

ANNOUNCEMENT

WORKSHOP ON THE PREDATION IN TUNA LONGLINE FISHERIES

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1. Introduction

In the fifth Commissioner meeting (IOTC5) in 2000, Resolution 00/02 (5 years' predation surveys from 2000/01-2004/05) was adopted (Box 1 and Table 1).

It was also recommended to have a workshop on this issue after five years surveys are over. The five years surveys was completed in 2005. Then all the data are expected to be recovered by the end of 2006 (Table 1).

Box 1 IOTC Resolution 00/02

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Convinced that the proper management of all marine resources should be based on scientific finding and on the principle of sustainable use as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982, the Kyoto Declaration and FAO's International Plans of Action and Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries,

Mindful that the 23rd session of COFI agreed that greater consideration should be given to the development of more appropriate ecosystem approaches to fisheries management, in collaboration with both FAO and regional fisheries bodies,

Recalling that in 1999, the Commission, recognizing the importance of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, endorsed a five year research programme on the predation by marine mammals and sharks on tuna caught on longlines, in order to collect comprehensive information, improve catch statistics, find possible methods of preventing predation and explore any possible implications for stock assessment of tunas and the ecosystem approach,

Noting that preliminary estimates of predation of tuna and tuna-like species caught by the longline fishery indicate damage rates in some parts of the IOTC Area in the range of 10-30 % (IOTC/SC/00/11),

Also noting that the Scientific Committee agrees that the extent of predation unknown and might have important implications in terms of catch statistics and stock assessments and encourage the participation in the survey of other Member and Non-Member countries,

Encourages all Contracting Parties and Non Contracting Parties to participate in the survey of predation of longline caught fish and submit the preliminary results to the Secretariat by the end of September 2001,

Requests the Scientific Committee to present the preliminary results of the study on predation for its consideration at the Sixth Session of the IOTC in 2001.

Table 1 Flow of the five years predation survey, data recovery and workshop.

Year	IOTC	Japan
1999	Predation survey was recommended in the 2 nd Scientific Committee. (raised by Seychelles)	
2000	Resolution 00/02 (Resolution on a survey of predation of longline caught fish) was adopted in the 4 th Commissioner's meeting.	Proposed by Japan
2000/01	5 years survey period Countries conducted the surveys in some or full period during five years : <i>Australia, China, India, Mauritius, Re Union, Seychelles, Spain? and Taiwan</i>	(Sept, 2000: survey started)
2004/05		(Aug, 2005 : survey ended)
2004/05	Data recovery in each country. Collaborative data compilation and processing of the all the survey and relevant data by Japan and IOTC: recommended in the 7 th SC, 2004)	
2006/07		
July, 2007	2 days' Workshop (after 9 th WPTT and 2 nd WPBy)	

2. Workshop (preliminary plan)

Under such circumstances, the outline of the predation workshop is planned as below for discussion :

- NRIFS (Japan) and IOTC will act as the Secretariat for this workshop;
- 2 days workshop will be held after the 9th WPTT and 2nd WPBy in 2007. In this way, more participants are expected as travel expensive and time can be greatly saved in case if the workshop were independently held in the different time and venue;

- Participants are mainly from the IOTC member countries. But anyone who are interested in this workshop (even from other Oceans) are also welcome as there are same problems in the Pacific and the Atlantic Ocean;
- Before workshop Japan and IOTC will collaboratively collect the available data from the relevant countries then compile and process the data as recommended in the 7th SC in 2004. The compiled data will be shared by participants;
- Preliminary Agenda of the workshop has four folds; (Table 2);

Table 2 Preliminary Agenda

Agenda	Descriptions
1 Situation of the predation	Situation of the predation in tuna longline fisheries in the Indian Ocean will be presented based on the five years survey data and other relevant information. Country reports on the situation of the predation problems are requested by IOTC participating countries. The global situation in the Indian Ocean will be reported jointly by Japan and IOTC based on the all the data compiled.
2 Improvements of catch statistics	We will discuss how to adjust the tuna longline catch statistics using the predation survey data and other relevant data <i>in case</i> damaged catch data are not included in the logbook consequently in the official catch statistics.
3 Mitigation	Current situation and the prospects of the mitigation methods of the predation problems will be discussed. In this Session participants from other Oceans are also expected to present reports.
4 Ecological approach	Ideas on the ecological approach using the predation survey and other relevant information will be discussed.

- Japan and IOTC will collaboratively work to make the Proceedings of this workshop, which will be will be published from IOTC as a special issue.