

Japan's FADs Management Plan for 2008

1. Definition of FADs

In accordance with the paragraph 12 of CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR BIGEYE AND YELLOWFIN TUNA IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN (Conservation and Management Measure 2005-01), Japan intends to manage the following drifting FADs;

- Natural floating object attached with radio buoy
- Natural floating object attached with man-made device
- Any man-made floating devices for aggregating tuna and tuna like species

2. Obligation of Report

On FADs operations, Japanese purse seine vessels are obliged to report the position of catch, type of FADs and the amount of catch etc.

3. Port Sampling

To research the actual catch information on FADs operations, we have investigated the species composition and length and weight of fish by port samplings. Japanese pure seine fisheries conducted 258 trips in 2007 and catches of 24 trips were investigated (coverage 9.3%).

4. Monitoring

As Japan has done in 2007, we are also going to develop some national observers to our purse seine vessels in 2008 and monitor their FADs operations.

5. The Experimental Trails for Development of Mitigation Measures for Reducing Juvenile Tuna By-Catch

- *The relationship between catch ratio of bigeye tuna to total catch and the depth of underwater structure of FADs*

As Japan presented at the Third Regular Session of Scientific Committee, This research is still underway. We are planning to present the updated result at the Fourth Regular Session of Scientific Committee.

- *The effect of using large mesh sized net to a part of body net on bigeye tuna by-catch rate*

Japan presented preliminary result of this experiment in Fourth Regular Session of the Commission. We will add the new data and statistical analyses and present the comprehensive result at the Fourth Regular Session of Scientific Committee.