

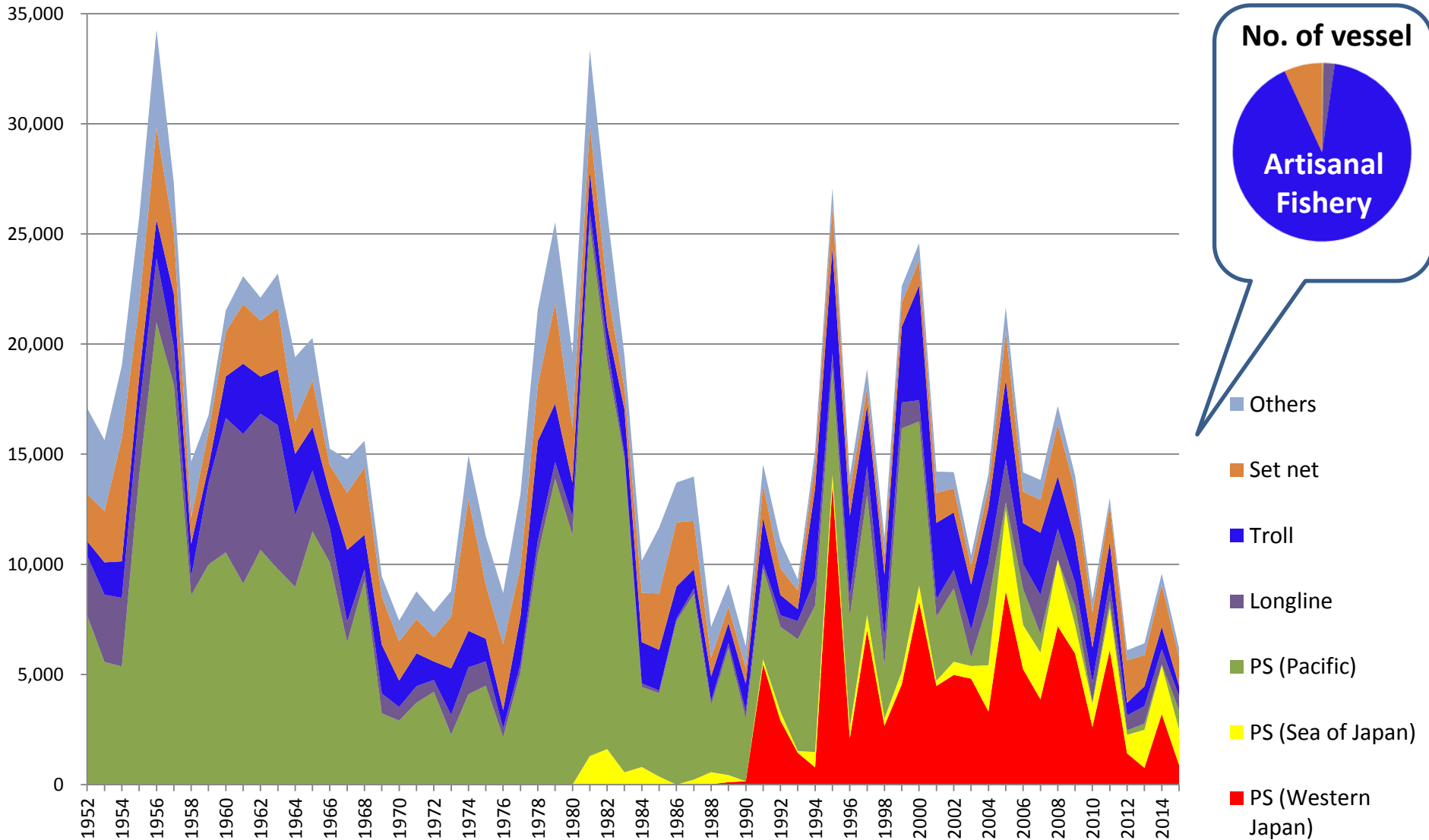
Japan's report on Paragraph 13, CMM2016-04



Introduction:

Overview of Japanese PBF fisheries

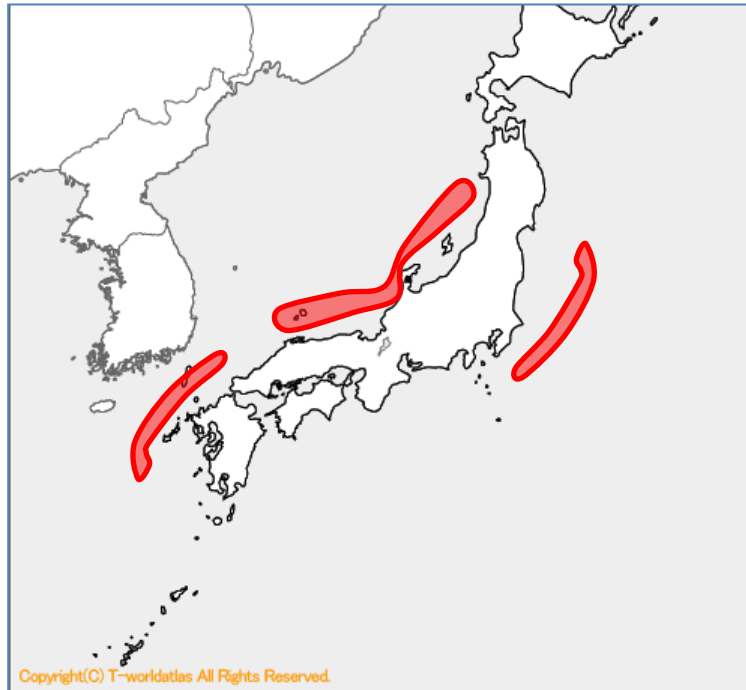
PBF Catch by fishing gear in Japan



⌘ Most of PBF have been fished in internal waters and territorial seas.

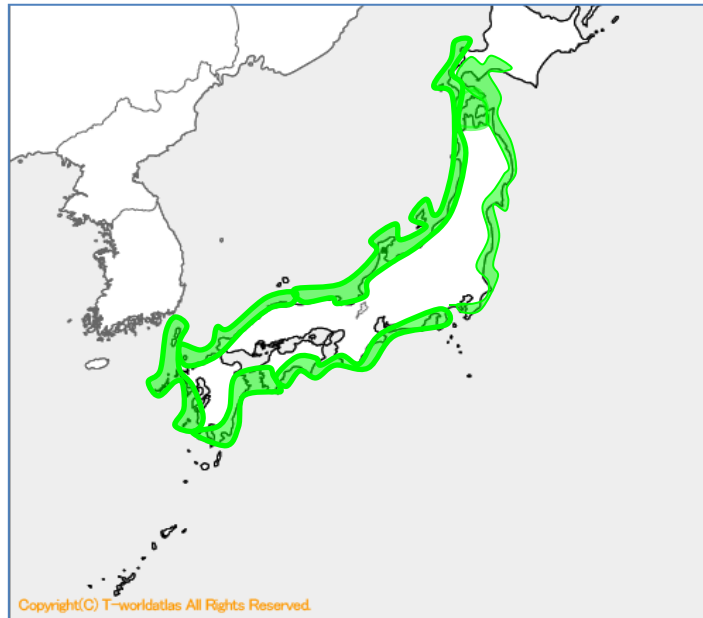
Purse seine fishery

- Managed under licensing system
- Main target species are jack mackerel and mackerel: PBF is caught only during its migration season
- An annual catch limit of **small fish** has been in place since 2011.
- An annual catch limit of **large fish** has been in place since 2015.



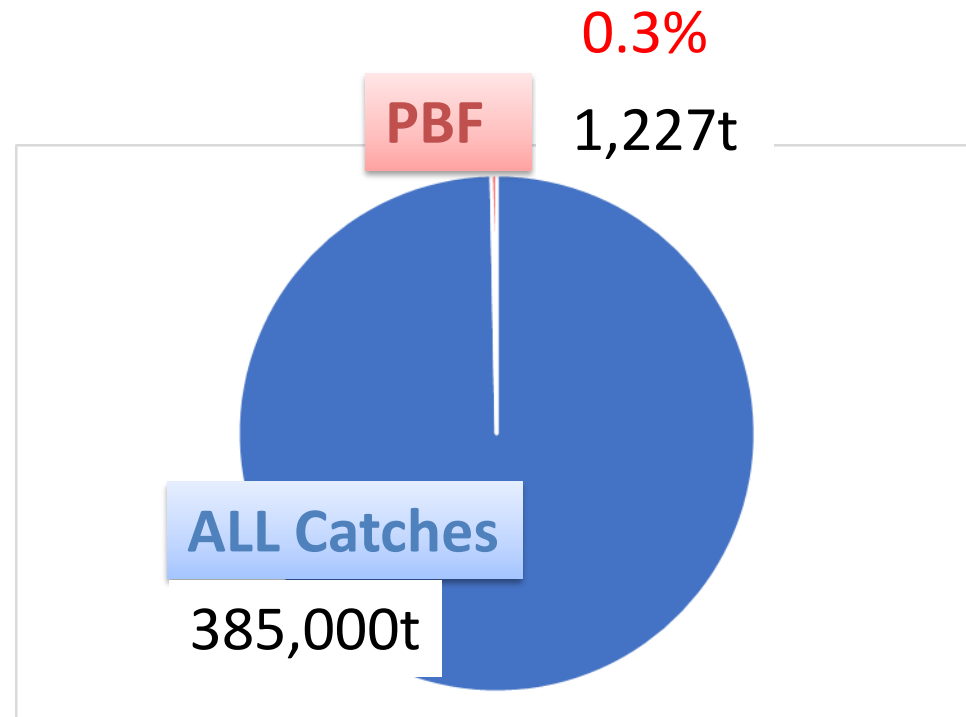
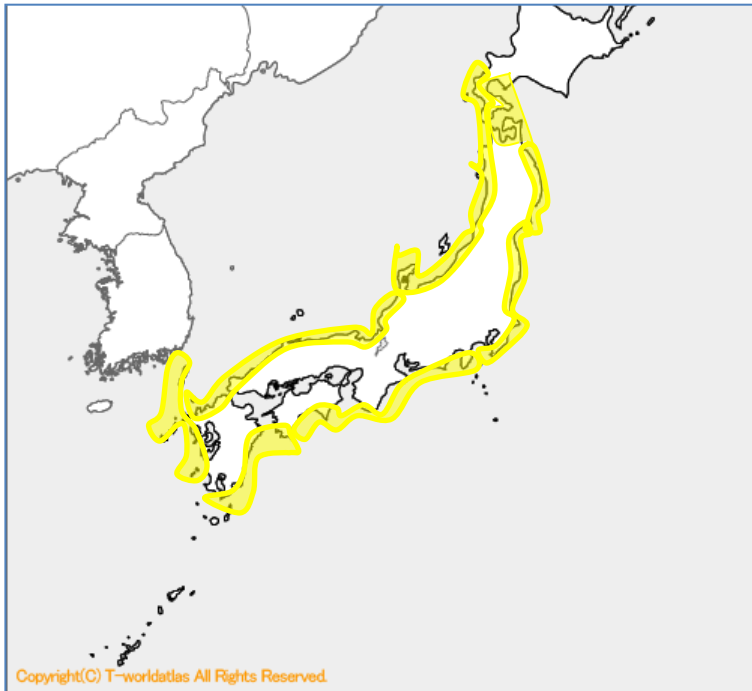
Artisanal Fisheries(Troll, Jigging, Handline, etc.)

- Managed under licensing system: 24,044 vessels
- Mostly troll fishery:
 - Traditionally conducted throughout Japan, frequently in isolated islands and remote peninsulas
 - The typical period of fishing trip is one (1) day.
 - Most of the fishing grounds are within the territorial waters
 - The fishing season is a few months
- An annual catch limit of **small fish** has been in place since 2015



Set Nets (traps)

- Managed under licensing system: approximately 1,800
- **Passive fishing method waiting for any fish to swim into the net**
- **Catch depends on fish migration**
- **Not easy for fishermen to control the catch.**
- PBF catches are less than 1% of all catches.



Data: Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Statistics, 2015

Measures to implement Paragraph 3 & 4: Effort and Catch Control

Management of small fish catch limit (2)

Purse seine fishery:

- Catch limit is allocated to the purse seine association and all catch is landed at designated ports subject to monitoring.

Coastal fisheries and others:

- Japan's coast was divided into 6 areas and catch limit was allocated to each area. A separate category was created for set net fishery in addition to the 6 areas.
- Monitoring and management of catches are conducted on area/gear basis.
- Depending on how close the catch volume is approaching the catch limit in one area, JFA issues "Attention", "Alarm", "Urgent Alarm" and "Stop fishing".

Management of large fish catch limit

- In accordance with paragraph 4, Japan instructed its fishermen not to increase catches of large fish – fish 30kg or larger – from 4,882t.
- The total catch of large fish in 2016 was 4,368 t.

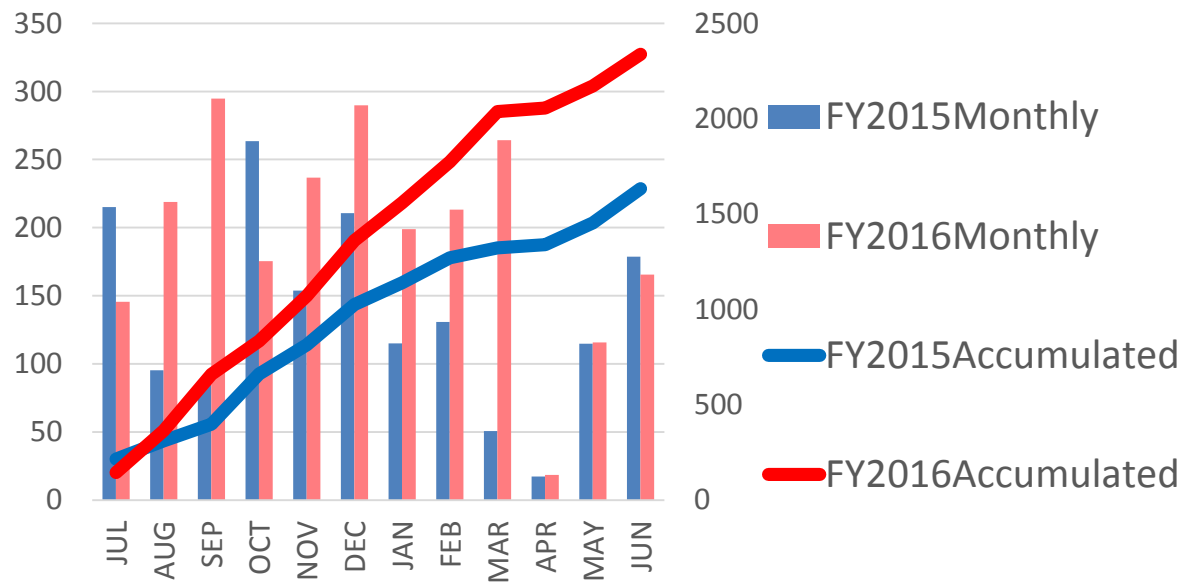
Improved Fishing Condition in 2016 fishing season

1. The catch of small fish by purse seiners in the 2nd management period was 1,937t while it was 923t in the 1st management period.
2. The catch of small fish by coastal fisheries in the 2nd management period is increasing much faster than the previous period.

FY2015
(2015.7-2016.6)
1,633t



FY2016
(2016.7-2017.6)
2,337t



Despite every effort of the Fisheries Agency, local governments and fishermen, total catch of small fish was 4,341t, exceeding the catch limit of 4,007t in 2016. The overage, 334t, will be deducted from catch limit in 2017.

Management under the improving fishing condition

1. When the catch in one area was reaching its allocated limit, JFA instructed fishermen to stop fishing and release alive if caught.
2. However,
 - a. bycatch is unavoidable in the fisheries targeting other fish species
 - b. it took time to transmit the instruction to every fisherman who was likely to catch or bycatch PBF
 - c. it took time to receive report of the catch form fishermen
3. In addition, JFA could not instruct some areas to stop fishing because their catches had not yet reached its allocated limit even when the entire small fish catch was approaching the national limit (4,007 t).

Challenges for coastal fisheries

(1) Squid jigging

Squid jigging fishing boats use fishing lights to attract squid, but many PBFs aggregate to eat those squids and fisherman cannot catch squid.

(2) Yellowtail longline

PBF has not been incidentally caught by Yellowtail longline fishery for last 30 years, but recently, many PBFs (9-10kg) were hooked and some PBF cut the fishing line.

(3) Pole and Line and trolling for skipjack

They have to change their fishing ground or quit their fishing frequently to avoid PBF bycatch.

Challenges for set net fishery management

The problem was more serious for set nets since more PBF came into the nets and the catch increased despite efforts of fishermen to reduce the catch such as:

- (1) releasing PBF alive;
- (2) reducing the number of net retrievals; and
- (3) even closing the entrance of set nets, which sacrificed other species for conservation of PBF.

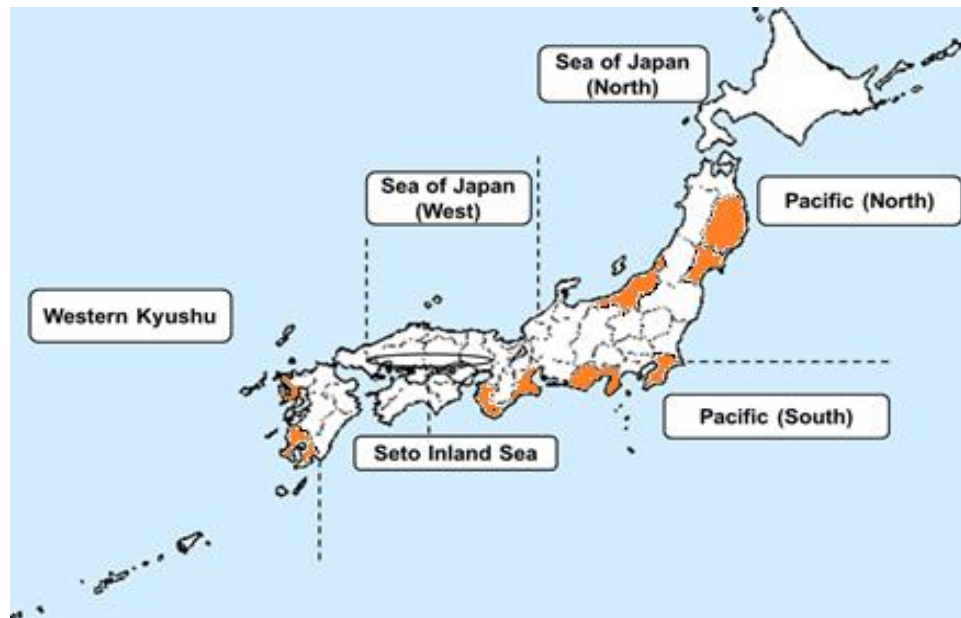




(movie)

Recent incident on unauthorized and unreported fishing activities

1. Unauthorized and unreported PBF catches by coastal fisheries were recently discovered.
2. The total amount of the catch in such cases is 132.1t (13.6t of unauthorized catches and 118.5 t of unreported catches). Almost all of the catches were small fish.



Areas where unauthorized and/or unreported catches were detected are colored in orange.

Causes for unauthorized and unreported fishing activities (1)

1. Unauthorized catches

- a. lack of understanding on licensing system
- b. fishing before a license authorized

2. Unreported catches

- a. landings at ports usually not used
- b. direct sales by fishermen not through fisheries cooperative
- c. bycatch not reported
- d. misunderstanding of reporting deadline
- e. reporting errors

Causes for unauthorized and unreported fishing activities (2)

No unauthorized and unreported catches occurred in the first management period. The reason for this incident in the second management period could be:

1. Fishing condition improved greatly in the second management period.
2. The strengthening of management scheme takes time.
3. Fishing condition is improving faster than the speed of strengthening the management scheme.

Actions to improve management

1. TAC system that imposes penalties on violators
2. More accurate and faster reporting systems
3. Better monitoring of landing by prefectures and JFA
4. More coordination among fishermen in the same area on how to use the catch limit
5. Better communication with buyers and wholesalers to strengthen monitoring
6. Education of fishermen
7. More reserve to respond to contingencies

Regulation of Aquaculture

- Starting in April 2011, all PBF aquaculture sites are required to register and report their farming activities, including information on caging and harvest. As of December 2016, 175 aquaculture sites were on the registration.
- To prevent an increase in fry catches, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries instructed prefectural governments in October 2012 not to increase the capacity of PBF farms which use wild seeds.



**Measures to implement Paragraph 8:
Monitoring of recruitment of juveniles**

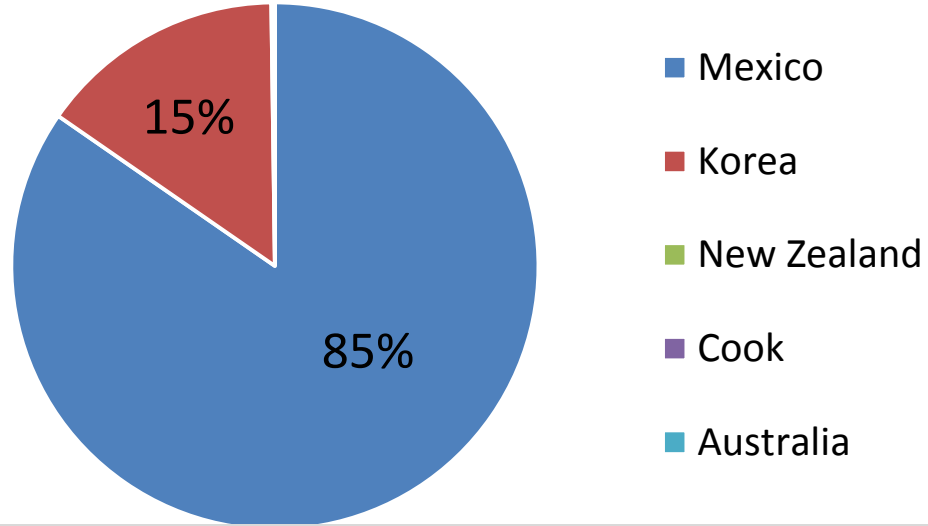
Recruitment Monitoring in a Timely Manner

- A monitoring survey using troll fishing boats has been conducted since 2011 in order to monitor recruitment abundance of age-0 fish in a timely manner.
- In 2016, 72 troll boats equipped with data logger and transmitter were monitored in 6 monitoring sites.
- The preliminary results indicated that the recruitment in 2016 is much better than those of 2014 and 2015.

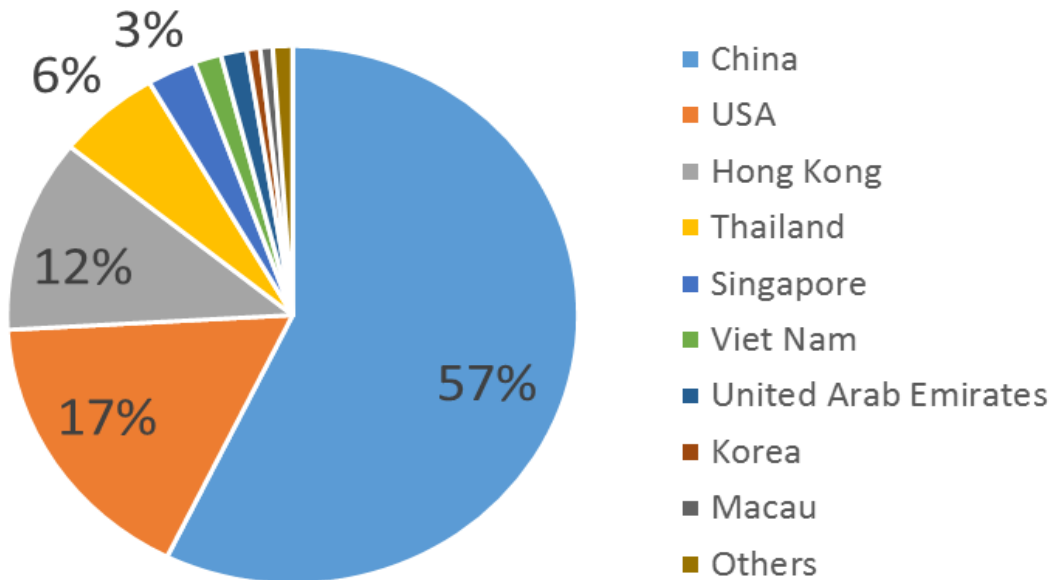
**Measures to implement Paragraph 9:
Commercial Transaction
&
Report of the monitoring of the PBF trade**

PBF Import & Export in 2016

Import: 5,420 t



Export: 101 t



Strengthened data collection for import

Korea:

- In January 2010, a data collection system was established to require importers to make mandatory reporting for each import transaction when they import PBF from Korea.
- Japan imported 678t of small PBF (about 94% of Korean catch limit (718t)), as of July 7. Korea voluntarily sets its 2017 catch limit at 671t, by deducting its overage in 2016. After Japan confirmed that the import amount of small PBF from Korea exceeded its voluntary catch limit in March 2017, Japan requested the government of Korea not to issue catch documentation for PBF harvested beyond its voluntary catch limit. Korea responded that it prohibited harvesting and selling PBF since March 6.

Mexico:

- Starting in February 2011, the same mandatory reporting has been applied to importers that import PBF from Mexico.

Measures to implement Paragraph 11:

Data collection

Collection and Compilation of Catch Data

PBF catch data is collected and compiled on a monthly basis by the following procedure:

Purse seine fishery:

- Purse seine associations compile sales slips of designated landing ports and send them to JFA.

Others:

- Fishermen, through Fisheries Cooperative association, will report PBF catch to a local government.
- Local governments compile the data by gear type and send them to JFA at least every month.

Collection and Compilation of aquaculture data

- The JFA collects the data about PBF aquaculture, including size and number of cages, the number of fries to be input, the sources of fries, the date of input and the amount of final products.
- Fries from wild are harvested by purse seine and troll fisheries. The number of fries put into aquaculture pond from purse seine fishery is monitored by stereo video cameras. Regarding fries from troll fishery, troll fishermen directly sell them to aquaculture farmers, and sometimes brokers involved in the transaction. In any cases, the number of fries to be sold is reported to the fishery cooperative association.