



**COMMISSION**  
**ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Faleata Sports Complex, Apia, SAMOA  
1 - 5 December 2014

---

**Japan proposal on SKJ TRP**

---

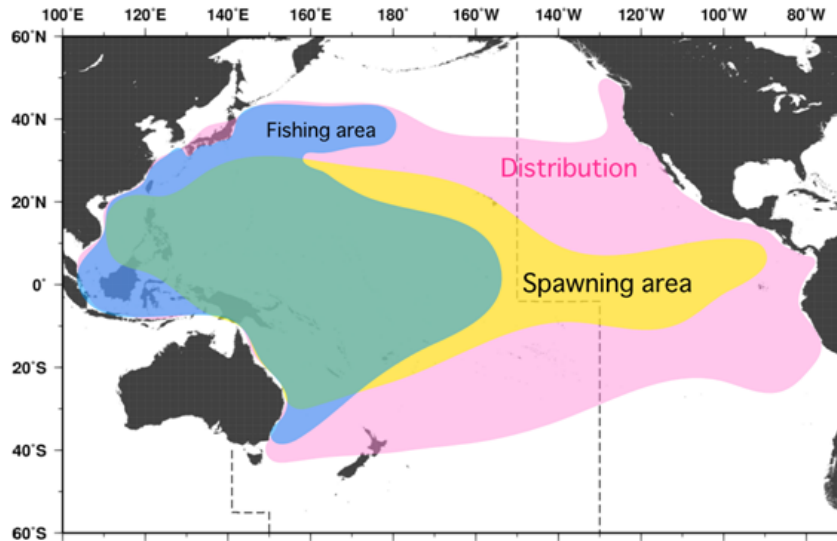
**WCPFC11-2014-DP-26**  
**04 December 2014**

**Paper by Japan**

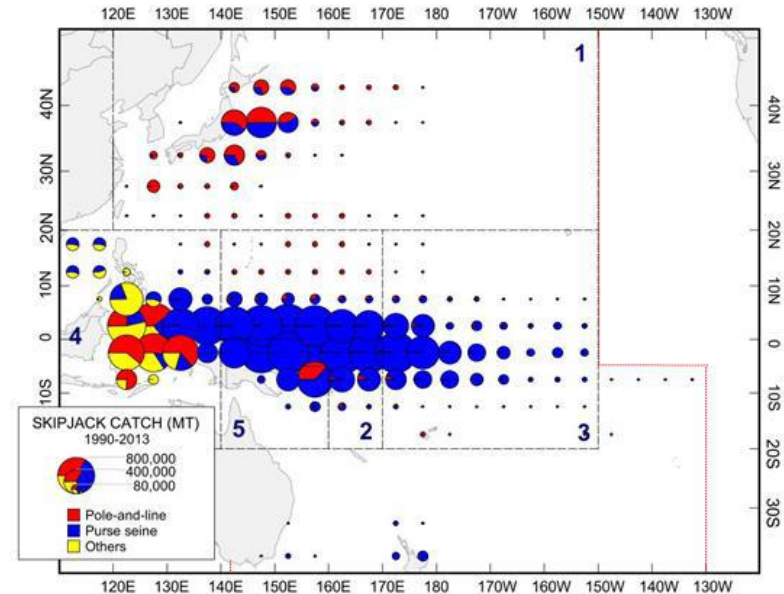
Japan's proposal on WCPF SKJ TRP

# Nature of SKJ Stock and SKJ Fisheries

Skipjack distribution, spawning and fishing area in the Western central Pacific Ocean

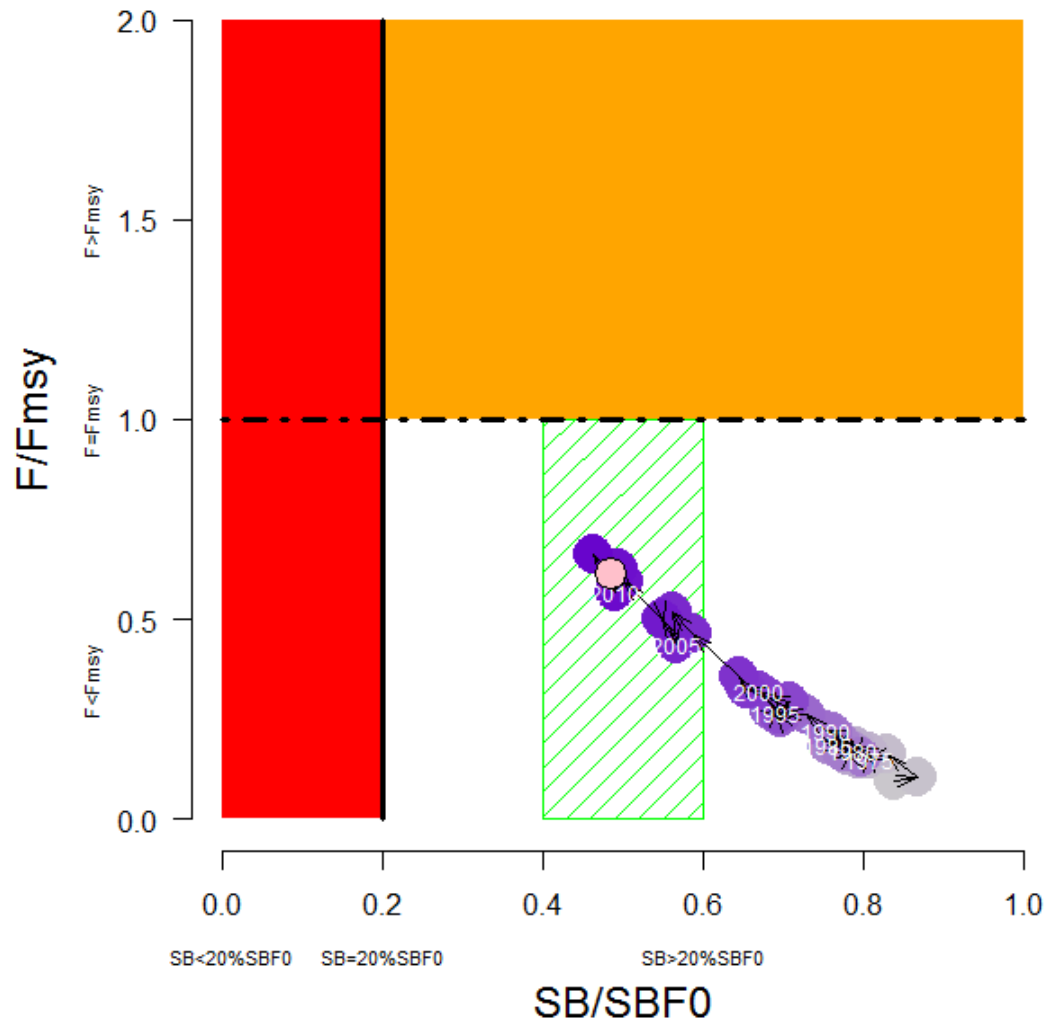


Skipjack Catch in the Western central Pacific Ocean



- **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**

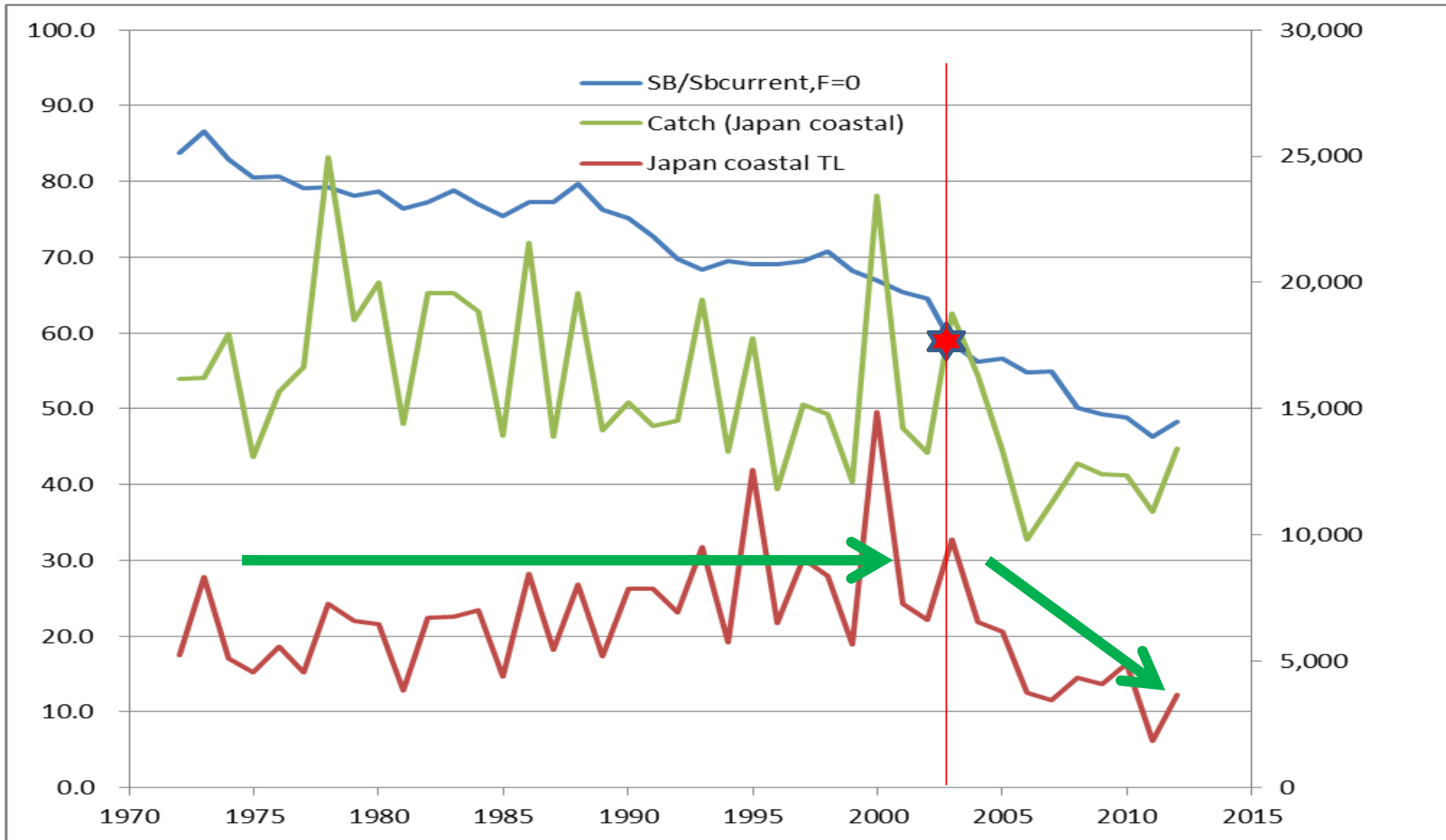
# SKJ stock is said to be healthy



$SB_{\text{current}}$  is twice as large as  $SB_{\text{MSY}}$

	SKIPJACK		YELLOWFIN		BIGEYE	
	Volume (mt)	%	Volume (mt)	%	Volume (mt)	%
$SB_{F=0}$	6,303,358	100%	1,990,529	100%	1,613,855	100%
$SB_{\text{current}}$	3,052,995	48%	773,429	39%	265,599	16%
$SB_{\text{msy}}$	1,683,000	27%	728,300	37%	345,400	21%
$MSY$	1,532,000		586,400		108,520	

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 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**

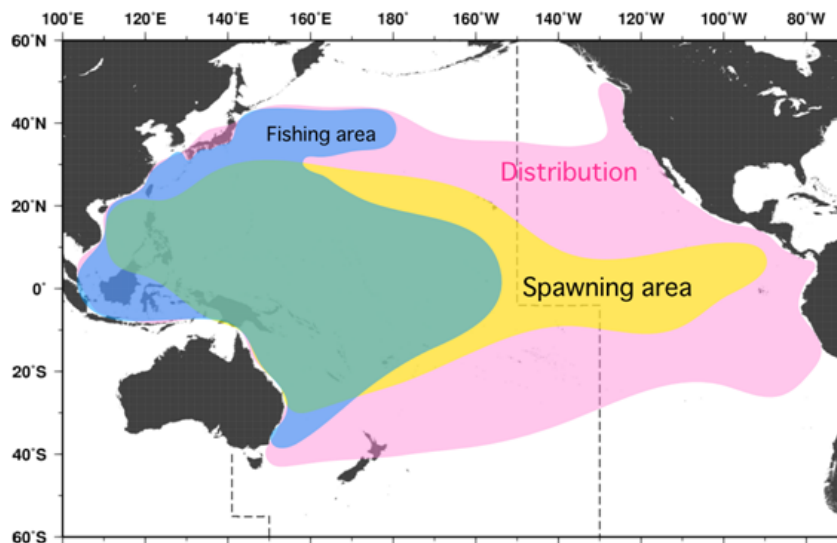
# Need to understand that MSY approach does not perfect.

MSY: Maximum Sustainable Yield

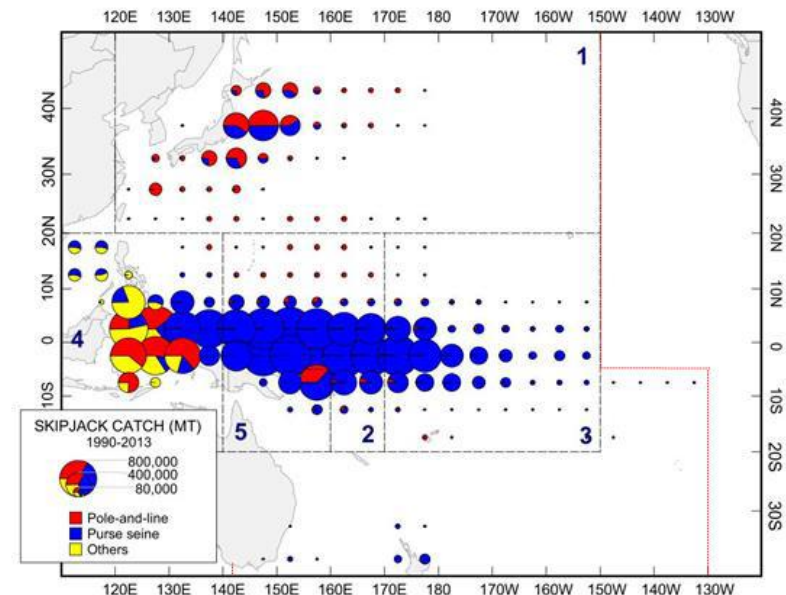
- But where is the “Yield” comes from?
- And where is the “Yield” harvested ?

Most “Yield” might be harvested before migration

Skipjack distribution, spawning and fishing area in the Western central Ocean

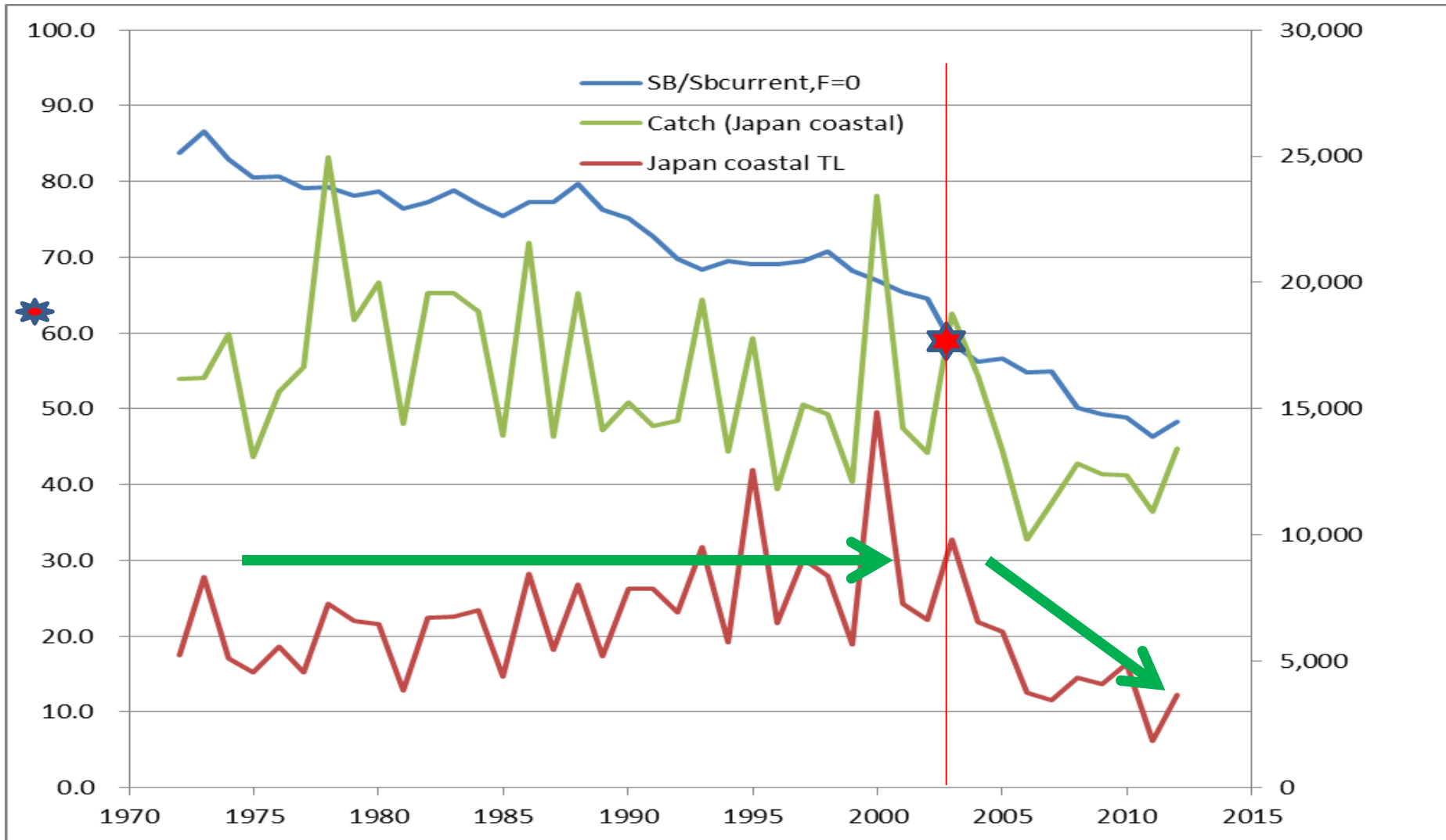


Skipjack Catch in the Western central Pacific Ocean

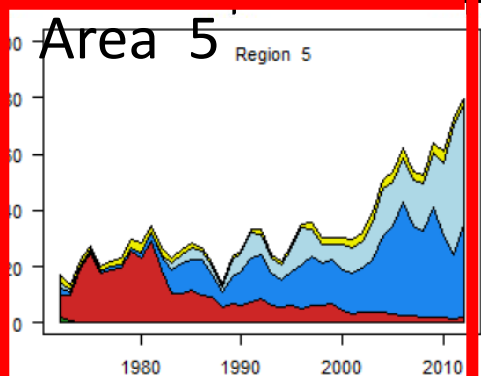
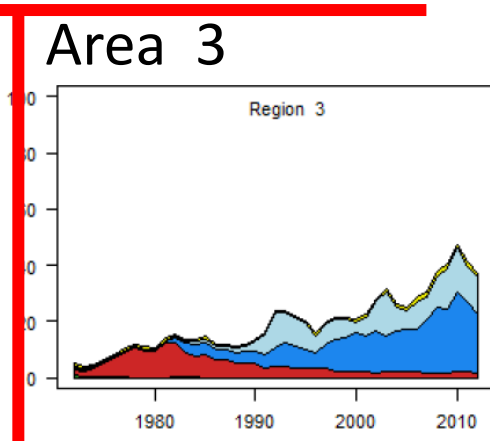
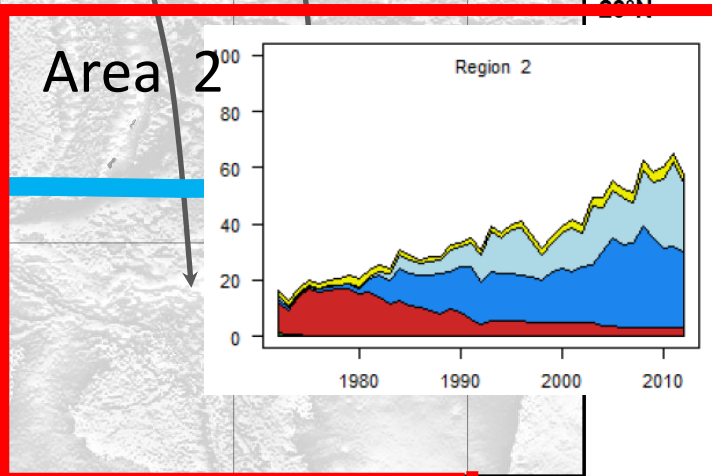
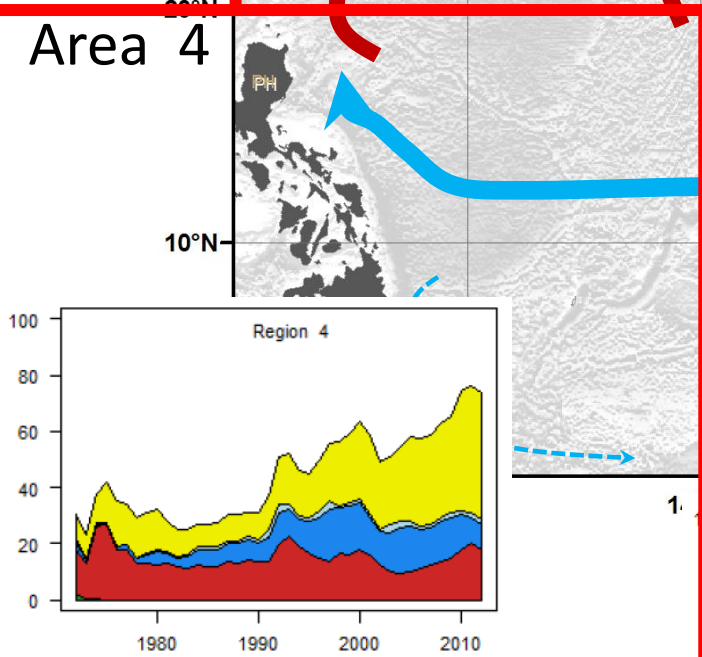
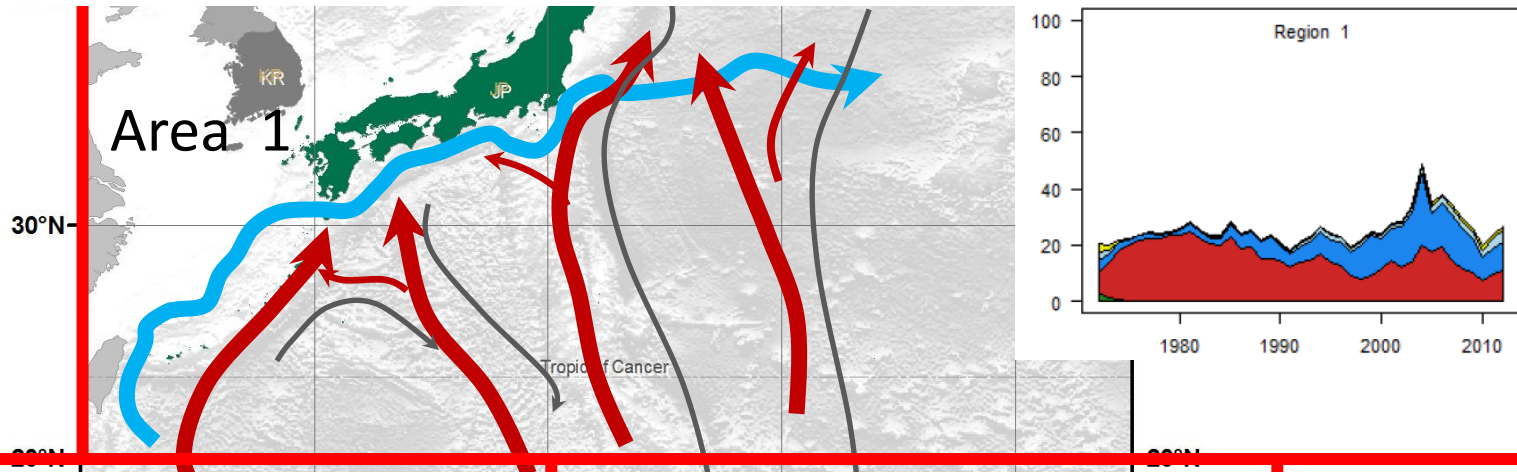




Resource should be recovered to the level local depletion has not been observed.



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 entirety (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))