

**INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR TUNA AND  
TUNA-LIKE SPECIES IN THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN (ISC)**

**“Pacific Bluefin and North Pacific Albacore Tuna  
Age Determination Workshop”**

**PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA WORKING GROUP  
ALBACORE WORKING GROUP**

**PROSPECTUS**

Population size estimates including recruitment and biomass levels, are highly sensitive to growth curve parameters used in the assessment models. Although growth curves for Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) and North Pacific albacore (NPALB) have been improving year by year, uncertainty related to age determination is an ongoing challenge for assessing these species. The Pacific Bluefin Tuna and North Pacific Albacore Tuna Age Determination Workshop aims to share information on age determination techniques among specialists and to develop standardized protocols for aging methods in order to contribute to reliable growth curves and improved stock assessments for both species.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Clarify age determination issues for PBF and NPALB;
- Discuss and identify practical techniques for aging;
- Develop standardized protocols for aging techniques where appropriate;
- Develop age determination manuals for PBF and NPALB; and
- Establish an age structure exchange process to facilitate inter-laboratory calibration of tuna ages.

**DATE AND VENUE**

- **Date:** 13-16 November 2013
- **Venue:** National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries  
5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu, Shizuoka 424-8633 JAPAN

**EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS**

Participants are specialists in the aging of tuna and tuna-like species from ISC member

countries or affiliated organizations, working on bluefin and albacore tunas. Three invited speakers will attend the workshop with funding from FAJ/FRA. Participation will be limited to 30 people.

### **REGISTRATION**

The registration deadline for the overseas participants is 15 October 2013. Please contact the workshop chair (Osamu Abe: [turtlea@affrc.go.jp](mailto:turtlea@affrc.go.jp) with a CC to Sarah.Shoffler@noaa.gov) by the deadline.

### **TENTATIVE AGENDA**

#### Day 1 - Current Issues for Age Determination Techniques

1. Opening
2. Agency Overviews - Brief descriptions from each agency outlining their ageing lab - organization, manpower, age methods used, species aged, QA/QC & precision testing methods, etc.
3. Case Studies of Tuna Aging
  - ABF, SBF, and other tunas
4. Current Issues for Age Determination Techniques
  - PBF and NPALB
5. Description of Proposed Manual

#### Day 2~3 - Demonstration and Methods Sharing

6. Technical Issues of Age Determination
  - Sample preparation and protocols
  - Interpretation of banding patterns
7. Hands-on Demonstration on reading annual/daily rings
  - Hands-on demonstration on reading annual/daily rings
  - Comparison of ages from distributed otolith images – developing consensus on age, including banding patterns and features used to establish age

#### Day 4 - Discussions and Reporting

8. Elaboration of Age Determination Manual
  - Appropriate age structures
  - International birthdate
  - Standardized terminology
  - Sampling, preparation and handling protocols
  - Pattern Interpretation
  - Quality control/quality assurance procedures, including precision testing

and inter-lab calibration

- Examine aging manuals for PBF and NP-ALB.

9. Recommendations

10. Closing

### **EXPECTED OUTPUT**

- Approaches to address existing issues on age determination for PBF and NP-ALB will be clarified; Standardized protocols for aging techniques will be developed and documented, to improve the consistency of age data produced by cooperating agencies in the ISC,
- Aging manuals for PBF and NPALB will be published.

### **CONTACT**

- Osamu Abe ([turtlea@affrc.go.jp](mailto:turtlea@affrc.go.jp)) - Aging Workshop Chair and local contact
- John Holmes ([John.Holmes@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:John.Holmes@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)) - ALB contact
- Sarah Shoffler ([Sarah.Shoffler@noaa.gov](mailto:Sarah.Shoffler@noaa.gov)) - ISC Office of the Chair

## <Workshop Information>

**Date:** 13-16 November 2013

**Venue:** National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRIFSF),  
Fisheries Research Agency (FRA), JAPAN  
5-7-1, Orido, Shimizu, Shizuoka 424-8633, JAPAN

Phone : 81(Japan)-(0)543-36-6000

Fax : 81(Japan)-(0)543-35-9642

Website (in English): <http://fsf.fra.affrc.go.jp/eng/index-e.htm>

(in Japanese): <http://fsf.fra.affrc.go.jp/>

Map: <http://fsf.fra.affrc.go.jp/annnai.htm>

### **Accommodations/Transportation:**

Participants are responsible for making their own hotel reservations and transportation arrangements. If you need any help/additional information, please contact the workshop chair, Osamu Abe, NRIFSF ([turtlea@affrc.go.jp](mailto:turtlea@affrc.go.jp)).

### **Contact information for hotels in the area:**

Hotel Quest Shimizu

3-27 Masago-cho Shimizu-ku

Shizuoka-city Shizuoka 424-0816

Telephone: +81-54-366-7101

Email: [reservation@hotelquest.co.jp](mailto:reservation@hotelquest.co.jp)

Web: <http://www.hotelquest.co.jp>

Hotel Century Shizuoka

18-1 Minamicho, Surugaku

Shizuoka-city Shizuoka 422-8575

Telephone: +81-54-284-0111

Web: <http://www.centuryshizuoka.co.jp>

Hotel Vista Shimizu

1-23 Masago-cho Shimizu-ku

Shizuoka-city Shizuoka 424-0816

Telephone: +81-54-371-9111

Fax: +81-54-371-9112