NATIONAL REPORT OF CHINA

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SUMMARY

Updated information on China tuna fishery in the Indian Ocean is presented in the paper. China longliners operated in the Indian Ocean have increased to 98 in year 2000 from 12 in year 1995. The catches of tuna and tuna-like species reached 6507 MT in year 2000 from 444 MT in year 1995. Major fishing grounds of China longline fishing are located in the eastern Indian Ocean. Main species in tuna fishery consist of bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna. Nominal CPUEs (kg per thousand hooks) and fishing effort (hooks) by month in 2000 are also presented. The highest nominal CPUE occurred in August, 2000, with the 351 kg per thousand hooks and highest fishing effort in December with the 2285.4 thousand hooks. China government has been very much concerning with the quality of tuna data collection in the Indian Ocean. A Tuna Fishery Scientific Research and Working Group established in Shanghai Fisheries University is making effort to conduct tuna research and data collection.

FISHERY INFORMATION

Up to now, longlining has been the only fishing method applied by Chinese fishing companies for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC water. As shown in table 1, 98 tuna longliners from 12 fishing companies operated in the Indian Ocean in 2000. Fishing area of Chinese fleet in 2000 was $55-85^{\circ}E$, $10^{\circ}N-15^{\circ}S$. The tuna fleet is dominated by small-scale longliners with the Loa between 24m and 30m. There are 8 large-scale longliners operated in the high seas of Indian Ocean in 2000.

The total nominal catch of tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC waters in 2000 is 6507 MT in round weight in 2000, 5.6 percent increase compared with that in 1999, see table 2.

Compared with the previous year, fishing effort in the West Indian Ocean has increased greatly. In 1999, number of hooks deployed in the West part only accounted for 2% of the total fishing effort in the Ocean. In 2000, the number of hooks in the same part accounts for 17.9 % of the total fishing effort (See table 3). This might indicate a tendency of westward movement of the fishing fleet. The large-scale longliners attributed to the most of fishing effort in the western Indian Ocean

Table 4 shows fishing effort and nominal CPUE by Chinese longliners in the Indian Ocean by month. Table 5 is area breakdown of Task I catches by the Chinese longline fishery in 1999 and 2000. Estimated discards last two years is indicated in table 6.

CATCH STATISTICS AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture of China has been very much concerning the quality

of tuna data collection. National-wide meeting on tuna data collection had been organized at least once a year during past years. Participants are managers of tuna fishing companies and tuna-related fishery enterprises. In addition, all the companies engaged in tuna fishing and tuna fisheries have been required to submit their catch data (such as catch and fishing effort by species, month, gear, area etc.) to China Fisheries Association, a nongovernmental organization, before the set dead line every year. Supported by Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and China Fisheries Association, a "Tuna Fishery Scientific Research and Working Group"(the Group) has been established in Shanghai Fisheries University in January 1999. This tuna-working group, working directly for the China Fisheries Association, takes responsibility for the data collection and analysis as well as for providing scientific recommendations for the purpose of tuna fisheries research and management.

The Group is preparing for the application of wintuna 2000 software in China tuna data collection. As soon as IOTC completes the final English version of wintuna 2000, the Group shall make the Chinese version of the software under the help of IOTC secretary. All the Chinese tuna catch data will be put into the database. Moreover, Chinese Tuna Working Group will conduct training session for the application of the wintuna 2000 among the fishing companies operated in the IOTC waters. This shall facilitate to establish Chinese tuna data collection system in Indian Ocean.

With regard to scientific observer program, three observers have been dispatched to the high seas of the Atlantic Ocean in March, 2001. Two observers have returned from Atlantic Ocean. The Group will summarize the program in order to promote accuracy of tuna data collection. Next step will be decided according to the observer results achieved.

In supporting the work of IOTC secretariat, China government will host the fourth WPTT meeting in Shanghai in June,2002. By the opportunity, the Group shall promote tuna data collection in China.

Table 1 Number of Chinese Tuna Fleet in 1995-2000 in Indian Ocean

Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Number	12	52	89	120	96	98

Table 2 Catches of tunas and tuna-like species during 1995-2000 (round weight in MT)

Species	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
YFT	137.89	493.77	750.14	402.1	2,335	2361.5
BET	139.52	466.3	1,651.68	2,164.48	2,182	2698.6
SWO	71.34	237.8	255.2	117.16	270	372.2
ALB SHX					189 187	2.8 98.4
BIL					287	485.9
OTH*	95.7	299.42	306.77	396.43	712	487.6

Total	444.45	1,497.29	2,963.79	3,080.17	6,162	6507

Table 3 Fishing Effort in IOTC Waters between 1999 and 2000

Year	Area	Total hooks(x1000)
1999	East	14,939
	West	317
2000	East	17627.7
	West	3838.58

Table 4 Fishing Effort and Nominal CPUE in IOTC waters in 2000 by month

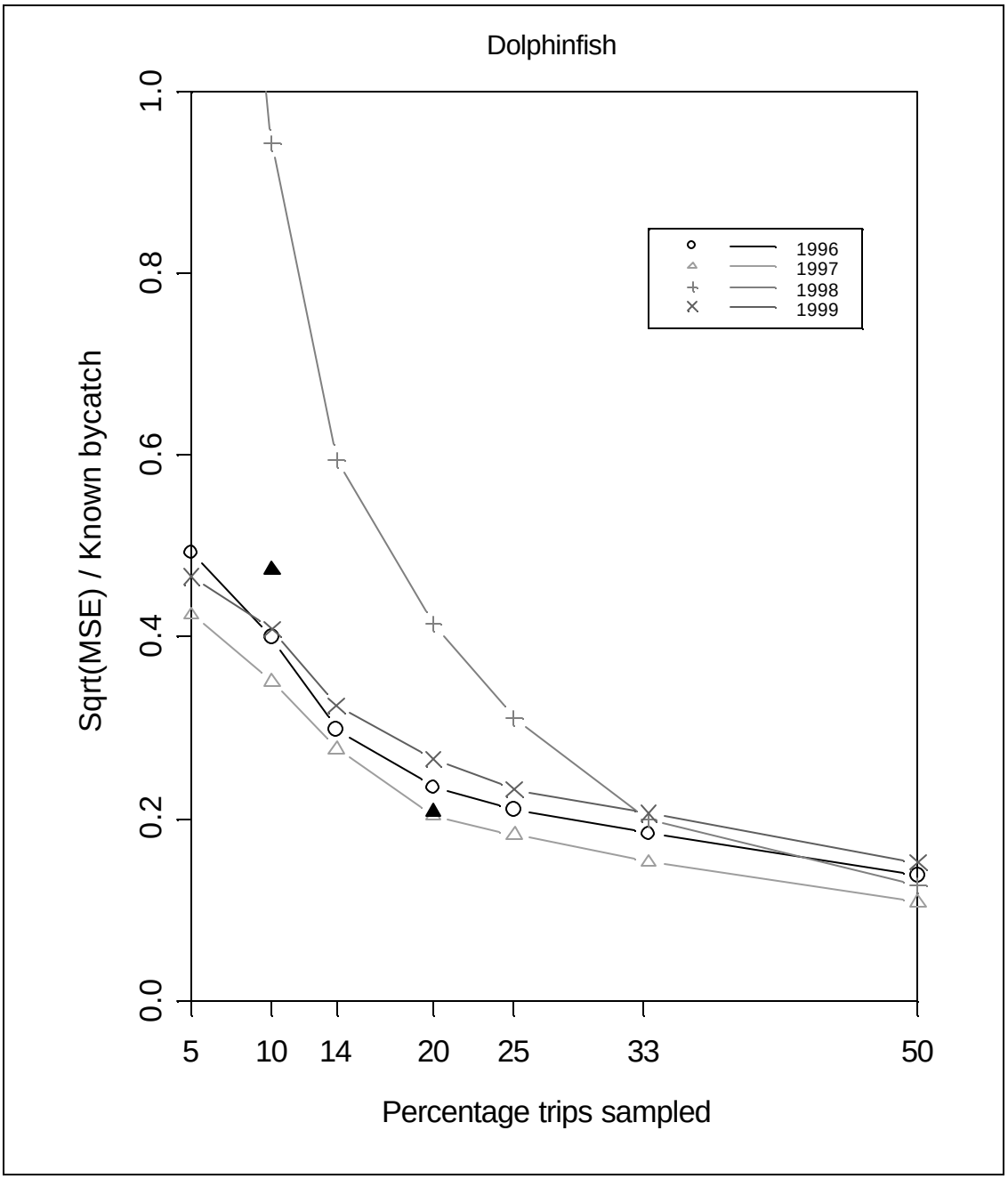
Month	Jan	Feb.	March	Apr.	May	June
Hooks (x1000)	1924.5	2003.9	2254.3	2355.1	2244.6	1879.5
CPUE (kg/1000 hooks)	312.1	288.9	266.5	300.0	271.9	293.8
Month	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Hooks (x1000)	1005.3	993.4	957.4	1458.4	2086.5	2285.4
CPUE (kg/1000 hooks)	338	351	327.8	346.3	314.1	304.2

Table 5. Nominal Catch in Metric tons from Chinese Longline Fleet by Gear and Fishing Areas in 1999 and 2000 (IOTC Form 1)

Year	Gear	Area	BET	YFT	SWO	ALB	BIL	SHK	OTH	TOTAL
1999	LL	East	2113	2206	262	101	287	187	712	5868
	LL	West	69	129	8	88	//	//	//	294
	Sum		2182	2335	270	189	287	187	712	6162
2000	LL	East	1822.1	2055.2	293.6	0	343.8	94.8	308.5	4918
	LL	West	876.5	306.3	78.6	2.8	142.1	3.6	179.1	1589
	Sum		2698.6	2361.5	372.2	2.8	485.9	98.4	487.6	6507

Table 6. Discards Reported in MT from Chinese Longline Fleet in 1999-2000 IOTC Form 1

Year	Gear	Area	BET	YFT	SWO	ALB	BIL	SHK	OTH
1999	LL	East	4	5.5	//	//	3.1	14.5	5.6
2000		East	13	16	0	0	12	16	11


Dolphinfish
Sqrt(MSE) / Known bycatch
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1.0
5
10
14
20
25
33
50
Percentage trips sampled
1996
1997
1998
1999