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2024 Overview of Tuna and Billfish Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean

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**Submitted by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the
North Pacific Ocean (ISC)**



International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean

This is a summary of the fishery data for the main tuna and billfish stocks assessed by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) as well as the current status of tuna, billfish and shark species assessed by the ISC in the North Pacific Ocean. The figures presented are based on the data submitted to the ISC by member countries participating in the 2025 plenary session and include data up to 2024. Full detail for countries reports can be found in the report on the twenty-fifth ISC plenary (https://isc.fra.go.jp/reports/isc/isc25_reports.html). No new assessments were conducted in 2025.

In 2024, albacore tuna had a reported catch at 51,052 mt, representing a 12.8% increase from 2023 and remaining close to its 10-year average. Pacific bluefin tuna reached 17,843 mt, showing a slight 2.1% decline from last year but standing 19.1% above the long-term mean. Swordfish catches totaled 8,073 mt and declined 7.5% from 2023, falling 10.9% below the 10-year average—one of the more notable long-term decreases in the table. Striped marlin exhibited the strongest year-to-year increase, rising 48.7% to 2,433 mt and sitting 13.4% above its decade average. Blue marlin followed a similar pattern, increasing 42% from 2023 to 6,756 mt and remaining 10% above the 10-year mean. Blue shark catches were at 36,039 mt, up 13% from last year and 32.6% above the long-term mean. In contrast, shortfin mako shark catches were low at 1,082 mt, decreasing 1.3% from 2023 and remaining 13.5% below the 10-year mean. Overall, most tunas, marlins, and blue sharks show increases relative to 2023 and long-term patterns, while swordfish and shortfin mako showed declines.















Table 1. Summary the 2024 catch and its relationship to catch in 2023 as well as the mean catch over the last 10-years.

Species	2024 (mt)	% diff. from 2023	% diff. 10- year mean
Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	51,052	12.8%	0.8%
Pacific bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus orientalis</i>)	17,843	-2.1%	19.1%
Swordfish	8,073	-7.5%	-10.9%

<i>(Xiphias gladius)</i>			
Striped marlin <i>(Kajikia audax)</i>	2,433	48.7%	13.4%
Blue marlin <i>(Makaira mazara)</i>	6,756	42.0%	10.0%
Blue shark <i>(Prionace glauca)</i>	36,039	13.0%	32.6%
Shortfin Mako Shark <i>(Isurus oxyrinchus)</i>	1,082	-1.3%	-13.5%

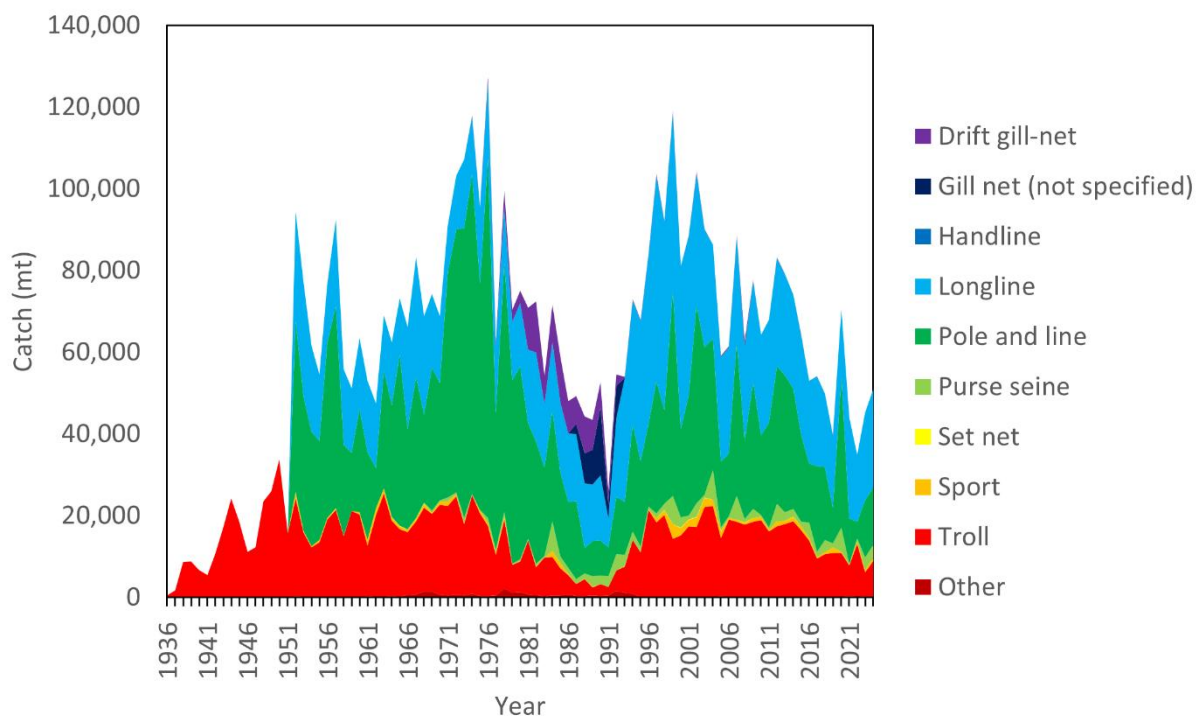
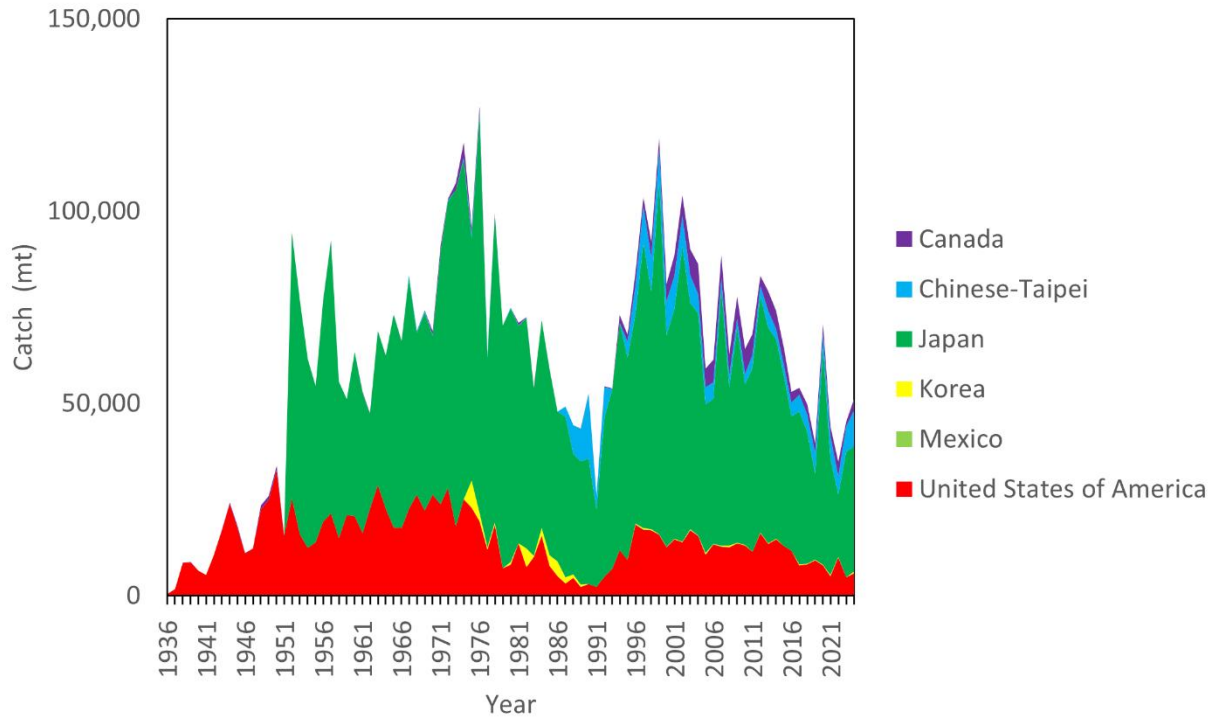
The table below outlines recent stock status evaluations for several highly migratory species in the North Pacific and Western and Central North Pacific. Albacore tuna is assessed as not overfished and not experiencing overfishing, with biomass comfortably above reference thresholds. Pacific bluefin tuna is also not overfished relative to 20%SSB_F=0 and remains above its second rebuilding target, with fishing mortality below levels of concern. Swordfish in the NPO shows a very strong status, with >99% probability of neither overfishing nor an overfished condition. Blue marlin similarly appears not overfished and not experiencing overfishing based on MSY-based reference points, though uncertainties remain. In contrast, striped marlin in the WCNPO is highly likely to be overfished and experiencing overfishing; reducing catches below 2,400 mt is expected to improve recovery prospects by 2040. Blue shark in the NPO is assessed as not overfished and not undergoing overfishing, with expectations the stock will remain above B_MSY over the next decade. Shortfin mako shark in the NPO is also considered not overfished and not experiencing overfishing, with biomass projected to stay above MSY-based levels across all assessed harvest scenarios. Overall, most stocks appear healthy and sustainably fished, with striped marlin standing out as the primary conservation concern.

Table 2. Stock status evaluations for ISC assessed species in the North Pacific and Western and Central North Pacific.

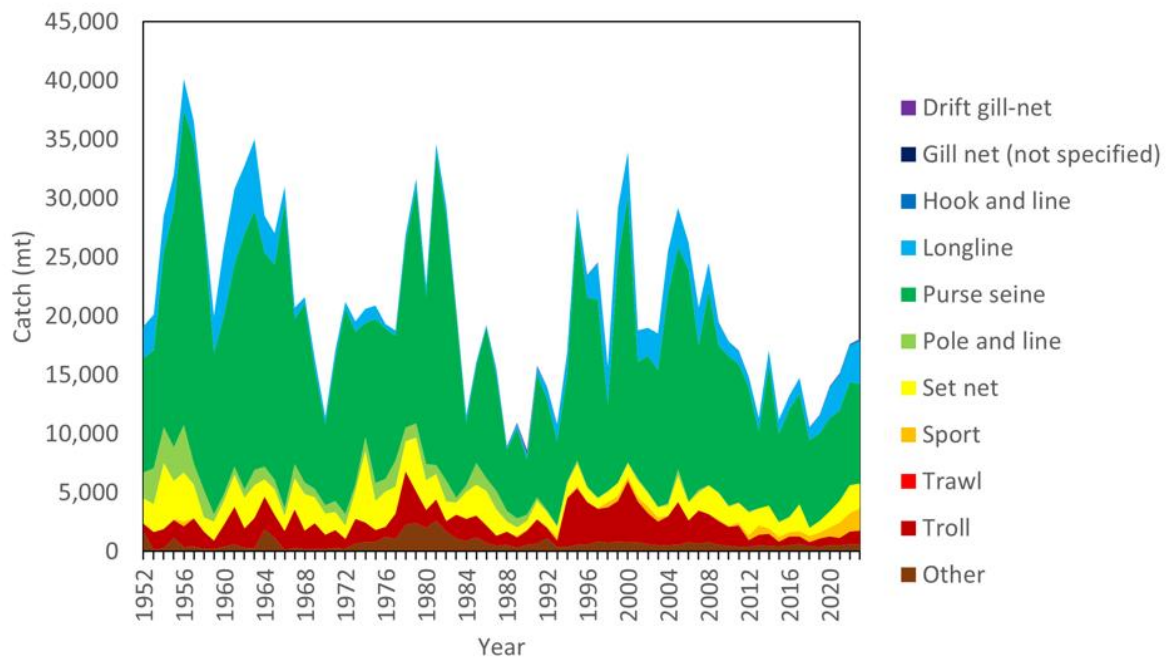
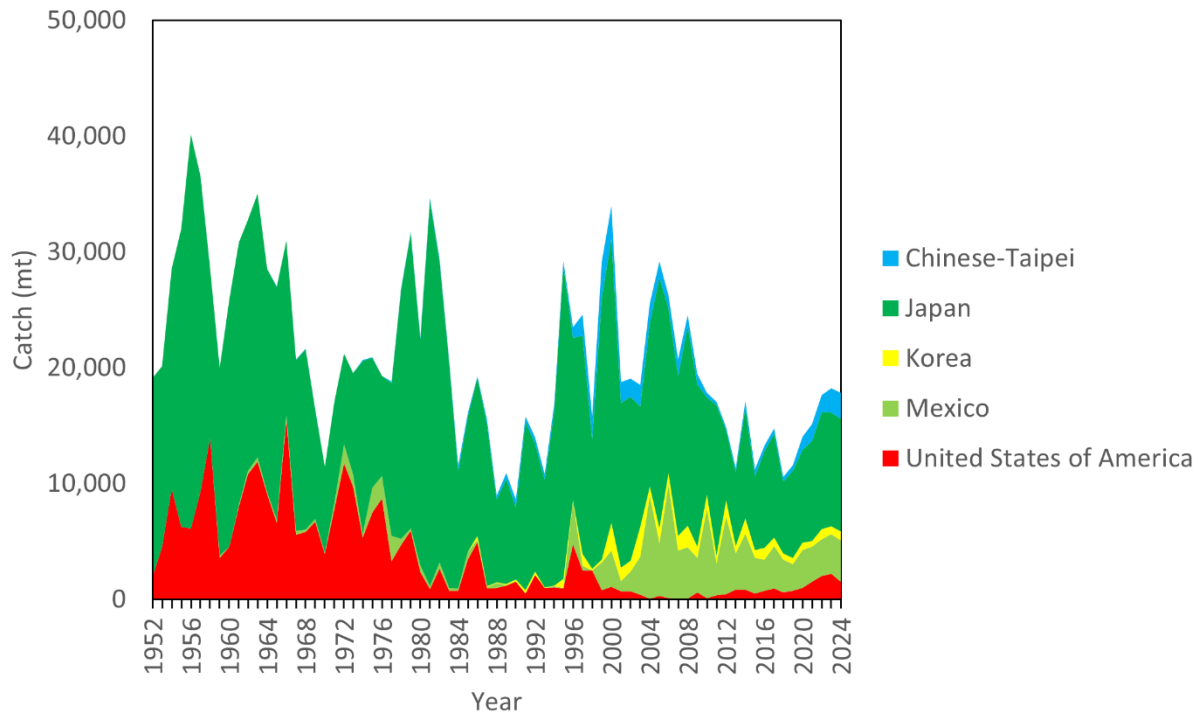
Species	Stock	B _{ref}	F _{ref}	Stock Status and Conservation Information
Albacore tuna 2023	NPO			The stock is likely not overfished relative to 30%SSB _{current} , F=0 and (97.7%) 14%SSB _{current} , F=0 and overfishing relative to F45%SPR is not occurring (95.5%).
Pacific bluefin tuna 2024	Pacific Ocean			No adopted RPs. PBF stock is not overfished relative to 20%SSB _{F=0} . Biomass is above the second rebuilding target as of 2021 with >60% probability. Fishing mortality is below levels proposed for other tuna stocks. Increases in catches are possible but risk of falling below second rebuilding target increases with catch.
Swordfish 2023	NPO			Stock is very likely not overfished (>99%) and overfishing is very likely not occurring (>99%) relative to adopted MSY-based RPs.
Blue marlin 2021	Pacific Ocean			No adopted RPs. Stock is likely not overfished (81%) and overfishing is likely not occurring (>90%) relative to MSY-based RPs. There is a low probability that stock status will change by 2029.
Striped marlin 2023	WCNPO			Relative to 20%SSB _{F=0} based reference points, stock is very likely to be overfished (>99% probability) with overfishing (>66% probability). Reducing annual catch below 2,400 t is expected to promote recovery of the stock by 2040. Assessment was externally reviewed.
Blue shark (<i>Prionace glauca</i>) 2022	NPO			No RPs adopted. Stock is likely not overfished (63.5%) and overfishing is likely not occurring (91.9%) relative to MSY-based RPs. The stock is expected to remain above B _{MSY} for the next 10.
Shortfin Mako Shark (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>) 2024	NPO			No RPs adopted. Stock is likely not overfished (66%) and overfishing is likely not occurring (95%) relative to MSY-based RPs. The stock is expected to remain above MSY levels for the next 10 years under all harvest scenarios except F _{MSY} .

Fisheries and landings

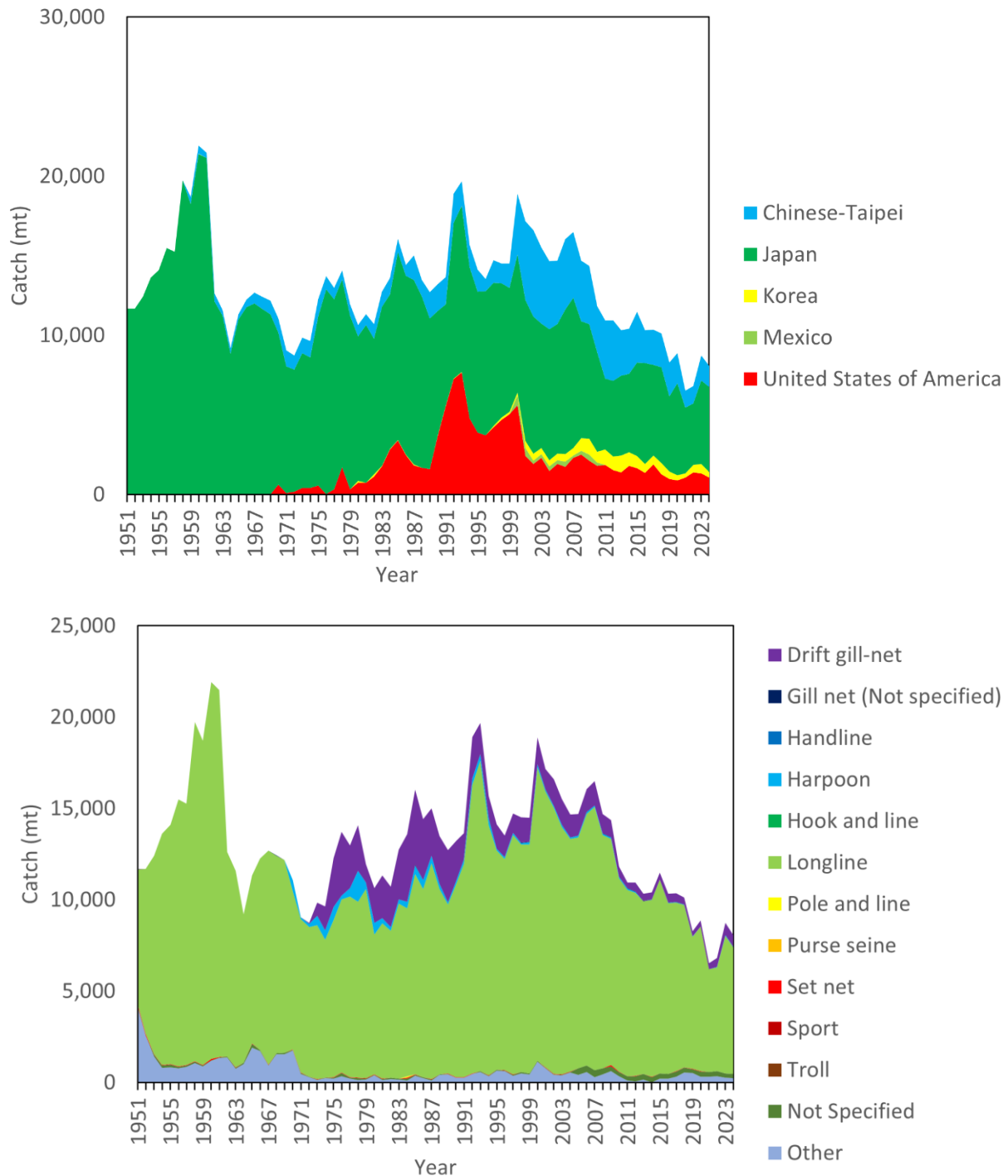
Landings for North Pacific albacore tuna reported to the ISC by country (top panel) and by gear (bottom panel)



Landings for Pacific bluefin tuna reported to the ISC by country (top panel) and by gear (bottom panel)



Landings for North Pacific swordfish reported to the ISC by country (top panel) and by gear (bottom panel)



Landings for Western and Central North Pacific Ocean striped marlin reported to the ISC by country (top panel) and by gear (bottom panel)

