



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
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Report on Japanese Artisanal Fisheries for PBF

WCPFC-NC9-2013/DP-09 (Rev.2)

Japan

Report on Japanese artisanal fisheries for PBF

In response to the request by the US in NC8 (paragraph 13 of the NC8 summary report), Japan provides the information about the characteristics of its artisanal fisheries as followings:

1. Background

Artisanal fisheries, mostly troll fishery, are conducted by small fishing vessels (mostly smaller than 5t) with one or two persons on board. These fisheries are traditionally conducted throughout coastal area, mostly in isolated islands and remote peninsulas. The typical period of fishing trip is one (1) day. Because of its operating patterns, fishing grounds for those vessels are not wide; most of them are within territorial waters (Figure 1). They catch Pacific bluefin tuna (hereinafter referred to “PBF”) seasonally when it migrates into their fishing ground. Fishing season for this species is a few months in any fishing ground. Those vessels engage in other fisheries such as squid jigging or bottom longlining when PBF does not migrate.

Because of its characteristics (seasonality and passivity), no management measure for artisanal fisheries had been established either by national/prefectural government. It had been impossible to identify even how many vessels engage in artisanal PBF fisheries annually. In order to grasp the nature and scale of artisanal fisheries which caught PBF, a vessel registration system accompanied with a mandatory reporting requirement was introduced on April 1st, 2011 (to the Sea of Japan and Eastern China Sea in April 1st, 2011 and to the Pacific side in April 1st, 2012).

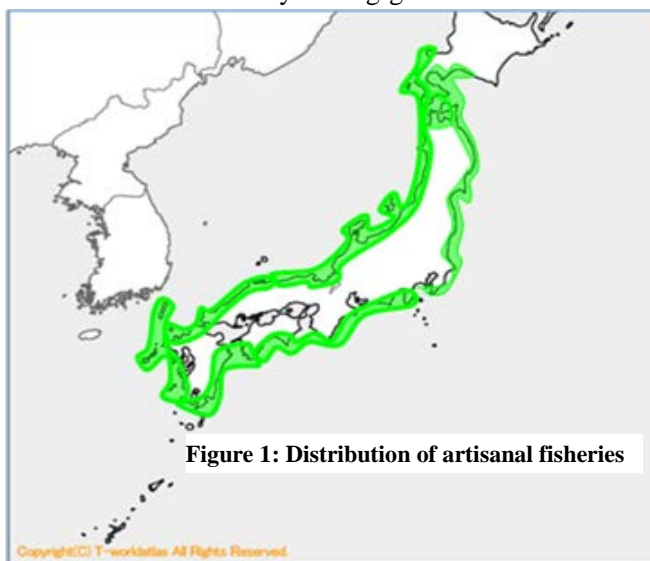


Figure 1: Distribution of artisanal fisheries

2. Data on artisanal fisheries catching PBF

Since April 1st, 2012, all artisanal fishing vessels fishing for PBF are required to be on the registration. Artisanal fishermen are also required to report its PBF catch in the previous year to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Introduction of a vessel registration system accompanied with a mandatory reporting requirement provided useful information to grasp the fisheries.

- As of July 1st 2013, about 13,100 vessels were on the registration.
- Proportions of the fishing gears used are: troll: 53%, Hand line: 37%, coastal longline: 8%, others: 2% (Figure 2).
- About 80% of total vessels on registration are smaller than 5t (Figure 3).

Figure 2: Number of vessels by gear

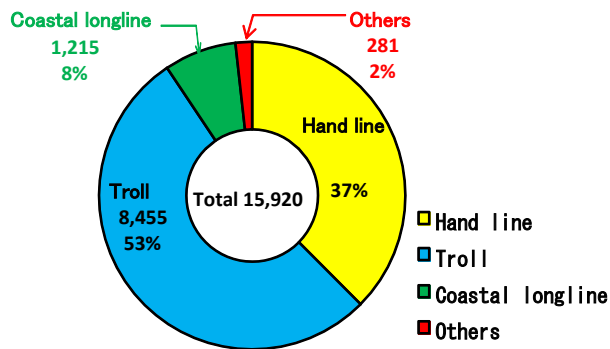
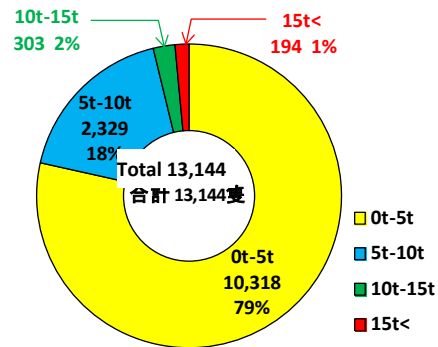


Figure 3: Number of vessels by tonnage



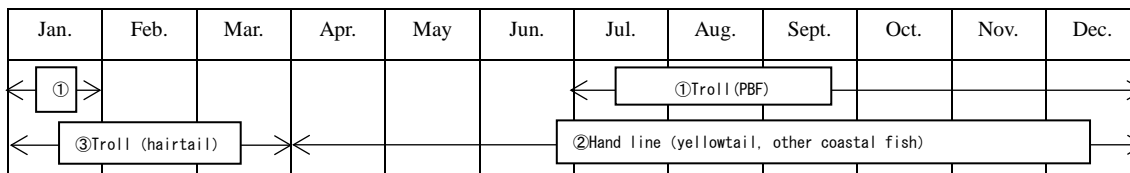
3. Operational pattern of artisanal PBF fisheries

Operational patterns of artisanal PBF fisheries in three (3) major fishing areas are presented below. The season when a PBF migrates into a fishing ground differ from area to area. Timing and amount of PBF which migrates into the same area are also different from year to year. In each case, the fishing season of PBF is a few month and artisanal fishermen engage in other fisheries when PBF does not migrate. Degree of dependence on PBF fishery in its business is not so high, but it is still very important fishery and the vessels cannot sustain economically without it.

Example 1

Sea of Japan and Eastern China Sea

- Vessel size: > 5t
- One or two persons on board
- Diesel Engine, Engine Size: > 450kw(90PS)
- Main PBF Fishing season: July to September
- Target: Juveniles
- Fishing gear: Troll
- Proportion of PBF catch: 25% (in amount), 20% (in income)
- Engage in Troll (target: hairtail) and Hand line(target: yellowtail, other coastal fish etc.) when PBF does not migrate

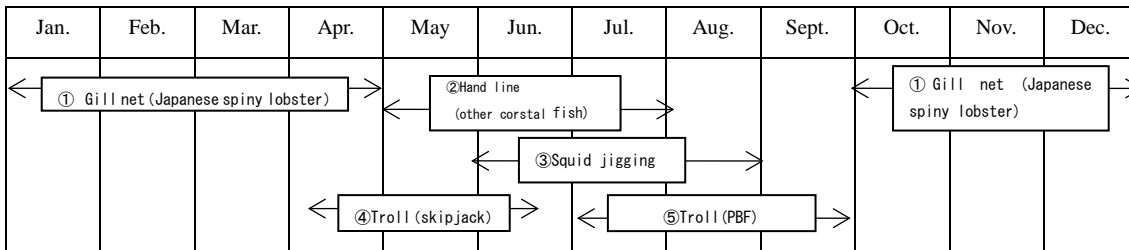


Example 2

Middle Area of Pacific side

- Vessel size: 4.9t to 15t
- One or two persons on board
- Diesel Engine, Engine Size: 330kw (70PS) to 670kw (160PS)
- Main PBF Fishing season: July to September

- Target: Juveniles (mainly seeds for aquaculture)
- Fishing gear: Troll
- Proportion of PBF catch in annual performance: > 5% (in amount), > 5% (in income)
- Engage in Gill net (target: Japanese spiny lobster), Hand line (target: other corstal fish), Squid jigging, Troll (target: skipjack) when PBF does not mitigate
- Catches of Japanese spiny lobster is main income.



Example 3

Northern Area of Pacific side

- Vessel size: > 5t
- One person on board
- Diesel Engine, Engine Size: > 450kw(90PS)
- Main PBF Fishing season: September to December
- Target: Adult fish ($\geq 30\text{kg}$)
- Fishing gear: Hand line
- Proportion of PBF catch: 10% (in amount), 30% (in income)
- Engage in Pod (target: octopus), Hand line (target: Atka mackerel etc.), sea tangle capture when PBF does not mitigate

