

Summary of Fisheries Status and Management Improvement on Taiwanese Longline Fleet

Four major groups of large-scale longliners operating in the Indian Ocean recently: BET-targeting group, BET/YFT seasonal-targeting group, BET/ALB seasonal targeting group and ALB-targeting group. Major fishery changes happened in 2003 and 2004 includes: (1) BET/ALB group all shifted to catch bigeye due to low albacore market price in 2003 (46 vessels shifted) and 2004 (20-24 vessels shifted), resulting in significant and continuous decline of albacore catch and increase of bigeye catch; (2) vessel number of BET/YFT increased twice in 2004 due to good yellowfin catch condition; (3) swordfish catch declined continuously due to fewer vessels fishing in the southwestern region.

Three important plans have been developed in 2005: (1) Large scale fleet reduction program, 120 LSTLVs worldwide will be scrapped by end of 2006, and 28 of them from the Indian Ocean will be scrapped by end of 2005. (2) Enhanced monitoring program, each vessel is allocated individual quota for bigeye and southern bluefin tuna, her fishing ground is confined and monitored by VMS (100% installation), weekly report is required, and statistical documents will be verified by various information. (3) Improved data collection programs, observer coverage will be increased, port sampling program has been implemented, and international data exchange is to be enhanced.