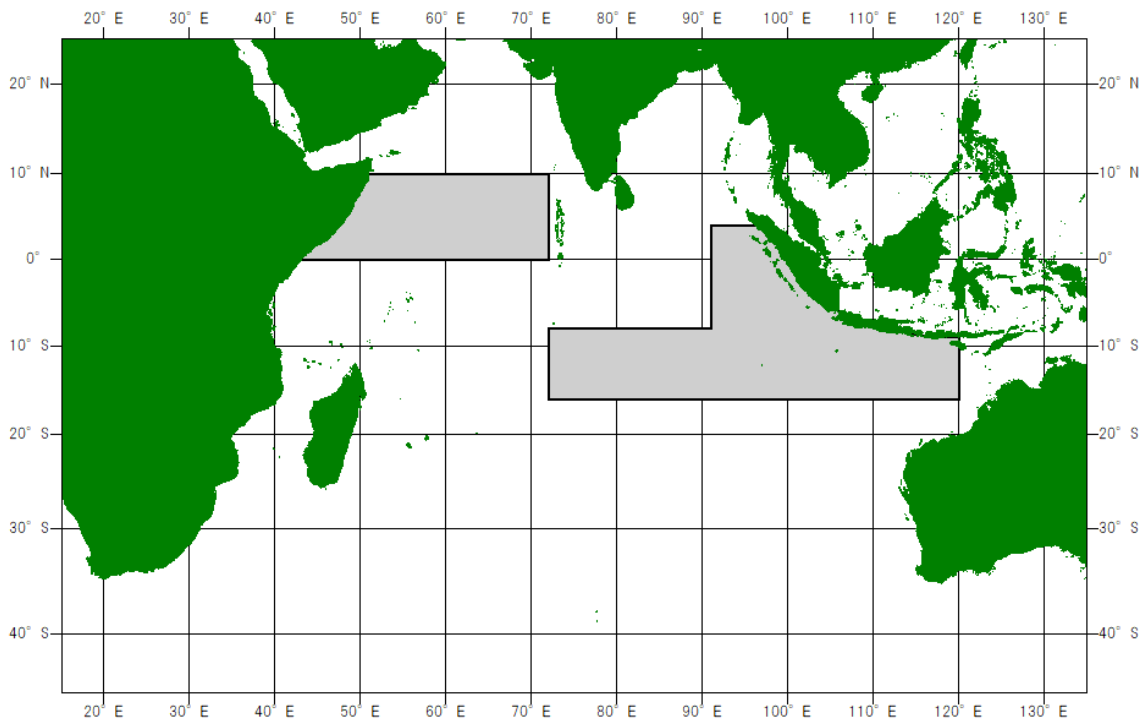
We define major fishing grounds of Japanese tuna longline fisheries for four species in 36 years as follows: First we excluded 0 catch (CPUE) data, then we extracted average nominal CPUE more than top 25 % tiles by species. Table 1 shows the threshold values of 25% tile by species. Maps 1-4 show study areas defined as good (high nominal CPUE) fishing grounds.

Table 1 Threshold values of nominal CPUE defined as good fishing grounds for BET+YFT+ALB+SWO. Threshold values are the top 25% tile of the non-zero nominal CPUE by species.

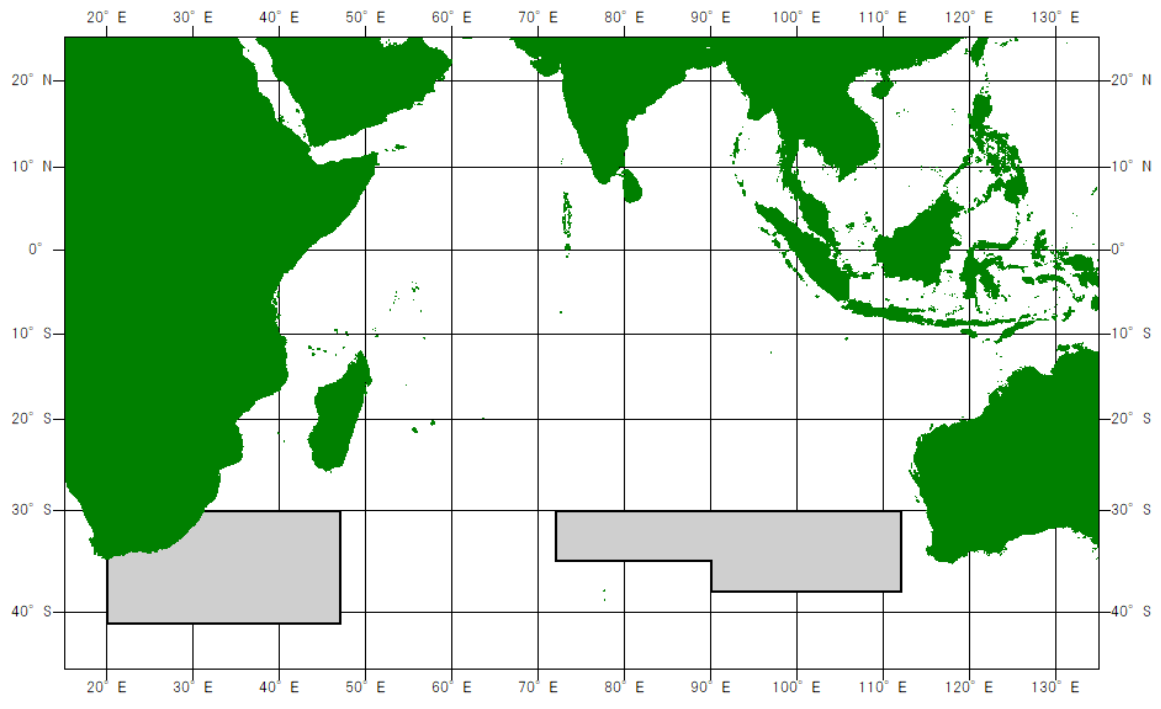
Species	Threshold values of nominal CPUE define as good fishing grounds (number of fish/1,000 hooks)
YFT (Yellow tuna)	5.99
BET (Bigeye tuna)	6.15
ALB (Albacore tuna)	6.07
SWO (Awordfish)	0.85



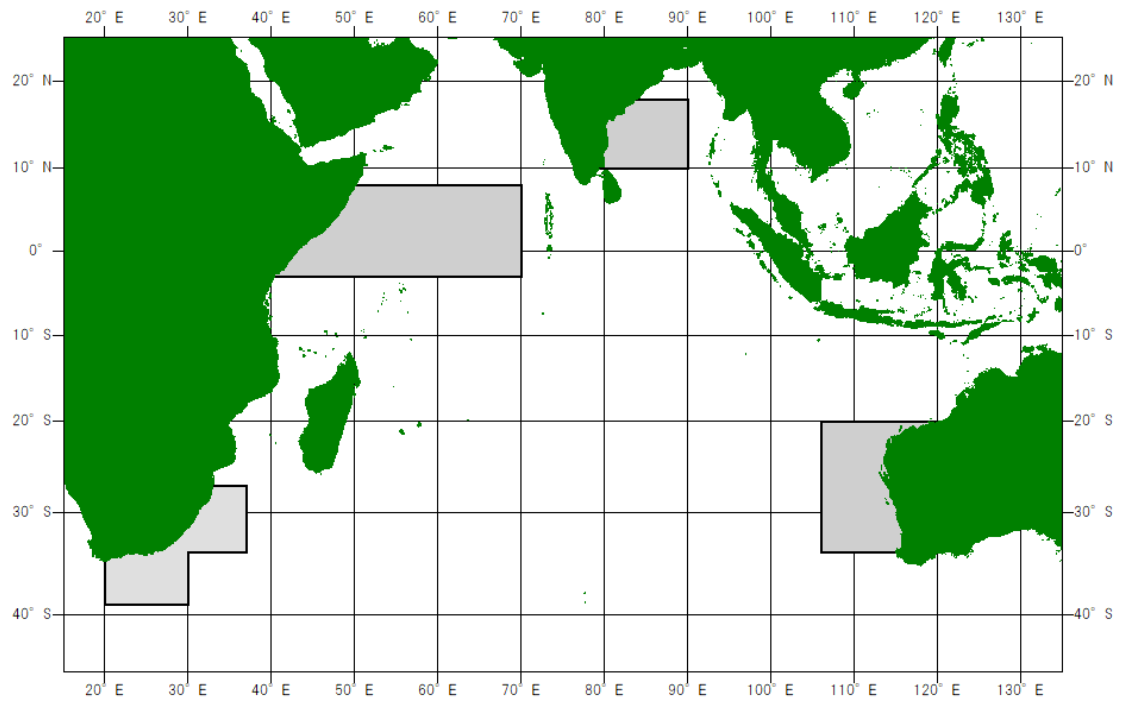
Map 1 Study area (Yellowfin tuna)



Map 2 Study area (Bigeye tuna)



Map 3 Study area (Albacore tuna)



Map 4 Study area (Sworfish)

4. ANALYSES

4.1 Data set-up

In order to study vertical shear currents effects on nominal CPUE meaningfully, we investigated effects for three different types of longline gears, i.e., Shallow and Regular LL (4-10), Deep LL (11-16) and Ultra deep (17-30) (unit: number of hooks between floats) .

Fig. 1 shows historical changes of number of hooks between floats in the Indian Ocean. Shallow/Regular LL and Deep LL dominate before 1990, afterwards Deep LL and Ultra-deep LL.

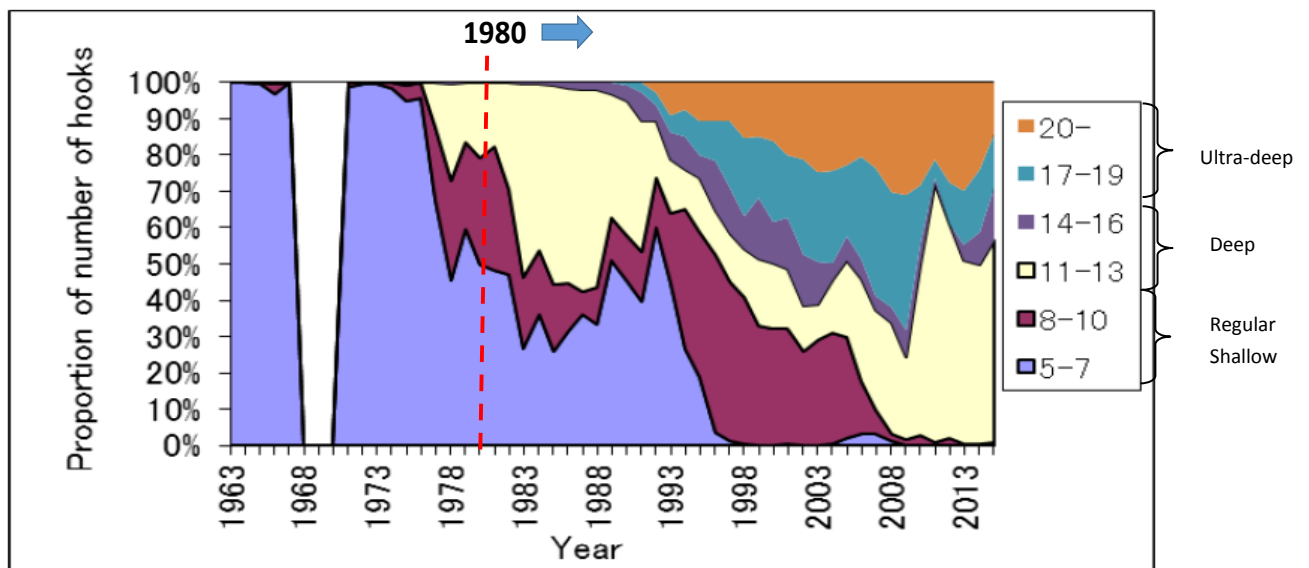


Fig.1 Historical change of number of hooks between floats in the Indian Ocean

[Note] Shallow/Regular LL: 5-10, Deep: 6-16 and Ultra deep: 17 or more

(unit) number of hooks between float

Similarity vertical shear currents [s] are categorized by three classes [unit: (m/s)/m] , i.e., High (strong) ($[s] \leq -4$), Medium ($-4 < [s] \leq -3$) and Low ($-3 \leq [s]$). Then, we merged nominal CPUE and vertical shear currents by species, year, month, $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ area, LL type and shear class.

4.2 Results of relations between the vertical shear and nominal CPUE

Box 1-4 shows results of the relations between vertical shear currents and nominal CPUE by species, LL type and shear class using the box plots.

4.3 Multiple comparisons among medians of three classes of vertical shear currents

Boxes 1-4 also show the results of multiple comparisons among medians of three classes of vertical shear currents by species and LL type to examine if there are statistical significances among three shear classes ($Pr < 0.01$). We used the Steel-Dwass non-parametric statistical multiple comparison test among medians available in pSDCFlig function of the NSM3 package in “R” language. We used the asymptotic method.

4.4 Interpretation of results

Results represented in Boxes 1-4 may be complicated to understand, hence we interpret using one real example as shown in Fig. 2.

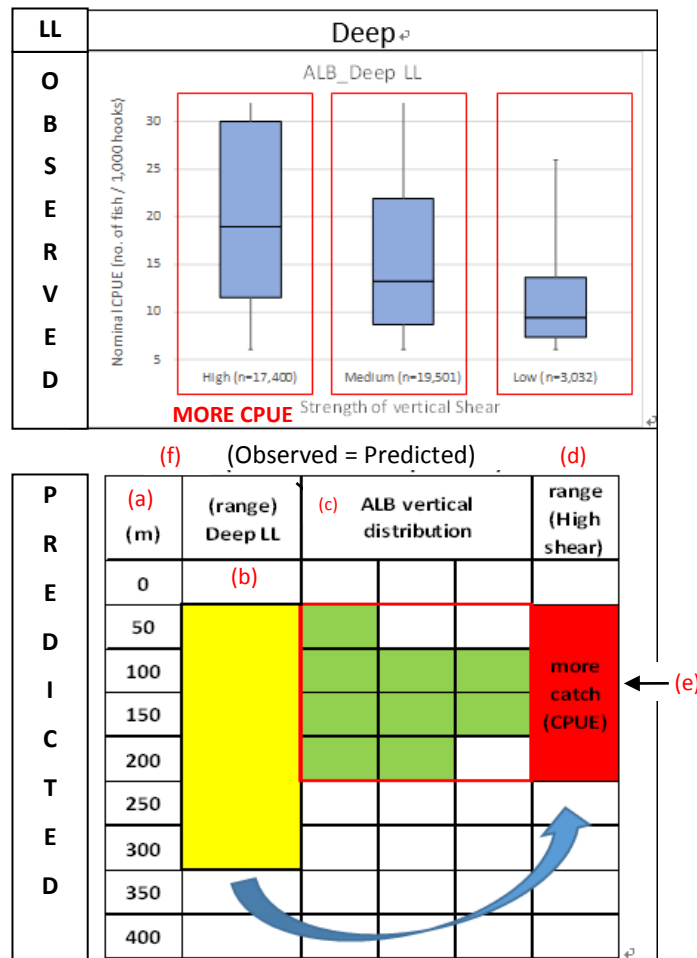


Fig. 2 Interpretation of results (Boxes 1-4) using an example (above)

Legends (left part)

OBSERVED and PREDICTED

“Observed” represents results based on real data analyses in this study, while “Predicted”, for predicted results based on average situation from past studies listed in References (page 13-17) (e.g., Kanaiwa *et al*, 1998 and Nishi, 1990).

Legends (upper part)

Deep

Type of longline (there are three types in this study, i.e., shallow/Regular, Deep and Ultra deep LL)

Box plots

Y-axis: Nominal CPUE (number of fish/1,000 hooks) (*shaded area represents 25% tile, Median and 75% tile*).
X-axis: three classes of vertical shear magnitudes (*High, Medium and Low*)

Red Rectangle

Indicating statistically significant groups among three medians ($Pr < 0.01$) based on the Steel-Dwass multiple comparison test among medians.

MORE CPUE

MORE CPUE (in this case) means that CPUE was increased during high vertical shear currents, comparing to CPUE during median and low currents.

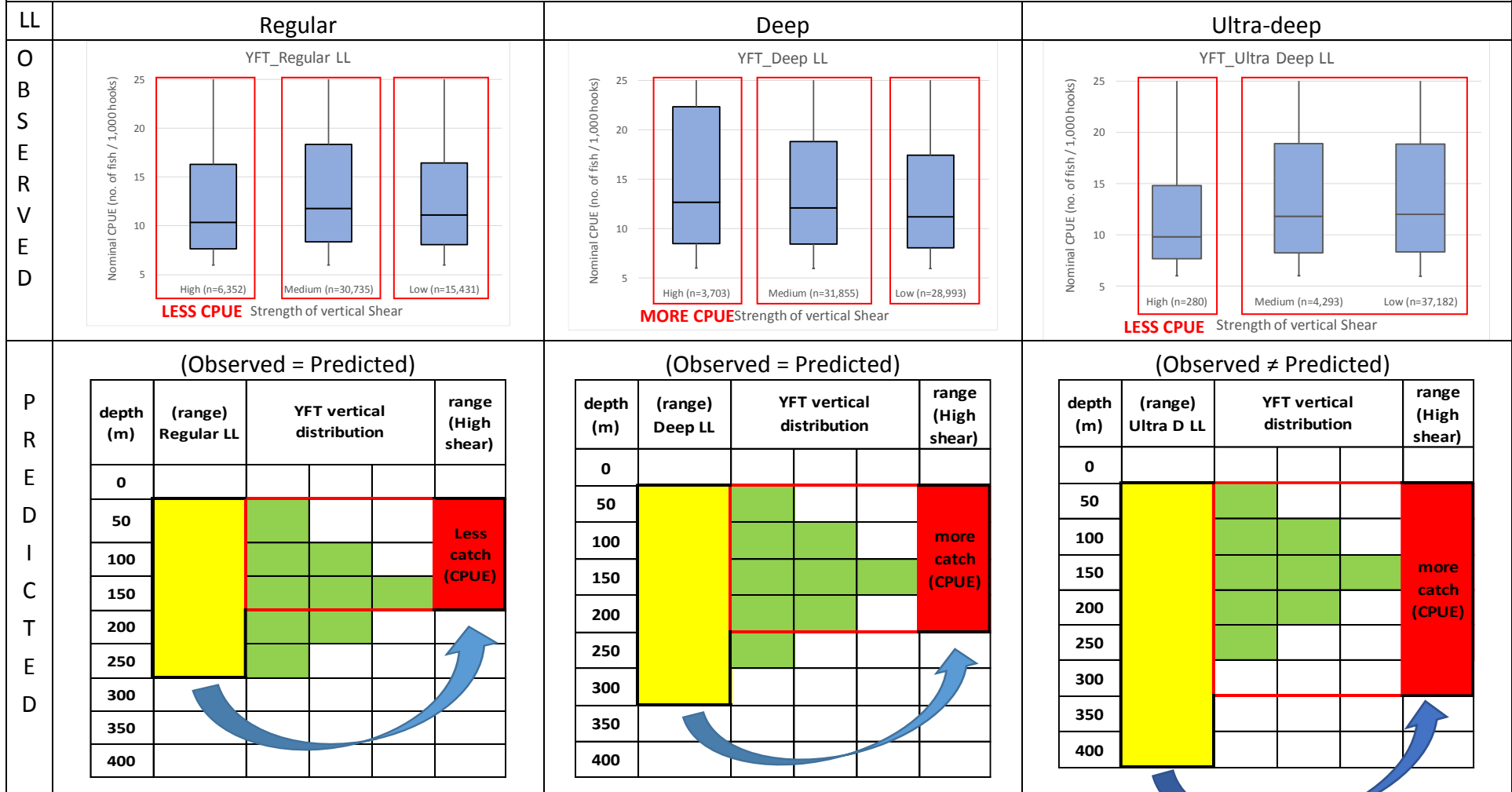
Legends (lower part)

Color Illustrations (from left)

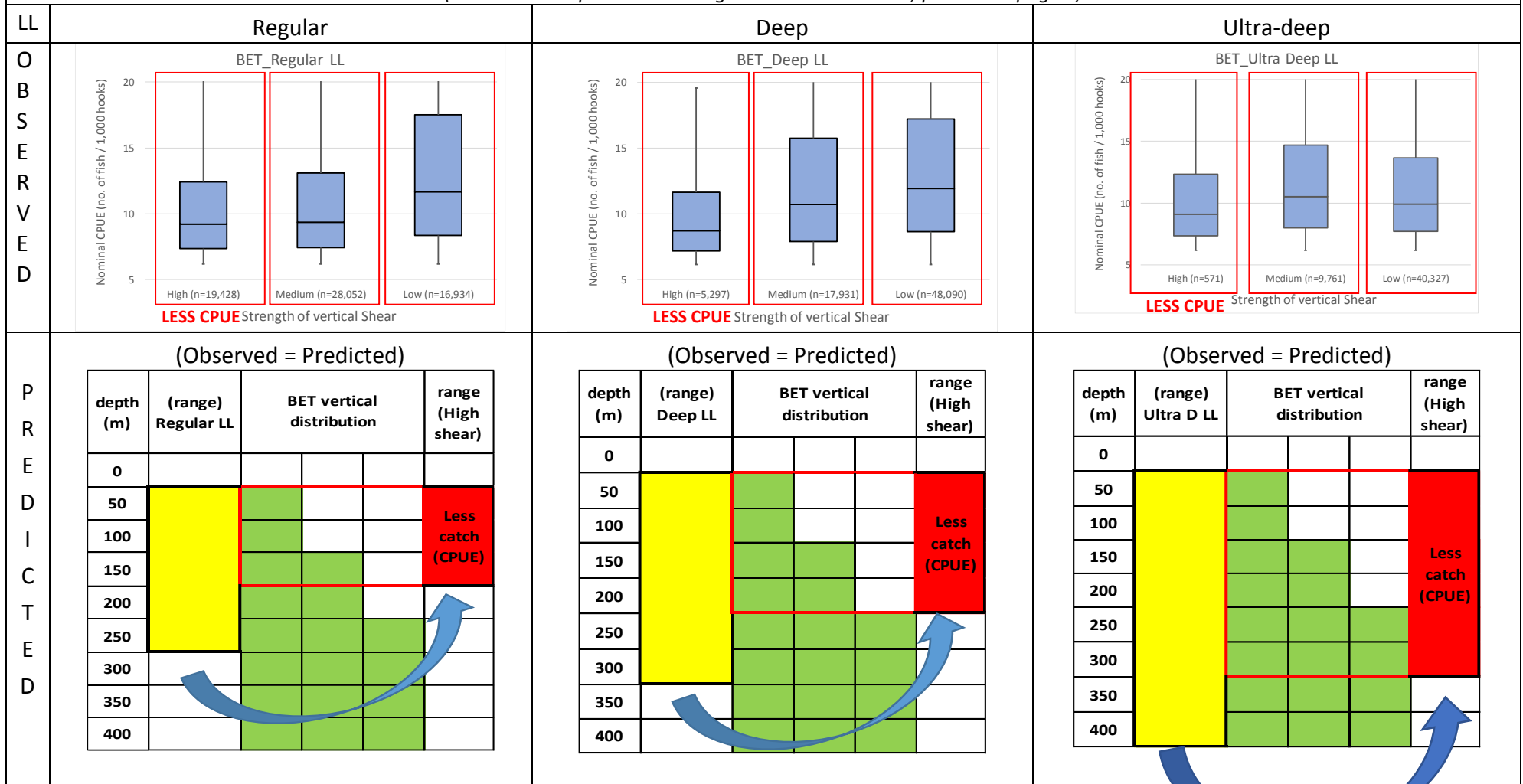
- (a) Depth range by 50m interval.
- (b) Predicted depth range covered by deep LL **when no** vertical shears.
- (c) Predicted frequency distribution of habitat depth ranges for ALB (green).
- (d) Predicted depth range covered by deep LL **when there are high(strong)** vertical shears (red).
- (e) Comments in red marker: In this case, it was predicted that ALB are very much affected by higher vertical shears because strong vertical shear currents make LL lift-up to shallower depth ranges and could catch more ALB (means more CPUE) there where main ALB habitat depth ranges.
- (f) In this case, OBSERVED=PREDICTED.
- (g) The arrow illustrates shifts of LL depth range to the shallower one due to high(strong) vertical shear currents (average/predicted situation based on the past studies).

BOX 1 Observed and Expected results on effects of vertical shear currents by three class (high, medium and low) to Japanese tuna LL nominal **YFT** nominal CPUE in the Indian Ocean (Shallow/Regular vs. Deep vs. Ultra-deep)

(For detail interpretations on legends and illustrations, please see page 8)

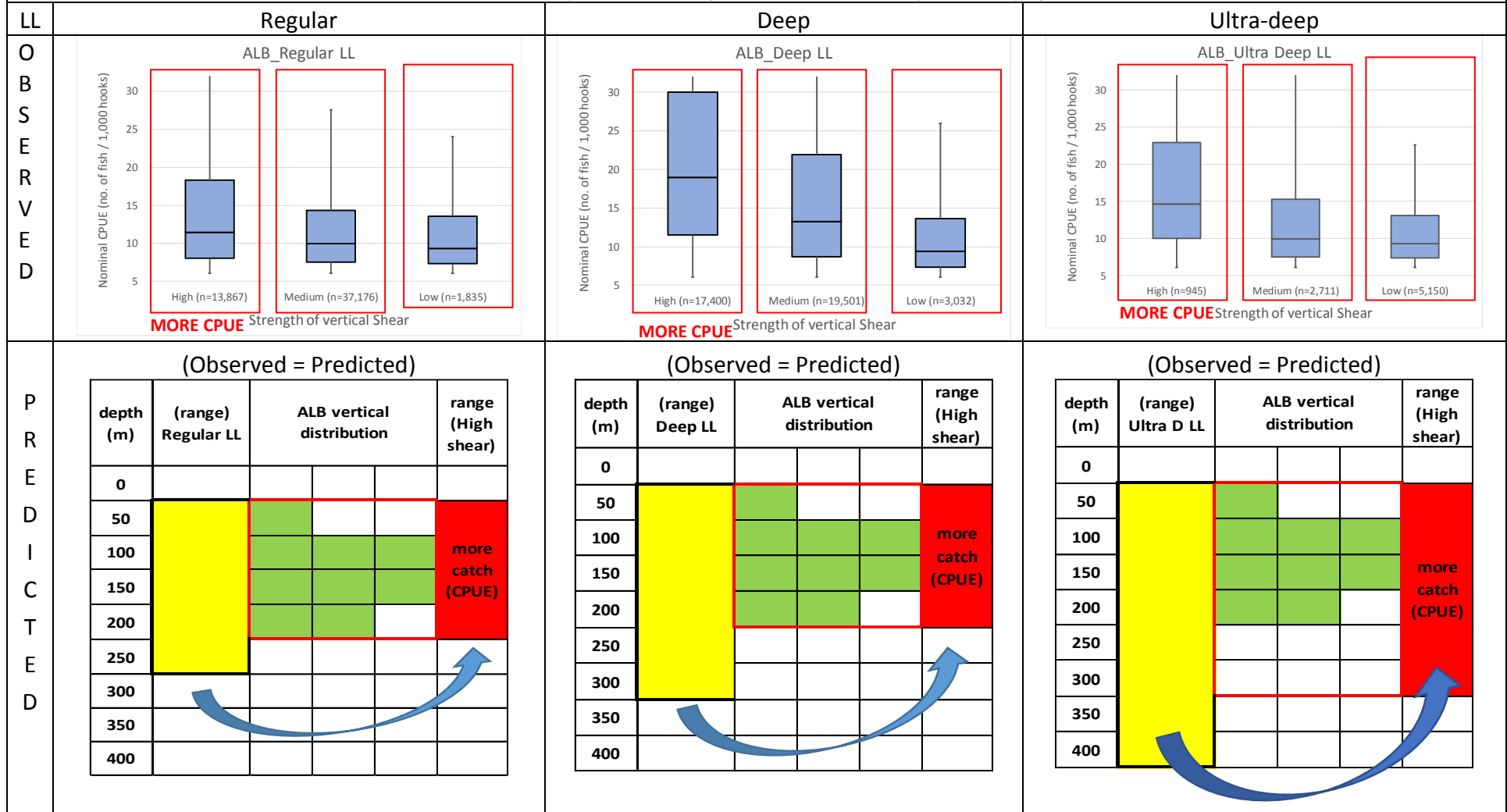


BOX 2 Observed and Expected results on effects of vertical shear currents by three class (high, medium and low) to Japanese tuna LL nominal BET nominal CPUE in the Indian Ocean (Shallow/Regular vs. Deep vs. Ultra-deep)
(For detail interpretations on legends and illustrations, please see page 8)

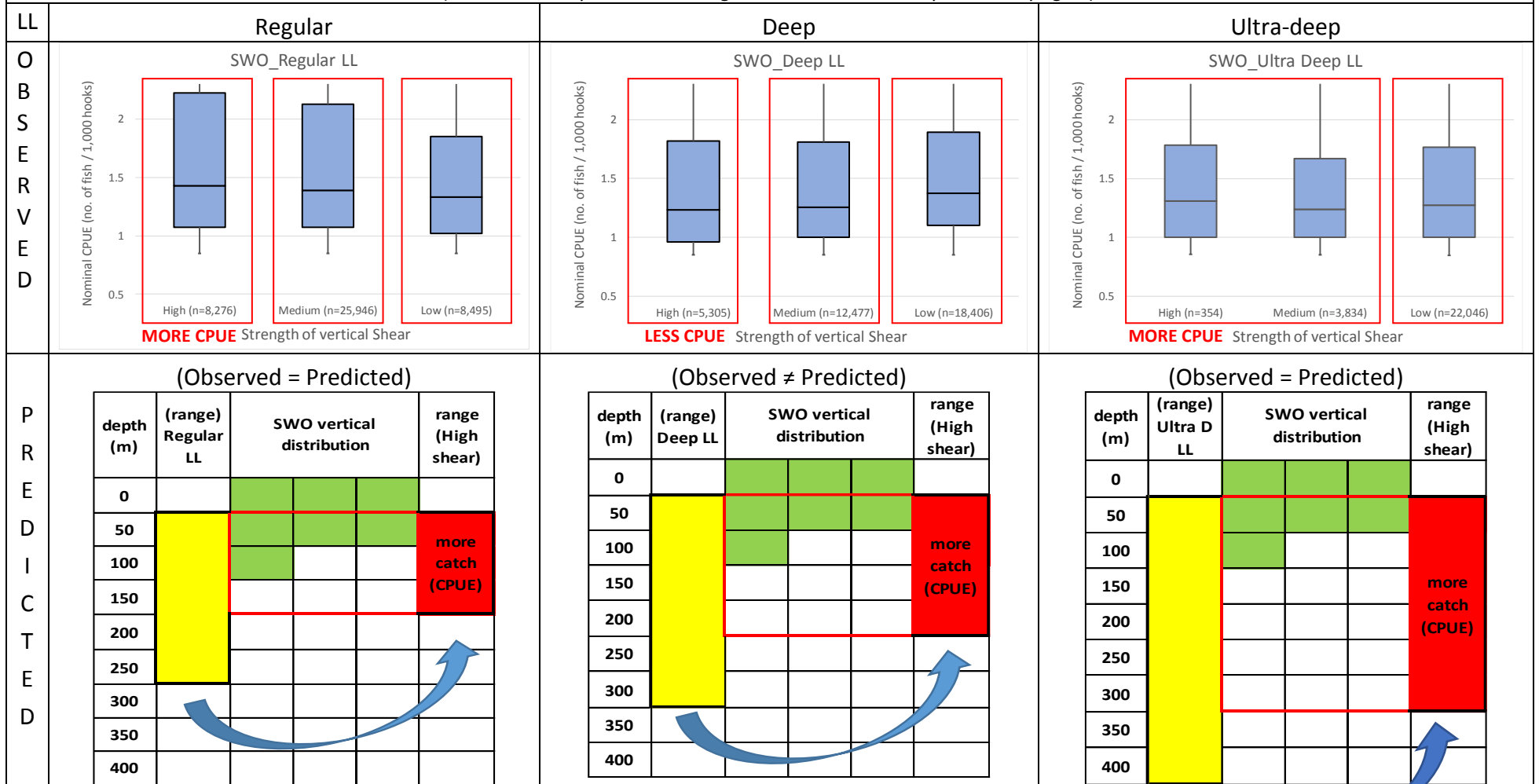


BOX 3 Observed and Expected results on effects of vertical shear currents by three class (high, medium and low) to Japanese tuna LL nominal **ALB** nominal CPUE in the Indian Ocean (Shallow/Regular vs. Deep vs. Ultra-deep)

(For detail interpretations on legends and illustrations, please see page 8)



BOX 4 Observed and Expected results on effects of vertical shear currents by three class (high, medium and low) to Japanese tuna LL nominal **SWO** nominal CPUE in the Indian Ocean (Shallow/Regular vs. Deep vs. Ultra-deep)
(For detail interpretations on legends and illustrations, please see page 8)



5. DISCUSSION

(1) Is time-area scale of vertical shear currents similar to LL (month/1°x1°) ? Critical question.

It is unknown about the time-area scale of vertical shear currents. According to Dr Taneda (Seikai National Fisheries Research Institute, Nagasaki, Japan) and former Professor Murakami (Hokkaido University), vertical shear currents occur from very small time-area scale (a few days and a few 10 Km²) to very large scale (a few months and a few hundred Km²) (Fig. 3). However, frequencies of various time-area scales are unknown.

If majority of time-area scales of vertical shear currents data are larger than LL scale (a month and 1°x1°), results of this study will be more reliable as they well cover LL nominal CPUE scale, while the inverse situation, less reliable because time-area scales of LL data are much larger than those of vertical shear currents, which makes vertical shear currents effects on LL nominal CPUE very dull.

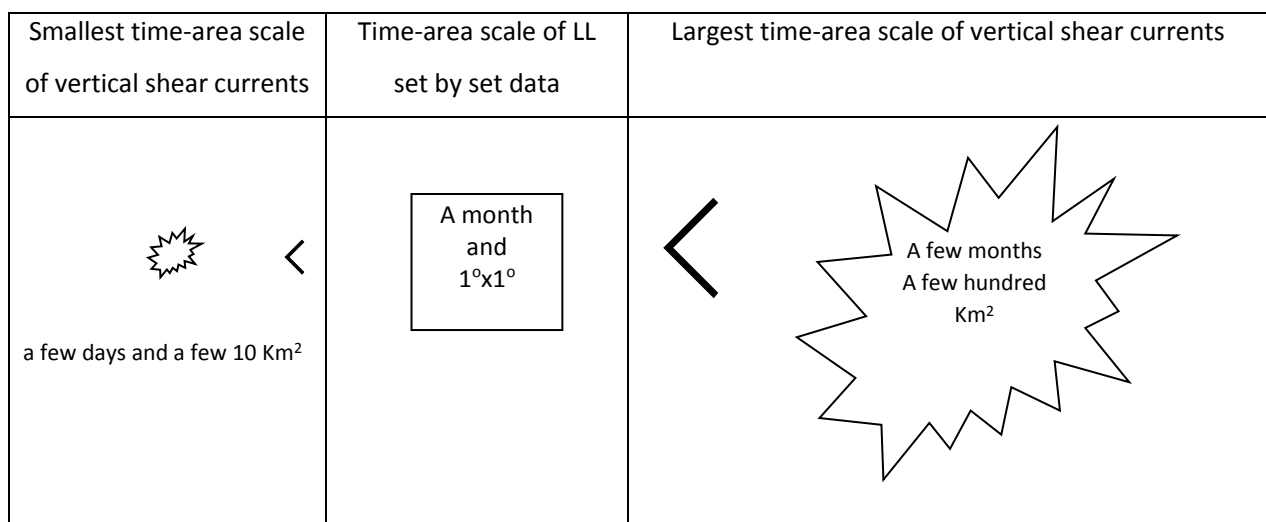


Fig. 3 Schematic images of time-area scales of vertical shear currents (left:smallest and right: largest) and LL set by set data time-area scale (middle)

(2) Uncertainties

There are a number of uncertainties in this study as listed below, thus results should be looked with caution.

- Shear currents data are based on the assimilations, which may not represent real situation;
- Actual LL depth range may be different from the predicted (average) situation based on past studies;
- Nominal CPUE may be affected by other environmental factors, thus signals of nominal CPUE in this study may not be caused only by vertical shear currents;
- It is unknown about frequencies of time-area scales of vertical shear currents, which affect reliabilities of results as discussed in the previous section; and
- In this study, materials of main and branch lines are not incorporated. Effects of vertical shear currents on nominal CPUE are considered to be also affected by materials.

(3) Low frequencies (sample sizes) in high (strong) vertical shear currents

We defined three classes (degrees) of vertical shear current strength [unit: (m/s)/m], i.e., High (strong) ($[s] \leq -4$), Medium ($-4 < [s] \leq -3$) and Low ($-3 < [s]$). Box 5 shows sample size (n) of vertical shear currents and its percent frequencies by shear class (high, medium and low), LL type and species.

In general, sample sizes (frequencies) of “high shear class” in Ultra-deep LL (except ALB) are very low (Table 1). This means that high (strong) vertical shear currents do not occur so often. However, it depends on the definition of $[s]$, i.e., in this study, we used $[s] \Rightarrow 4$ as the high (strong) vertical shear currents which have less sample sizes. Thus we may need to explore other definition such as $[s] \Rightarrow 3$, so that the results may be more reliable (?) as we may get more sample sizes (frequencies). This will be the future work.

Box 5 Sample size (n=) of vertical shear currents and its percent frequencies by species, shear class (high, medium and low) and LL type.

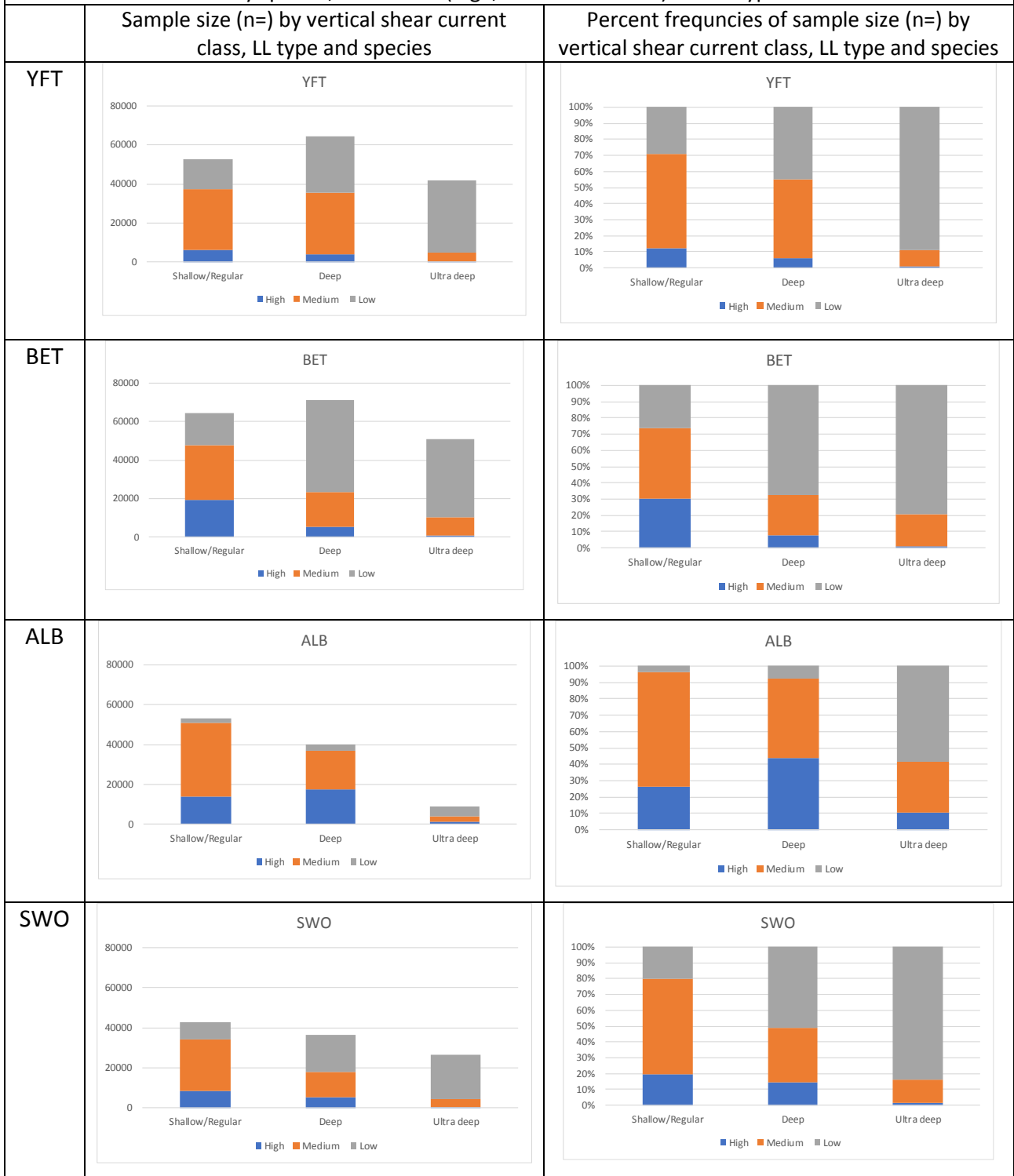


Table 1 Percent frequencies of high (strog) shear currents in ultra deep LL by species.

% frequencies	YFT	BET	ALB	SWO
Ultra-deep LL	0.7%	1.1%	10.7%	1.3%

(4) Effects of vertical shear currents to nominal CPUE by species

Although there are a number of uncertainties, we could find some results closed to the predicted situation regarding effects of vertical shear currents on nominal CPUE by species as follows (refer to Boxes 1-4):

[YFT]

We expect that nominal YFT CPUE are largely affected by strong vertical shear currents, especially for Deep and Ultra deep LL (see illustration in expected results in Box 1, Page 9). This is because when strong vertical shear currents occur, LL (hooks) are lifted-up to shallower depth ranges, where there are major YFT habitat depths, hence higher YFT CPUE are expected. But, we could not get the expected results, i.e., only very small positive (expected) effects were found for Deep LL and the inverse effect for ultra-Deep LL. Possible reasons why we could not get the expected results are as follows: (a) actual LL depth range might be different from the predicted situation, which produce biases in results, (b) other environmental factors might affect more on nominal YFT CPUE, (c) there are very small sample sizes of high (strong) vertical shear currents in deep and ultra-deep LL and/or (d) materials of main and brach lines may affect results. But exact causes are not identified at this stage. As a result, it was suggested that vertical shear currents could not affect nominal YFT CPUE for deep and ultra-deep LL as predicted, while in case for Shallow/Regular LL, we could get results close to the predicted one.

[BET]

We expect that nominal BET CPUE are largely affected by strong vertical shear currents for all three types LL (see illustration for expected results in Box 2, Page 10). This is because when strong vertical shear currents occur, LL (hooks) are lifted-up to shallower depth ranges, where there are minor BET habitat depths, hence lower CPUE are expected. In fact, we could get results close to the predicted results (see Box 2), thus BET is the supporting example (observed=predicted) in this study.

[ALB]

We expect that nominal ALB CPUE are largely affected by strong vertical shear currents for three types LL (see illustration for expected case in Box 3, Page 11). This is because when strong vertical shear currents occur, LL (hooks) are lifted-up to shallower depth ranges, where there are major ALB habitat depths, hence higher CPUE are expected. In fact, we could get results close to the predicted ones (see Box 3), thus ALB is the supporting example (observed=expected) in this study.

[SWO]

We expect that nominal SWO CPUE are largely affected by strong vertical shear currents for all three LL types (see illustration for expected results in Box 4, Page 12). This is because when strong vertical shear currents occur, LL (hooks) are lifted-up to shallower depth ranges, where there are major SWO habitat depths, hence higher SWO CPUE are expected. But, we could not get the expected results, i.e., only very small positive effect for all three LL types. The possible reasons why we could not get the predicted results are as follow: (a) SWO habitat depth range may be too shallow to support the predicted scenario, (b) actual LL depth range might be different from the predicted situation, which produce biases (uncertainties) in results, (c) other environmental factors negatively affected on nominal SWO CPUE, (d) there are very small sample sizes of high (strong) vertical shear currents in ultra-deep LL and/or (f) materials of main and branch lines may affect results. However, exact causes are not identified at this stage. As a result, it was suggested that vertical shear currents could not affect nominal SWO CPUE as predicted.

(5) Do we need vertical shear currents in CPUE standardization?

In the predicted situation, vertical shear current affects nominal CPUE differently by its strength, species (habitat depth range) and LL type (shallow/regular, deep and ultra-deep LL) as shown in the predicted results (Boxes 1-4). This study suggested that “observed” results for BET and ALB were close to the “predicted” results, while not for YFT and SWO. From this fact, vertical shear currents by GODAS (NCEP/NOAA, USA) likely affect nominal BET+ALB CPUE as expected, while not for YFT+SWO due to a number of uncertainties dicussed previously, which possibly disturbed predicted results.

Thus, it is worth to examine if vertical shear currents affect on BET and ALB CPUE standardization in the future (in Part II) and also for YFT and SWO to demonstrate that vertical shear currents will not affect their nominal CPUE. In such cases, other important environmental factors need to be also incorporated because effects to nominal CPUE may be integratedly created by various environmental factors including vertical shear currents.

In addition, when we examine the CPUE standardization, we need to incorporate effects by different types of LL (Shallow/Regular, Deep and Ultra deep used in this study). This is because this study suggested that vertical shear currents effects on nominal CPUE among three types are statistically significant except 2 cases (ultra deep in YFT and SWO) (Boxes 1-4). In fact, in CPUE standardization for Japanese tuna LL fisheries data, 5-6 categories of number of hooks between floats have been applied routinely (for example, Nishida and Wang , 2014).

In addition, we need to keep in mind following suggestions made by the First IOTC CPUE workshop (2013):

Environmental data would be useful to consider in relation to standardization approaches. However, the way it is usually performed in GLMs, where an environmental covariate is associated to each observation (in regular 1°, 5° or even 10° grids), may not be the most pertinent as it does not allow to identify the ecological processes which may affect CPUE. Alternatively, GLMs could be performed in sub-areas where the variability pattern of the environmental signature is well identified (using spatial EOFs to delineate those sub-areas). In such sub-areas, GLMs could be designed with and without environmental covariates to understand the potential effect of the environment. Environmental covariates should be in limited numbers (the lesser the better) and selected to test hypothesis on the ecological processes at stake.

Thus, the future study will be a good opportunity to examine this suggestion in sub-areas within major fishing ground by species, where particular environmental factors including vertical shear currents affect nominal LL CPUE significantly.

6. SUMAMRY

- There are a number of uncertainties in this study, thus results should be looked with caution;
- Four major uncertainties are (a) vertical shear currents data are derived by assimilations, (b) time-area scales of vertical shear currents are unknown, (c) actual LL depth ranges may be different from predicted ones and (d) materials of main and branch lines, which were not used in this study;
- Ranges of vertical shear current categories, especially for “high (strong)”, need to be examined because sample sizes of high (strong) currents are too small (about 1% except ALB, 10%), which may affect results to some extents;
- Although there are a number of uncertainties, we could get results very close to predicted ones in case for BET and ALB, while not for YFT and SWO, which particularly disturbed by uncertainties, (c) and (d);
- It will be worth to attempt CPUE standardization incorporating vertical shear currents and line materials in the future (Part II). In such case, we also need to use other influential environmental factors because effects on nominal CPUE may be integratedly created; and
- The IOTC First CPUE workshop (2013) suggested that CPUE standardization should be conducted in specific areas (not whole Indian Ocean), where the variability pattern of the environmental signature is well identified. Thus, the future study may be a good opportunity to examine this suggestion.

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