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Preliminary Analysis of Pacific Bluefin Tuna Import from Mexico

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Mexico is by far the largest Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) catching country in IATTC Convention Area, usually catching more than 90% in the area. PBF catch by Mexican Fisheries is almost exclusively made by purse seine vessels and it is reported that PBF are mainly used for fish farming. Most of the farmed PBF are considered to be exported to Japan. Japan started collecting detailed information on PBF import from Mexico from 2011 after the adoption of CMM 2010-04.

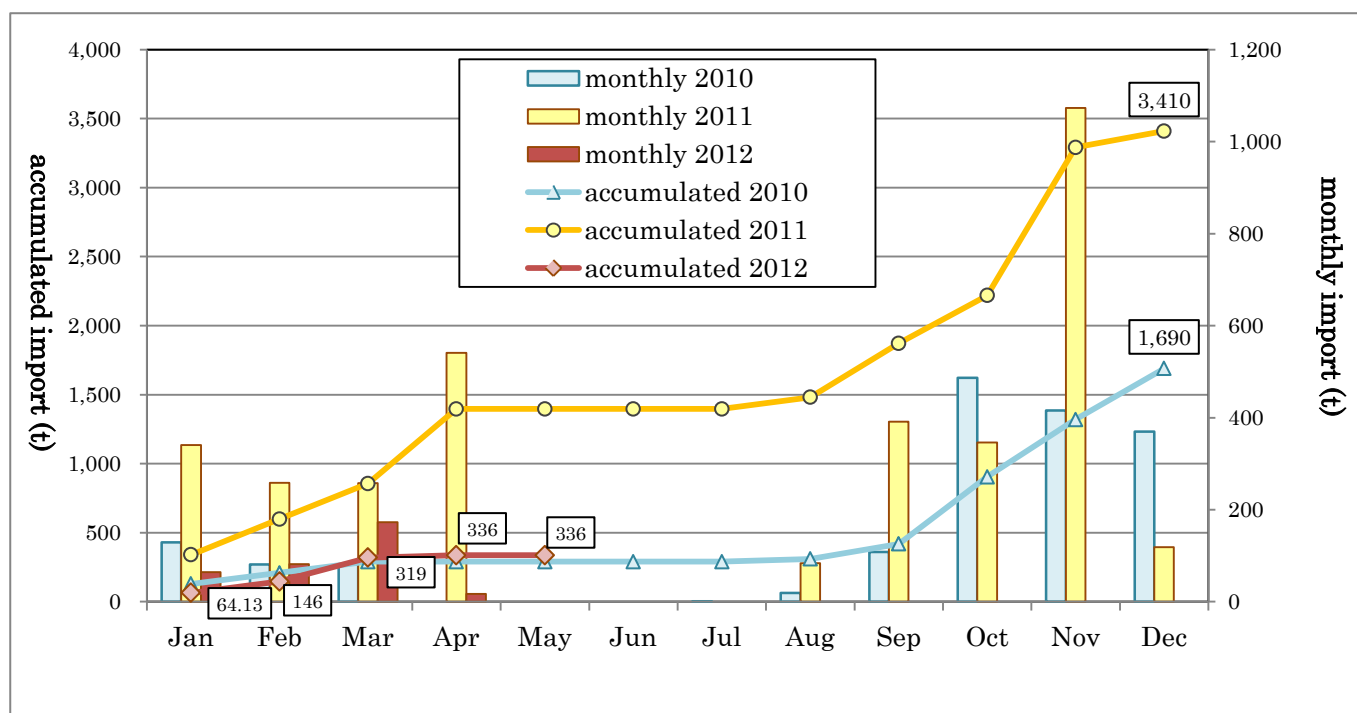


Fig. Japanese import of PBF from Mexico (t)

For comparison, Mexican PBF catch reported to ISC is as follows:

2009 : 3,019t

2010 : 7,745t

2011 : 2,730t

The Japanese import data cannot be directly compared with catch report since the imported PBF are fattened in farming, Mexico exports most of the Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) caught by its vessels.

Japan will continue collecting the PBF import data from Mexico for better understanding of the improvement of management of PBF stocks.