



Mainland China began to develop north Pacific Albacore fishery in 1999. In 1999, there were 12 fishing vessels involved in this fishery, those fishing vessels targeting Albacore with the Bigeye tuna, Yellowfin tuna, Swordfish etc. as the bycatch. Those fishing vessels are large scale normal freezer (-36°C) tuna longliners operated 2800 – 3300 hooks every day, with 19--23 hooks per basket depending on the fishing ground condition. Those fishing vessels are seasonal shifting the fishing ground targeting Albacore from the North Pacific Ocean to the South Pacific Ocean. The size of the longliners ranged from 334 to 2340GRT, with 493-855 GRT in dominance.

Albacore caught by those vessels generally operating in the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean were usually sold to the processing plant for canned products.

## **2. Fisheries Monitoring, Data Collecting and Reporting**

### ***Fisheries Monitoring***

The Bureau of Fisheries of China issues the fishing permit to the fishing vessel and reviews the fishing activities of fishing company every year, including the quality of catch data submitted. Submitting the required catch data on time to the tuna working group will be taken as one of the most important records when issuing the fishing permit next year. If any violation is found against fishing activity, the penalty will be imposed on violator, the most severe one will include the cancellation of fishing permit.

### ***Data collecting and reporting***

“Tuna Working Group” is constructing tuna fishery database. All the fishing companies report by month the catch data to tuna working group office for analysis. The technical tuna-working group of Shanghai Fisheries University will further arrange and analyze the data from the “Tuna working group” and submit them to regional tuna fisheries management organization as required. So far, except the data collected by observer program, there lack of size frequency data from fishing companies. Some efforts, such as observer program are needed to collect such kind of size frequency data.

## **3. Research**

Under the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, a comprehensive research project on the tuna and tuna fisheries in the Pacific Ocean (mainly in the East Pacific Ocean) was carried out in 2003. The main contents of the project include the collection of environmental information on the fishing ground, biological information of the catch. Scientists on board the fishing boats also recorded details about the sharks, discards, and incidental catch of sea turtles, if any.

#### Reference

1. SONG Liming, XU Liuxiong, Dai Xiaojie, 2004. National Fishery Report of China in WCPO. SCTB17 working paper. NFR-4.