27 August 2013

Summary of Presentation

by Mr. Akira Nakamae, President　of Japan Far Seas Purse Seine Fishing Association

1. Regarding the reduction of big-eye catch, as recommended by the 8th Scientific Committee last year, the number of use of FADs outside of the period-based prohibition of FADs setting has increased in spite of introduction of period-based prohibition scheme. This situation does not lead to effective reduction of big-eye catch and that it is less significant in view of resource management.

2. Furthermore, the period-based prohibition of the FADs use has been inviting fluctuation of catch volume landed to the market and volatile swings of fish price. This kind of situation is not favorable for the management of canning industry and katsuo-bushi manufacturers.

3. The Japanese purse seiners are operating by choosing one of the two schemes, period-based prohibition and limited number of FADs use.

By way of adopting this measure, the captains of each vessel are improving their intention to reduce fishing operation on FADs through their own monitoring and control, which seems to lead to the increase of free school fishing.

4. To change over to the scheme to limit the number of the FADs use is meaningful to resources management and we will be able to avoid the confusion of manufacturers caused by unstable supply of raw materials.

5. Furthermore, in considering this measure, I strongly wish that the incessant effort of the Association members not to increase the number of vessels and actual result achieved to reduce both the number of FADs use and the by-catch of big-eye tuna should be properly reflected.