

Requests to the joint CPUE standardization

(revised)

Japan

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Abstract

Japan requests four issues to the joint standardized CPUE (STD CPUE), (a) to create maps showing areas covered by the joint STD CPUE, (b) to produce STD CPUE by fleet to evaluate plausible ones and periods to be used for the joint CPUE, (c) to produce tempo-spatial aggregated joint CPUE and (d) to complete technical transfer for national scientists and/or the IOTC stock assessment expert to be able to produce joint CPUE by themselves.

Japan very much appreciate great progress and achievements on the joint standardized CPUE (STD_CPUE) by the Consultant and the national scientists by Japan, Taiwan, Korea and Seychelles and also by the IOTC stock assessment expert to now. Based on the recent discussion in WPTT20 (2018) and other relevant meetings in the past, Japan requests four issues for further improvements.

(1) Area coverage of the joint STD_CPUE

In the most recent WPTT20 (2018), there are some concerns that the areas of the joint STD_CPUE does not cover the Indian Ocean well, thus not suitable to use for stock assessments. This is probably due to perceptions of large area shrinkages by the Japanese tuna longline fisheries in recent years. However, it is believed that areas by the joint CPUE by 4-member countries (Japan, Taiwan, Korea and Seychelles) are large enough to estimate plausible STD_CPUE. To demonstrate this, Japan requests to create maps showing coverages of area by the joint CPUE by decade and also in recent years. It is also well noted small catch amount by LL fisheries do not necessarily mean the low quality of STD_CPUE.

(2) Evaluation of STD_CPUE by fleet and sub-sets of STD_CPUE among fleets

In some cases, the trend CPUE of some fleet or some certain periods is far different from others, probably due to systematic errors and/or problems of the representativeness. In such case, if the joint STD_CPUE including all fleets and all periods, STD_CPUE will be biased and produce biased results of stock assessments. Therefore, Japan requests to produce STD_CPUE by fleet to evaluate plausible STD_CPUE and periods to be used for the joint STD_CPUE.

To get the individual STD_CPUE by fleet, scientists for each fleet need to produce 45 days before the working group meetings, which may be a bit tough, but desirable for us to select plausible STD_CPUE and periods to be used for the joint STD_CPUE.

(3) Aggregated joint STD_CPUE

As joint STD_CPUE is very useful and powerful, it has been applied not only to SS3 but also to other aggregated types of stock assessment models. Thus, Japan requests to produce not only disaggregated joint STD_CPUE, but also to produce aggregated joint STD_CPUE by year, all area combined etc.

(4) Technical transfer

As Japan requested in the past, the joint STD_CPUE needs to be conducted by scientists in member countries and/or the IOTC stock assessment expert by themselves in the future. This is because if the current consultant were not available by some reasons, the joint STD_CPUE cannot be produced any more unless scientists in relevant member countries and/or the IOTC stock assessment expert are fully mastered. From the recent observations, the technical transfer has been progressed very much, but not perfectly. So, Japan requests again complete technical transfer to relevant scientists and/or the IOTC stock assessment expert. If it is not possible, we will lose the important treasures (joint STD_CPUE) developed using a lot of time and costs.