Japan proposal on SKJ TRP

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Paper by Japan
Japan’s proposal on WCPF SKJ TRP
Nature of SKJ Stock and SKJ Fisheries

- Stock exists almost entire WCPO, 40N to 40S
- Most catch (more than 1.5 million t) comes from Tropical Zone
- Management interest of WCPFC seemed to have been focused on PS fisheries in equatorial zone
- Difficulties and plights of other area have seemed to be overlooked
SKJ stock is said to be healthy
**SB\textsubscript{current}** is twice as large as **SB\textsubscript{MSY}**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SKIPJACK</th>
<th></th>
<th>YELLOWFIN</th>
<th></th>
<th>BIGEYE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volume (mt)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Volume (mt)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Volume (mt)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SB\textsubscript{F=0}</strong></td>
<td>6,303,358</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,990,529</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,613,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SB\textsubscript{current}</strong></td>
<td>3,052,995</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>773,429</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>265,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SB\textsubscript{msy}</strong></td>
<td>1,683,000</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>728,300</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>345,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MSY</strong></td>
<td>1,532,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>586,400</td>
<td></td>
<td>108,520</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
However, in reality, poor migration to northern area have been occurring. Japan’s case;
Lengthy discussions on poor migration such as:

- **Oceanic Change**
  - Yes, oceanic condition changes year by year, but catch volume has shown constant decline.

- No scientific evidence that poor migration has caused due to “over-catch in Tropical area” and associated “range contraction”
  - Catch volumes between tropical PS and respective artisanal fisheries are so different!

  **PS tropical catch vs JPN’s artisanal catch:**
  
  \[
  1,500,000t \text{ vs } 3,000t
  \]
  
  Where SB is around 3,000,000t

Several thousand tons of decreased catch in northern area cannot impact on gross stock assessment
Need to understand that MSY approach does not perfect.

**MSY**: Maximum Sustainable Yield

- But where is the “Yield” comes from?
- And where is the “Yield” harvested?

Most “Yield” might be harvested before migration.
Resource should be recovered to the level local depletion has not been observed.
According to the recent research, there are 4 major SKJ migration route to Japan, and western route has decreased.
Conclusion

• Japan believes that local depletion problem can be solved among joint efforts of members situated in area 4 & 5.

• Until such time as effective management measures be introduced, TRP shall precautionary be set at 60% of the estimated recent average spawning biomass in the absence of fishing.
In addition to factors proposed by PNA + Tokelau,

This approach is also consistent with other principles set forth in the Convention.

• Stocks in their entirely (Art. 5)
• Interest of artisanal fisheries (Art. 5 (h))
• The historic catch in an area (Art. 10.3 (c))
• The needs of coastal communities which are dependent mainly on fishing for the stock (Art. 10.3 (g))