

Report on progress of IOTC-OFCF Japan Project for JFY2024 activities and planned activities for JFY2025

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Abstract

The IOTC-OFCF Japan Project is conducted by the IOTC Secretariat and OFCF Japan (Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan) and has been implemented since JFY2002. The project is supported by the Fisheries Agency of Japan. The objectives are: (1) to improve the accuracy of tuna and tuna-like fishery statistics and information provided by IOTC coastal States (2) to develop capacity in the collection, management and reporting of tuna fishery statistics by IOTC coastal States.

Summary of IOTC-OFCF Japan Project activities in 2024

In JFY2024, the following activities have been undertaken in line with the agreement with the IOTC Secretariat and OFCF Japan in JFY2024 (work in progress).

(I) Translations, printing of the IOTC Species ID cards

Untranslated languages of Tuna & Tuna like, Billfish, Shark & Rays Species ID cards were all translated by the OFCF Japan project during JFY2021 to JFY2023. In JFY2024, verification of the translation was conducted by the FAO. Translations on Hindi¹, Malaysian¹, Sinhalese¹, Swahili² and Thai² were confirmed to be correct and are in process to be updated in the IOTC website. A few confirmations were pointed out for Bengali³ and Malaysian⁴ and corrected by OFCF Japan. Regarding printing, OFCF Japan attempted the printing of Sinhalese and Tamil ID cards, but errors in Tamil Tuna & Tuna like Species ID cards were found (which was not originally translated by OFCF Japan). Printing was suspended, but OFCF Japan corrected the translation error of Tamil ID cards with collaboration of scientists in Sri Lanka.

(II) Scoping study on Electronic Data Collection Tools (EDCTs)

Information on the status and usage of EDCTs in the IOTC coastal states was continuously collected from JFY2023.

(III) Development of web-based tools which support species identification of IOTC target species

Recognizing the high needs of capacity building in species identification of IOTC target species⁵, OFCF Japan has launched a new project from JFY2024. The goal of the new project is to develop web-based tools which supports species identification of IOTC target species. The web-based tools expected to be developed are namely the following three items;

¹ Billfish, Shark & Rays ID cards

² Shark & Rays ID cards

³ Title confirmation on Billfish ID card

⁴ Title correction on Billfish ID card

⁵ Program of work of WPDCS19 noted the needs of regional training on species identification as top priority of the "Coastal data collection" in 2023

1. YouTube videos
2. Application available on Smartphone and Tablets
3. Website

In JFY2024, OFCF Japan has developed Youtube videos which support understanding the key morphometric characteristics to identify Bullet tuna and Frigate tuna / Yellowfin tuna and Bigeye tuna. Collection of fish photos were conducted in Kanagawa and Kagoshima prefecture in Japan, in August and September respectively by OFCF Japan. The video of the Yellowfin tuna and Bigeye tuna was developed with the cooperation and supervision of the Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency. These Youtube videos have already been released in a Youtube channel called "IOTC-OCF Japan project" (See below for the URL address).

Items	URL, QRcode
<p>How to identify Bullet tuna & Frigate tuna (1 min. 40 sec.)</p> 	<p>https://youtu.be/yl8ruiYBiW8</p> 
<p>How to identify medium size Yellowfin tuna & Bigeye tuna (3 min. 2 sec.)</p> 	<p>https://youtu.be/cpeW9uiewnc</p> 

Planned IOTC-OCF Japan Project activities for 2025

The general idea on the project activities for JFY2025 is basically the same as the activities in JFY2024.