

PREDATION SURVEY ON THE JAPANESE TUNA LONGLINE CATCH

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Predation problems by killer whales and false killer whales on Japanese tuna longline fisheries have been continued to the present in three Oceans since the start of its fisheries in 1952. The first report was from the Palau water in 1952. In the earlier years, only some catch of the longliners where the predators had passed, were damaged. But, predation had become expanding to the whole catch of the longliners. In serious case, predators approach to the broadsides of the boats and attack the catch.

To investigate this predation problem and to find out possible mitigation methods, Fisheries Agency of Japan had conducted a number of surveys and research in the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean, using public longline vessels (high school longline training vessels and prefecture fisheries stations' longline vessels) during 1954, 1958 and 1965-81. Results of

these surveys were reported in the Proceedings of the annual tuna conference in Japan. Summary of these surveys results are available in the separate document (IOTC/WPTT/01/17).

In recent years, predation problems in the western Indian Ocean became also serious, thus the IOTC Scientific Committee and Commissioner's meetings in 1998 and 1999 recommended to start investigating the situation of the predation. Upon this recommendation, Japan started the predation survey from September 1, 2000 for all the longliners belonging to Japan Tuna Federation in three Oceans. Currently about 450 longliners are cooperating to this survey. In the near future, it is planned to expand this survey to all the remaining longliners including the small-scale longliners off Japans and the Zengyoren longliners operating three Oceans.

Survey form is attached next two pages (Japanese and English)

Survey form of predation on distant water tuna longline fisheries

Please fill this form when predation occur

On the 1st day of every month, please fax survey forms to Union or Association via fishery companies (for September–November, 2000). From December, please submit to a Union or Association with catch report required by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, via fishing companies whenever your boat arrive at domestic or foreign ports)

Name of Ship		Name of home port	
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Date of Fishing			Noon position					Damaged species (select no.) and number of damaged fish (example: ③2, ⑤1)	Name of predators (choose alphabet below) (fill out if species names known)	Others (≠) (other important information)
Year	Month	Date	Latitude			Longitude				
2000			deg.	min.	N · S	deg.	min.	N · S		
2000			deg.	min.	N · S	deg.	min.	N · S		
2000			deg.	min.	N · S	deg.	min.	N · S		
2000			deg.	min.	N · S	deg.	min.	N · S		
2000			deg.	min.	N · S	deg.	min.	N · S		
2000			deg.	min.	N · S	deg.	min.	N · S		
2000			deg.	min.	N · S	deg.	min.	N · S		
2000			deg.	min.	N · S	deg.	min.	N · S		
2000			deg.	min.	N · S	deg.	min.	N · S		
2000			deg.	min.	N · S	deg.	min.	N · S		

species code: ①northern bluefin, ②southern blufin ③albacore, ④bigeye, ⑤yellowfin, ⑥swordfish, ⑦striped marlin, ⑧blue marlin, ⑨black marlin,
⑩sailfish, ⑪skipjack, ⑫sharks, ⑬not identified, ⑭others

Predator code [A] killer whale, [B] false killer whale, [C] other whales (including dolphin), [D] shraks, [E] not idnetified

Examples of 'Others' : (1) about fifty false killer whales (2) Three hours after casting a net, killer whale started follow our ship. Also damaged by sharks, (3) predator followed our boat for an hour at the right board. Species not identified.