

Japan's Fishing Operation in the Emperor Seamount Chain Area

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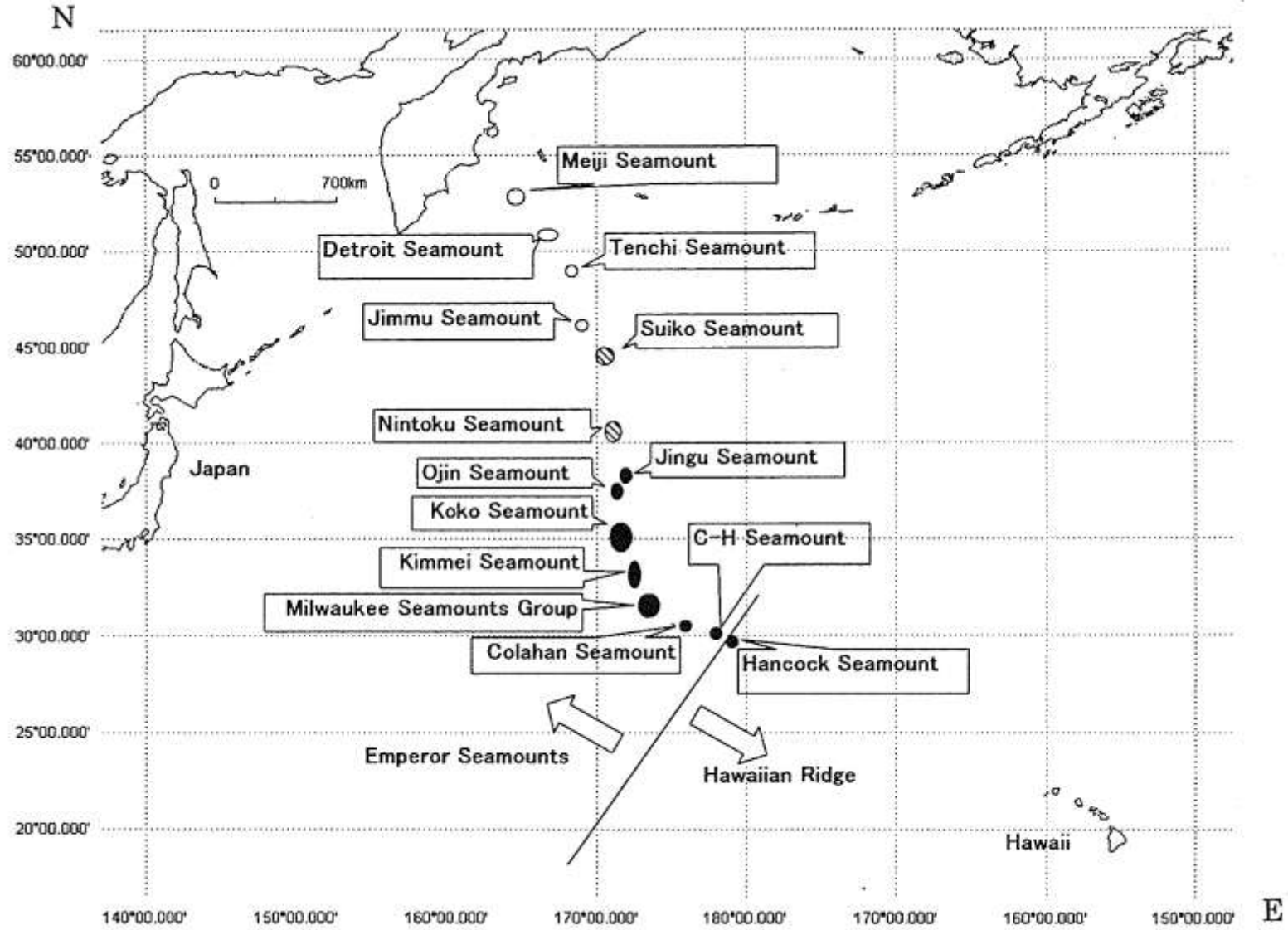
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Japan Overseas Fishing Association (JOFA)

- Established in 1968
- Membership: Japanese far-seas fishing companies, and associate companies
- Fishing vessels of member companies: 10 licensed vessels (Trawler, Bottom long-liner, etc.)
- Major fishing grounds: Emperor Seamount Chain Area, Southern Indian Ocean, Southeast Atlantic Ocean, Northwest Atlantic Ocean, Antarctic Ocean, and EEZ of foreign countries

Emperor Seamount Chain (ESC) Area



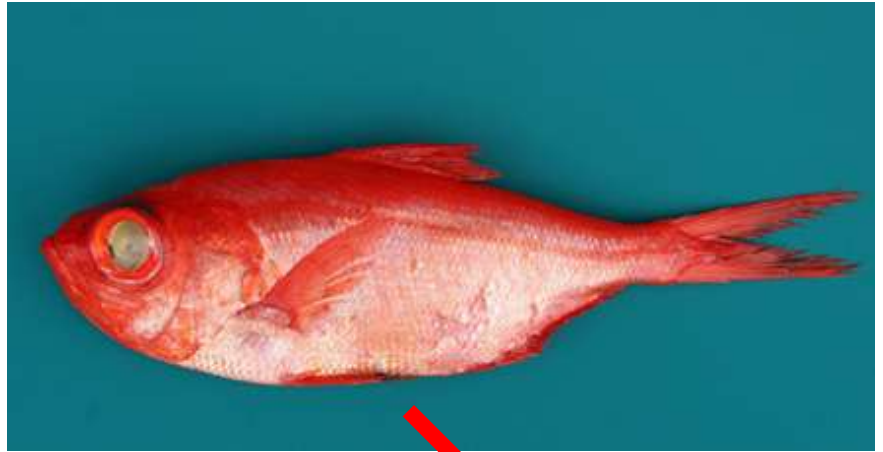
Quoted from Yanagimoto, T., 2004: Groundfish fisheries and the biological properties of *Alfonsino*, *Beryx Splendens* Lowe in the Emperor Seamount, Fisheries Biology and Oceanography in the Kuroshio, Vol 5, 99-105

Main Target Species in the ESC area

North Pacific Armorhead

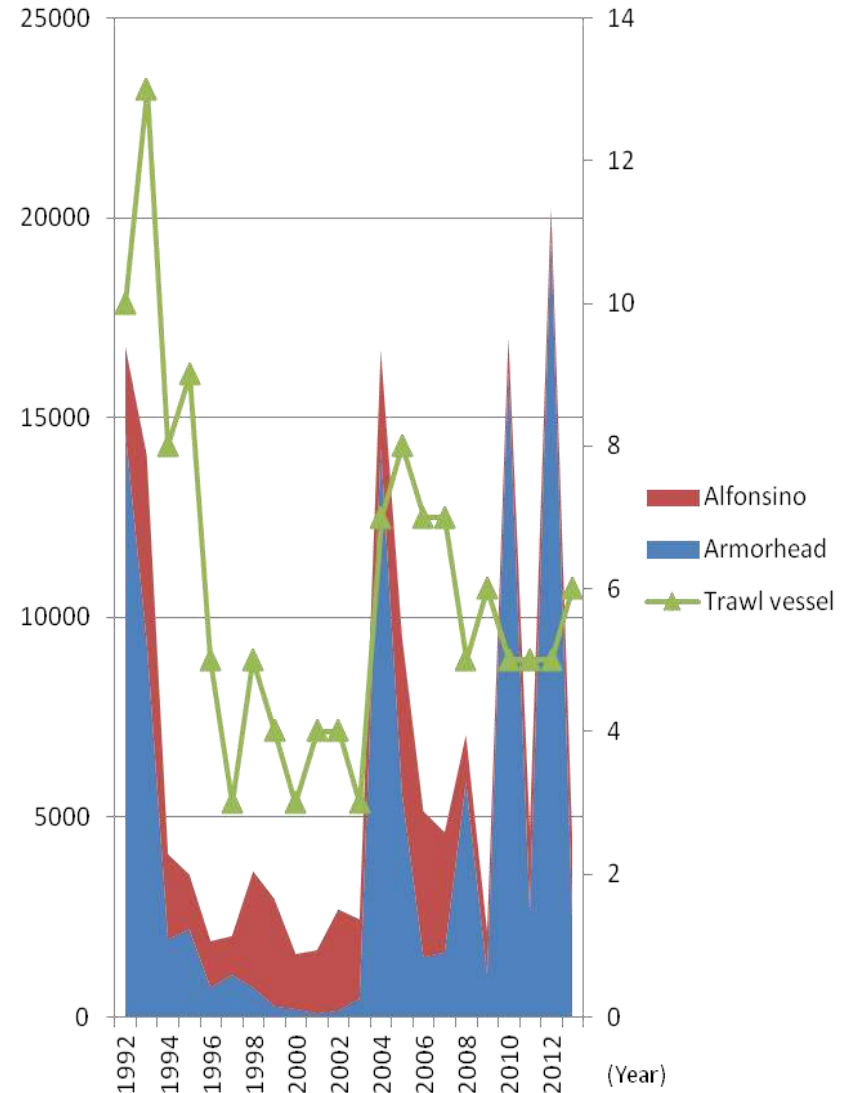


Splendid Alfonsino



Fishing in the ESC Area

- Soviet Union started fishing North Pacific armorhead in the ESC area in 1968
- Japan's trawl fishing started in 1969
- The historical range of catch by Japan's fishing
 - North Pacific armorhead: between 53 ton (1983) and 34,800 ton (1972)
 - Splendid alfonsino: between 0 ton (1974) and 11,800 ton (1980)
- JOFA members' vessels depend on the operation in the ESC area for a significant part of total amount of their annual harvests value



Actions taken by JOFA in relation to conservation and research as Japan's interim and voluntary measures

1. 100% scientific observer coverage

2. Spatial management

- No operation in the waters north of 45° N
- No operation in the waters deeper than 1,500m depth
- Closure of C-H Seamount and south eastern part of Koko Seamount

3. Fishing effort management

- No increase in the number of fishing vessels operating in the ESC area
- limitation of accumulated towing time
- Closed fishing period (November and December)
- Annual catch limit of 15,000 MT for North Pacific armorhead

4. Encounter protocol for cold water corals

- Fishing vessels move 5 miles from the site where 50kg or more cold water corals are incidentally taken in one haul

Work of Scientific Observer

Tasks of Scientific Observer

- Collection of fishing data, including fishing gear, fishing time and point
- Collection of biological data and samples of target species
- Record of incidental take of non-target species, including cold water coral spp.
- Collection of all cold water coral taken during fishing operation

Training Program for Observers



Conclusion

1. JOFA has the largest number of fishing vessels in the ESC area; and
2. The ESC area is the most important fishing ground for JOFA members' vessels, which depend on the operation in the ESC area for a significant part of total amount of their annual harvest value; therefore,
3. JOFA and its members will continue their efforts to ensure sustainable development of fishing industry in the ESC area by:
 - contributing to collection of scientific data and samples of target resources/VMEs as much as practicable; and
 - conserving target resources while protecting VMEs, through full compliance with relevant measures.