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NATIONAL REPORT OF JAPAN (JAPANESE TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE FISHERIES IN THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN IN 2025)[1]

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Summary

Japanese tuna fisheries consist of the three major fisheries (i.e., longline, purse seine, and pole-and-line) and other miscellaneous fisheries like troll, driftnet, and setnet fisheries. This paper described the recent trend of the Japanese tuna fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean and updated the statistics given in the previous National Report for ISC25 (Matsubara et al., 2025). The total catch of tunas excluding skipjack caught by Japanese fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean was 64,814 metric ton (t) in 2024 and 66,288 t in 2025. The total catch of tunas including skipjack caught by Japanese fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean was 249,168 t in 2024 and 188,303 t in 2025. The total catch of swordfish and striped marlin was 4,722 t in 2024 and 4,517 t in 2025. In addition to fisheries description, a brief description was given on Japanese research activities in 2025 for tuna and tuna-like species in the Pacific Ocean.

1 TRENDS IN FLEET SIZE

Table 1-A and B show the number of Japanese tuna fishing vessels engaged in fishing by type of fishery and by vessel size class during 1980-2006 (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, MAFF 1982-2008) and 2006-2025. The number of active vessels during 2006-2025 was estimated based on logbook data. The coastal longline vessels less than 20 Gross Register Tonnage (GRT), which are regulated operating only within Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the research and training vessels of both longline and pole-and-line were not included in Table 1-B. The coastal longline vessels less than 20 GRT, which don't have a license to operate in areas beyond Japan's EEZ, were not included in **Table 1**-B. The research and training vessels of both longline and pole-and-line were not included in **Table 1**-B. The values of number of vessels reported for the last two years were provisional in **Table 1**-B.

The total number of longline vessels showed a continuous declining trend since the early 1990s (Table 1-A). The number of longline vessels of the largest size class (> 200 GRT) was nearly constant in the period between the beginning of the 1980s and the mid-1990s. In accordance with the agreement of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)'s international action plan on fishing capacity, the Japanese government implemented the fleet reduction program and decreased its large longline vessels by 20% in 1998. The number of longline vessels continued to decline thereafter. In 2009, the Japanese government implemented the second fleet reduction program for its fishery following the management measures adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The recent declining trend for the fleet size larger than 50 GRT was remarkable. The number of vessels of 50-99 GRT was 3 in 2025 which is 7% of that in 2006, and the number of vessels of 100-199 GRT was 11 in 2025 which is 21% of that in 2006 (Table 1-B). This large reduction was mainly derived from high price of fuel especially since 2007 and the fleet reduction programs implemented twice by the Government of Japan. As for the fleet size under 50 GRT, the number of vessels for 20-49 GRT showed a sharp decline since the late 1980s whereas the number of vessels of smallest size class (< 20 GRT) fluctuated at around 700 during 1980-2006 (Table 1-A). The number of vessels of 10-49 GRT was relatively stable ranging between 273 and 290 during 2006-2011 and then decreased to 194 in 2025 (**Table 1**-B).

The total number of purse seine vessels was 52 in 2006, and it was nearly 80% of that in the 1980s (Table 1-A). After 2006, the total number of purse seine vessels fluctuated ranging between 67 and 75 until 2025. The purse seine vessels which are allowed to operate in the tropical waters are larger vessels (currently, 349 GRT or larger).

The total number of pole-and-line vessels showed a continuous declining trend since 1980 (**Table 1**-A and B). Suppose vessel size categories 20-49 GRT, 50-199 GRT, and over 200 GRT for 1980-2006 to compare with that for 2006-2025, the number of vessels for each category showed declining trend throughout the period (**Table 1**-A). The number of vessels both for 50-199 GRT and over 200 GRT showed declining trend throughout the period (**Table 1**-B). The number of vessels for 50-199 GRT was 26 in 2025 which is 31% of that in 2006. The number of vessels for over 200 GRT showed a declining trend with annual fluctuations, was 18 in 2025, which is 60% of that in 2006.

2 CATCH AND EFFORT TRENDS OF THE MAJOR FISHERIES

2.1 LONGLINE

Longline is classified by the type of license issued by the Government of Japan, i.e., coastal (< 20 GRT and can fish only in Japanese EEZ), small offshore (10-20 GRT), offshore (10-120 GRT), and distant water (> 120 GRT).

Annual distributions of fishing effort of longline in 2024 and 2025 are shown in **Figure 1**. In those years, the fishing grounds were in the east-west direction off Japan to Hawaii, the equatorial area between 15˚S and 15˚N, off Australia and off Peru. The fishing effort of the distant water and offshore longline remained stable at around 200 million hooks in the North Pacific in the 1980s, and then it decreased continuously to 100 million hooks in the early 2000s, and it had further decreased until 2009 (**Figure 2**). After 2009, the amount of effort showed a trend of gradual decrease at a level of 35-50 million hooks.

Total catch of four tuna and four billfish species caught by distant water and offshore longline (not including small offshore longline fishery) in the North Pacific has been decreasing since the highest catch of 119,185 t in 1980 and was 8,717 t in 2025 which is 7% of that in 1980 (**Figure 2**). Bigeye has been the dominant species in this fishery in the North Pacific. The bigeye catch, which was stable in the 1980s and about 50,000 t in the late 1980s, showed a declining trend since the 1990s, was less than 10,000 t since 2009, and was around 6,000 t since 2016. Yellowfin tuna catch ranged between 30,000 t and 50,000 t until the early 1980s. It gradually decreased to less than 5,000 t in 2007. Albacore catch, which fluctuated around 10,000 t until 2001, decreased to about 2,000-6,000 t and kept stable at a low level during the period 2003-2025.

2.2 PURSE SEINE

There are two types of Japanese purse seiners targeting tunas, i.e., single and group purse seine. Historically, a typical group seiner consists of one purse seiner, one searching vessel, and two carrier vessels. Still, the group seiner tended to reduce the number of vessels within each group to reduce costs in recent years. Besides those, coastal purse seiner takes a relatively small number of tunas as a by-catch.

Fishing grounds of Japanese purse seine were widely spread, ranging from 40˚N to 10˚S, and from 120˚E to 180˚ (**Figure 3**). The group seiner operates mainly in the temperate northwestern Pacific. The carrier holds fish in chilled water with ice and unloads those catches. Meanwhile, the single purse seiner (> 349 GRT) operates mainly in the tropical waters of the central and western Pacific, but a part of the vessels seasonally operates in the temperate waters.

The fishing effort for the single purse seiner was around 9,000 sets in the late 1980s, then decreased to about 6,000 sets in 1998 (**Figure 4**). The fishing effort generally stayed at about 2,000-4,000 sets in the last decade (**Figure 4**). The skipjack catch has been dominant among species in this fishery, followed by yellowfin. The skipjack catch was about 150,000 t until 2008 and then decreased to 80,000 t in 2011

(**Figure 4**). After 2011, the skipjack catch fluctuated between 55,000 t and 140,000 t (**Figure 4**). The statistics in 2025 are provisional, and that skipjack catch is about 56,000 t.

2.3 POLE-AND-LINE

The pole-and-line is composed of three distinct categories, i.e., coastal (< 20 GRT), offshore (10-120 GRT) and distant water (> 120 GRT) vessels in terms of the license of this fishery. Note that some of 19 GRT type vessels obtained offshore licenses since 2007, which are included in offshore category in this document. The pole-and-line can be categorized into large, middle, and small sized vessels which correspond to larger than 300 GRT, 20-300 GRT and less than 20 GRT in vessel size.

Fishing grounds of the pole-and-line were widely spread ranging from 45˚N and 10˚S, from 120˚E to 180˚. The fishing ground was rather sequential from north to south and was unlike that in the purse seine fishery. (**Figure 5**). The middle-sized vessels generally operate in near shore waters of Japan and their trips are within 10 days. Southernmost fishing area for these vessels, in recent years, is near 15˚N, but the important fishing ground is waters north of 25˚N, around Japan and adjacent areas (**Figure 5**). These vessels primarily fish skipjack and albacore from spring through autumn off the Pacific side of Japan, and harvest relatively small amount of yellowfin and bigeye tuna. They hold fish in cooled water and unload it as fresh fish. The activity of the small pole-and-line vessels is like that of the middle vessels but the area of fishing is limited within the Japanese EEZ, and the trip of these vessels is shorter. On the contrary, the large vessels tend to operate farther off waters from Japan and their trips last for two to three months. Usually, they primarily target albacore from summer through autumn season in the waters north of 20˚N, and skipjack in winter and spring in the waters south of 20˚N (**Figure 5**). These vessels are equipped with a brine freezer, in which fish caught are immediately stored in a tank filled with cooled brine, and then unloaded as frozen fish.

Generally, fishing effort expressed by fishing days for offshore and distant water pole-and-line rapidly decreased from around 62,000 days in the early 1980s to around 20,000 days in 1994, increased to around 23,000 days in 2000, and then decreased to 8,862 days (preliminary) in 2024 (**Figure 6**). Total catch of five tuna species for those fisheries rapidly decreased from around 280,000 to around 170,000 t during the 1980s, and then gradually decreased from around 130,000 to 50,000 t until the latest year (**Figure 6**). Skipjack is a dominant species for this fishery, but the proportion of skipjack tended to decrease, from 87-78% (mean 84%) during 1980-1986 to 90-50% (mean 73%) during 2011-2025.

3 RECENT TRENDS FOR MAJOR SPECIES

3.1 PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA (TABLE 2-A)

Preliminary total catch of Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) in 2025 was 12,481 t (Table 2-A), which was higher than that in previous year (9,898 t). This was the highest level since the strict catch upper limit was implemented in 2015 in accordance with the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure (CMM).

The annual catches of PBF by major fisheries in 2025 are as follows; purse seine: 5,316 t, troll: 1,535 t, setnet: 2,403 t, longline: 2,241 t, and other fisheries: 946 t.

Japanese longline (LL) fishery had caught mainly large spawner PBF, which were about 200 cm Fork Length (FL), and the composition in 2025 showed an unimodal distribution with a peak value in 200 cm (**Figure 7**). The size range of the composition in 2025 was fairly wide and this would be consisted by multiple cohorts.

3.2 ALBACORE (TABLE 2-B)

The preliminary total catch of albacore in 2025 was 21,225 t, which was smaller than the average catch during 2020-2024 (31,487 t); the 2025 value was not included in the average because it contained carry-over catch for albacore. The main Japanese fisheries for albacore are the longline and pole-and-line fisheries. Longline fisheries catches have been stable in recent years, at around 13,000 t. The pole-and-line fisheries target both albacore and skipjack, and albacore catches fluctuate depending on the combined catch of both species. Catches by the distant waters pole-and-line fisheries fluctuated significantly, ranging from 2,234 t to 23,802 t.

Longline fisheries target the larger fish, while pole-and-line fisheries target much smaller fish (**Figure 8**). The size of the albacore caught by the longline in 2025 ranged from 57 to 118 cm. A bimodal size distribution was observed, with a peak at 80 and 100 cm FL. The albacore caught by the pole-and-line fisheries ranged in size from 55 cm to 97 cm.

3.3 SWORDFISH (TABLE 2-C)

The total swordfish catch in 2025 was 3,851 t which is 97.5% of the catch in 2024 (3,950 t). These statistics are preliminary but indicate that the catch is somewhat below the average over the past five years (2021-2025: 4,080 t). Swordfish have been caught mainly by offshore and distant water longline, whose catch in 2025 was 2,300 t. The coastal longline catch in 2025 was 697 t. Length composition data was collected from longline fishery. 95% of individuals measured in 2025 fall between 96 and 206 cm eye-fork length (**Figure 9**).

3.4 STRIPED MARLIN (TABLE 2-D)

The total striped marlin catch in 2025 was 666 t which is 81.1% of the catch in 2024 (822 t). These statistics are preliminary but indicate that the catch is somewhat below the average over the past five years (2021-2025: 773 t). In recent years, Japanese pelagic fisheries catch striped marlin as bycatch except for coastal drift-net and part of other longline fisheries that target striped marlin seasonally. Length-composition data was collected from longline fishery. 95% of individuals measured in 2025 fall between 126 and 182 cm eye-fork length (**Figure 10**).

3.5 BLUE SHARK (TABLE 2-E)

The ISC SHARK WG conducted a benchmark stock assessment of blue sharks in 2022. The catch for 2016-2020 was maintained using the annual catch used in the stock assessment (Kai, 2021; Kai and

Yano, 2021), and the annual catch in 2021-2024 was updated using almost the same estimation method used in the stock assessment in 2021. The total catch of blue sharks in 2023 and 2024 was estimated at 9,555 t and 6,946 t, respectively. Since 2019, total catch has varied between 6,900 t and 9700 t. Catches from the offshore longline fishery have declined in recent years due to reduced effort, while those from the coastal longline fishery have increased. The large-mesh driftnet fishery has shown a decreasing trend.

3.6 SHORTFIN MAKO (TABLE 2-F)

The ISC SHARK WG conducted a benchmark stock assessment of shortfin mako sharks in 2024. The annual catch for 2018-2022 of shortfin mako was maintained using the annual catch used in the stock assessment (Kai, 2023; Kai and Yano, 2023) and the annual catch in 2023 and 2024 was updated using almost the same estimation method used in the previous stock assessment. The total catch of shortfin mako in 2023 and 2024 was estimated at 876 t and 785 t, respectively. Total catch decreased during 2019-2021, recovered slightly thereafter, and declined again in 2024, largely reflecting fluctuations in catches from the shallow-set offshore and distant water fishery. After 2021, coastal longline catches increased, whereas catches from the large-mesh driftnet fishery decreased.

3.7 OTHERS (BIGEYE, SKIPJACK AND YELLOWFIN TUNAS) (TABLE 2-G, H AND I)

Preliminary total catch of bigeye in 2025 was 8,939 t which corresponds to 88.3% of the catch in 2024 (10,114 t) and was lower than the average of the past five years (2021-2025: 9,821 t). Total catch of bigeye by Japanese fisheries fluctuated between 8,000-12,000 since 2020 and longline has been the highest proportion among gears in the North Pacific.

Preliminary total catch of skipjack in 2025 was 122,015 t which corresponds to 66.1% of the catch in 2024 (184,354 t) and was lower than the average of the past five years (2021-2025: 147,791 t). Most skipjack were caught by pole-and-line and purse seine in the North Pacific Ocean. Total catch of skipjack by Japanese fisheries showed no clear trend in the last six years in the North Pacific Ocean. The lower total catch in 2022 and 2023 were due to lower catch by both pole-and-line and purse seine fisheries.

Preliminary total catch of yellowfin tuna in 2025 was 23,645 t which corresponds to 102.9% of the catch in 2024 (23,115 t) and was lower than the average of the past five years (2021-2025: 26,547 t).

4 RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The Fishery Agency of Japan, in cooperation with the Fisheries Resources Institute (FRI) and local prefectural fisheries experimental stations, has run the nationwide port sampling project for collection of catch, effort and size data of tunas, skipjack, billfishes, and sharks at the major landing ports since the early 1990s. The tagging studies using conventional, archival and popup have been conducted by research and training vessels as well as commercial vessels. In addition, there were cooperative works with prefectural fisheries experimental stations and universities. Several cooperative studies were also conducted with foreign countries.

4.1 PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

4.1.1 BLUEFIN TUNA LARVAE/JUVENILES RESEARCH CRUISE

Since 2011, larval surveys have been conducted to estimate current main spawning area and period of PBF. In 2025, research cruises were designed to focus on ecological studies of larval/juvenile PBF by a R/V of Fisheries Agency of Japan, Kaiyo-Maru, and a R/V of FRA, Yoko-Maru. In addition, five prefectural R/Vs also conducted larval survey of PBF. Surveys for larval/juvenile PBF were conducted in the south of Japan around Nansei Islands area, where is a major spawning ground of PBF, from May to July and also in waters off the San-in area of Japan, which is another spawning ground of PBF, from July to August. In 2025, PBF larvae were captured by all cruises in the spawning grounds. Small juveniles of PBF around 2-10 cm FL were also captured in Nansei Islands area by a surface-trawl net. Also, spawning behavior of adult PBF was observed during the cruise of Yoko-maru. Collected samples are being examined by a variety of approaches such as genetic identification, aging, growth analysis, stable isotope, microchemistry and stomach contents analyses to elucidate the survival processes of larval and juvenile PBF in relation to biological and environmental factors, which should help to understand the recruitment mechanism to PBF fisheries around Japan. In addition, the yearly changes of the catch of larval PBF have been analyzed statistically to make a time-series larval abundance index, which is expected to contribute to the future stock assessment as the alternative index of spawning stock biomass (SSB).

4.1.2 TROLL SURVEY ON AGE-0 PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

Recruitment index (standardized CPUE from the Japanese troll fishery) for current PBF stock assessment is based on the sales-slips data and terminated in 2010 fishing year in the assessment model. To have a better understanding of the recruitment status more timely and precisely than the sales-slip based index, which naturally lacked zero-catch or spatio-temporal information, the FRI commenced using a real-time monitoring survey data of troll fishery's operations in 2011. In this survey, the catch information (Number of fish by species) with its geographic position and Sea Surface Temperature (SST) are sent to the FRI in near-real time fashion using a data transmitter which was equipped on the troll vessels. Furthermore, since 2021 fishing year, IQ-independent charter real-time monitoring surveys were initiated to ensure sufficient operations in each spatial and temporal stratum, in addition to the conventional real-time monitoring.

Based on those data, the FRI reported the latest recruitment index, which informs the relative strength of the cohorts over 2011 to 2025 year classes, to the PBFWG meeting held in March 2026 (ISC, 2026). Totally 3,950 days operational data from 14 real-time monitoring vessels, which targeted for age-0 PBF (i.e., 40-60 cm fork length) during the winter season (November to following February) in the East China Sea were used to standardize its CPUE by Vector Autoregressive Spatio-Temporal (VAST) model formulated a delta-generalized linear mixed model. Though caution is warranted for interpretation of this index which is not endorsed to be included in the stock assessment and is preliminary, the PBFWG concluded that this index is considered to be a qualitative indication of recruitment trends. According to the updated index there is no indication of serious recruitment decline in recent years.

Japan continues its efforts to advance the recruitment index in cooperation with the PBF working group members to incorporate it in the future stock assessment.

4.1.3 TISSUE SAMPLING AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CLOSE-KIN ANALYSIS FOR PBF

Tissue sampling for close-kin analysis started in 2015 and around 2,000 individuals were continuously sampled as an annual routine. The tissues of large mature adult PBFs (about 120-300 kg in BW; Body Weight) were sampled by coastal longline fishery around Okinawa Islands in late April to early July, while those of young-of-the-year juveniles (about 0.1-0.3 kg in BW) were sampled by troll fishery during summer in the Pacific coastal water off Western Japan, such as Kochi Prefecture. The hatching area of these juveniles can be identified as the water around Nansei archipelago based on the knowledge about the migration pattern of age-0 PBF. For the other spawning ground, the Sea of Japan, young adult PBFs which are either nearly-matured or matured (about 20-60 kg in BW) were sampled in Sakai-minato in June to early July, while those of young-of-the-year juveniles were sampled in Oki islands in late September to early November. Due to the existence of multiple segregated spawning grounds for PBF stock, the juvenile samples only whose hatch ground are known were collected. All of muscle tissues sampled were preserved in specific buffer (TNES-Urea 6M buffer) because of the higher stability of content DNA under the room temperature. A part of collected samples were annually analyzed and sequenced by GRAS-Di technique since 2019. In addition to routine sampling, Japan strengthened its sampling program since 2025, because it gradually became difficult to find pairs of interest, i.e., parent-offspring and half-sibling due to increasing number of PBF spawners. As a result, we collected more than 3,000 samples and conducted sequencing for 2,000 samples in 2025.

4.2 SHARKS, BILLFISHES AND SWORDFISH

4.2.1 PORT SAMPLING AND THE ONBOARD RESEARCH PROGRAM IN KESENNUMA FISHING PORT

In 2025, size and sex data of blue shark and shortfin mako were collected from the port sampling in Kesennuma fishing port, located in the northeastern Honshu (the main island of Japan), and the onboard research project for Kesennuma offshore longline fleet throughout the year.

In the port sampling, size data from 9,917 blue shark were collected, and 70% of individuals measured were males. In addition, 63% of males and 69% of females measured were juveniles. In the onboard research program for Kesennuma-offshore longline fleet, the catch number of blue shark was recorded by four size categories (large, middle, small, and extra small). Total of 177,878 blue sharks were recorded and large (processed weight ≥ 15 kg) consisted 42% of all catch with size categories with 26% of middle (11 kg ≤ processed weight < 15 kg), 26% of small (5 kg ≤ processed weight < 11 kg) and 6% of extra small (processed weight < 5 kg).

For shortfin mako, size data from 6,836 individuals were collected in port sampling program, and 53% of individuals measured were males. Among these sharks measured, 85% of males and 100 (99.9)% of females were juveniles. In contrast to blue shark, almost all of sampled female were juvenile in shortfin mako. Total of 7,784 shortfin mako was recorded by size category from the onboard research by Kesennuma offshore longline fleet. Large (precaudal length > 200 cm) consisted 2% of all catch with 20%

of middle (150 cm < precaudal length ≤ 200 cm), 58% of small (100 cm < precaudal length ≤ 150 cm) and 19% of extra small (precaudal length ≤ 100 cm).

4.2.2 TAGGING FOR SHARKS

In 2025, conventional tags were attached to 12 blue sharks, and five bigeye thresher sharks in the area around 10-30 degrees north and 160-176 degrees west during the research cruise of Japanese research and training vessel (JRTV). The released blue sharks were subadult and adult.

4.2.3 BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE COLLECTION

Samples of sagitta, reproductive organ, dorsal fin and anal fin were collected from a total of 366 swordfish, 193 striped marlin, and 5 blue marlins for the collaborative study within ISC billfish working group to estimate biological parameters of billfishes and swordfish (samples shared from US and Taiwan were not included here). For the study of genetic population structure and other ecological study, muscle tissue was collected from 383 swordfish, 179 striped marlin, and 56 blue marlins.

For sharks, samples of whole body were collected from shortfin mako and blue shark for the biological study of life history, genetic population structure, and other ecological study. Reproductive organ, muscle, and vertebrae were collected from three adult female shortfin mako to investigate the reproductive cycle, growth, and distribution pattern.

All the samples above were collected by the research cruise (including chartered vessel) and commercial/training longline operation, and sport-fishing conducted in the North Pacific Ocean in 2025.

4.3 SKIPJACK

4.3.1 TAGGING FOR SKIPJACK

The FRI has been conducting skipjack tagging research to investigate their migration patterns off Japan. FRI has collaborated with Ajinomoto Co., Inc. to conduct skipjack tagging in coastal areas of southwestern Japan; however, no skipjack were caught during this survey. Furthermore, a prefectural research and training vessels conducted skipjack tagging in 2025. The tagging locations were off Wakayama and Shizuoka, and a total of 145 skipjack tuna were released including 24 individuals with archival tags.

4.4 ALBACORE

4.4.1 TAGGING FOR ALBACORE

The FRI has been conducting albacore tagging research to investigate their migrations in the northwestern Pacific Ocean. In October 2025, tagging research was conducted off Kumejima Islands, and 10 individuals were released with either archival tags or pop-up tags (MiniPAT, Wildlife Computers Ltd., USA).

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6 TABLES

Table 1. Number of Japanese tuna fishing vessels.

A. Number of Japanese tuna fishing vessels operated in the Pacific Ocean by type of fisheries and vessel size based on MAFF (1982-2008).

	Longline fishery[*1]						Purse seine fishery			Pole-and-line fishery					
Year	1-19 GRT	20-49 GRT	50-99 GRT	100-199 GRT	200- GRT	Total	50-199 GRT[*2]	200- GRT	Total	1-19 GRT[*3]	20-49 GRT	50-99 GRT	100-199 GRT	200- GRT	Total
1980	821	57	715	103	645	2,341	50	16	66	3,232	14	350	10	198	3,804
1981	774	55	706	100	661	2,296	50	23	73	3,064	10	353	6	179	3,612
1982	722	43	634	90	589	2,078	52	33	85	3,011	11	320	6	138	3,486
1983	561	38	589	93	550	1,831	59	36	95	3,021	12	297	9	116	3,455
1984	523	32	538	108	610	1,811	54	33	87	2,904	8	273	10	105	3,300
1985	620	28	512	131	628	1,919	47	35	82	2,754	8	244	9	95	3,110
1986	536	25	435	168	632	1,796	53	38	91	2,455	6	224	9	91	2,785
1987	661	23	348	197	649	1,878	47	34	81	2,404	6	210	9	89	2,718
1988	586	21	289	233	649	1,778	48	39	87	2,613	5	191	11	70	2,890
1989	650	20	248	238	653	1,809	43	37	80	2,254	3	187	12	67	2,523
1990	685	21	227	241	664	1,838	43	35	78	2,228	4	176	9	66	2,483
1991	768	19	199	222	682	1,890	38	35	73	2,277	3	166	10	63	2,519
1992	793	19	164	206	681	1,863	31	38	69	2,093	3	156	11	46	2,309
1993	790	18	138	201	682	1,829	27	36	63	1,927	3	147	10	43	2,130
1994	819	21	110	198	675	1,823	23	33	56	1,830	3	124	10	48	2,015
1995	738	20	92	187	667	1,704	20	31	51	481	3	104	20	46	654
1996	711	17	91	155	640	1,614	21	32	53	512	3	89	29	43	676
1997	698	11	88	145	631	1,573	20	35	55	436	2	76	39	45	598
1998	712	11	80	129	623	1,555	20	35	55	382	2	73	40	46	543
1999	703	6	78	119	567	1,473	22	36	58	416	1	62	54	46	579
2000	732	3	76	111	496	1,418	23	37	60	357	1	56	57	47	518
2001	777	4	76	110	494	1,461	19	36	55	285	1	49	59	47	441
2002	780	4	69	110	484	1,447	18	36	54	251	1	45	58	48	403
2003	764	3	64	99	460	1,390	17	36	53	292	1	44	56	44	437
2004	702	2	55	77	455	1,291	17	36	53	284	1	38	57	43	423
2005	694	2	46	59	432	1,233	17	36	53	247	1	36	58	45	387
2006	709	1	43	54	401	1,208	16	36	52	213	1	27	58	36	335

*1 Longline vessels larger than 50 GRT include those operated in the area other than the Pacific.
*2 50-199 GRT class vessels only include those operated in the Pacific side of northern Japan.
*3 1–19 GRT class vessels before 1995 include those engaged in trolling.

B. Number of Japanese tuna fishing vessels operated in the North Pacific Ocean by type of fisheries and vessel size based on logbook. Values reported for the last two years are provisional.

	Longline fishery					Purse seine fishery				Pole-and-line fishery			
Year	10-49 GRT	50-99 GRT	100-199 GRT	200- GRT	Total	50-199 GRT*4	200-499 GRT	500- GRT	Total	20-49 GRT	50-199 GRT	200- GRT	Total
2006	277	44	52	113	486	31	35	1	67	1	83	30	114
2007	279	42	48	89	458	34	36	1	71	1	77	29	107
2008	277	42	40	90	449	35	37	1	73	1	69	29	99
2009	277	38	33	81	429	33	36	3	72	1	68	28	97
2010	290	29	28	98	445	31	35	4	70	1	66	28	95
2011	273	24	25	99	421	33	36	4	73	0	63	28	91
2012	265	21	21	92	399	34	37	4	75	0	60	27	87
2013	260	20	23	87	390	34	37	4	75	0	55	25	80
2014	250	18	21	90	379	33	37	3	73	1	54	25	80
2015	239	18	24	80	361	30	35	5	70	1	51	24	76
2016	234	16	16	64	330	38	33	4	75	1	50	25	76
2017	233	15	15	50	313	37	34	4	75	1	48	31	80
2018	230	14	16	63	323	35	30	4	69	1	44	25	70
2019	230	13	17	51	311	35	31	5	71	1	42	24	67
2020	228	11	15	42	296	34	31	6	71	1	38	22	61
2021	203	10	17	48	278	33	29	7	69	1	36	22	59
2022	211	6	17	41	275	36	33	8	77	1	33	22	56
2023	201	6	13	38	258	36	29	9	74	1	35	20	56
2024	198	5	13	36	252	37	26	12	75	1	31	21	53
2025	194	3	11	31	239	38	22	12	72	1	26	18	51

*4 50-199 GRT class vessels only include those operated in the Pacific side of northern Japan.

Table 2. Catch in weight (t) by species by fisheries in the North Pacific.

A. Pacific bluefin tuna

	Purse Seine		Dist. & Off. Longline[*5]		Coastal		Pole-and-			
Year	Tuna PS	Small PS	Noth Pcific	South Pacific	Long line[*5]	Troll	Pole-and-line	Set-net	Others[*7]	Total
2019	3,213	1,251	25	0	977	720	0	951	372	7,509
2020	3,208	752	75	0	1341	760	1	1,342	532	8,011
2021	3,185	1,014	80	0	1,432	653	0	1,742	512	8,617
2022	3,671	1,031	80	0	1,519	1079	13	2,126	593	10,111
2023	3,800	770	80	0	1,477	1,155	24	1,884	610	9,799
2024	4,075	556	80	0	1,471	1,392	6	1,650	668	9,898
2025[*6]	4,719	597	134	0	2,107	1,535	40	2,403	946	12,481

*5: Distant-water and Offshore longline vessels are mainly 20 GRT or larger, and most of coastal longline vessels are smaller than 20 GRT.

*6: Most recent year's catch value is provisional.

*7: Others include drift net, handline, trawl, other longline, and unclassified fisheries.

B. Albacore

	Longline		Pole-and-line								
Year	Distant Water + Offshore*8	Coastal	Distant Waters	Offshore	Coastal	Drift-net	Purse seine	Troll	Set-net	Others	Total
2020	2,217	10,432	23,802	12,578	254	7	5,961	784	25	159	56,220
2021	3,324	15,340	6,869	4,043	224	3	186	428	11	232	30,660
2022	2,400	8,596	2,234	1,770	86	31	726	216	18	159	16,235
2023	2,363	11,819	8,615	5,210	181	8	3,135	1,038	34	231	32,634
2024	2,638	12,873	2,442	2,444	166	16	435	389	32	252	21,687
2025	(1,217)	(13,833)	(2,442)	(2,444)	(166)	(16)	(435)	(389)	(32)	(252)	(21,225)

*8 Category Distant Warter + Offshore LL includes training/research vessels

( ) different data source or carry over from previous year

C. Swordfish

	Longline								
Year	Distant Water + Offshore	Coastal	Others	Drift-net	Bait fishing	Net fishing	Trap-net	Others	Total
2020	3,809	1,209	4	290	305	0	7	179	5,802
2021	2,499	807	8	301	251	0	4	270	4,140
2022	1,969	842	4	459	283	0	4	313	3,874
2023	2,584	905	1	631	225	0	4	234	4,584
2024[*9]	2,348	746	3	383	209	0	4	256	3,950
2025[*9]	2,300	697	3	383	209	0	4	256	3,851

*9 Preliminary catches.

D. Striped Marlin

Year	Longline			Drift-net	Bait fishing	Net fishing	Trap-net	Others	Total
	Distant Water + Offshore	Coastal	Others						
2020	213	839	49	155	25	0	37	32	1,350
2021	175	497	17	95	17	0	31	60	892
2022	142	363	15	138	23	0	27	71	779
2023	121	401	18	77	17	0	33	37	704
2024*10	198	420	10	106	14	0	25	48	822
2025*10	126	338	10	106	14	0	25	48	666

*10 Preliminary catches.

E. Blue shark

Year	Longline				Large mesh driftnet	Bait fishing	Trapnet	Others	Total
	Distant Water	Offshore	Coastal	Others					
2019	3,726	4,384	212	165	1,149	1	35	0	9,674
2020	3,254	3,632	57	104	1,119	1	54	1	8,222
2021	3,655	3,471	371	207	1,484	1	25	1	9,216
2022	3,685	2,396	562	200	1,062	1	27	0	7,933
2023	5,243	2,410	706	105	1,058	1	31	1	9,555
2024	3,758	1,501	674	98	889	1	21	3	6,946

F. Shortfin mako

Year	Longline			Large mesh drift-net	Trap-net and others	Total
	Offshore and Distant water (Shallow set)	Offshore and Distant water (Deep set)	Coastal and other			
2019	787	83	16	214	3	1,103
2020	490	57	5	194	16	762
2021	408	51	19	133	23	634
2022	590	23	8	161	38	820
2023	647	48	21	142	17	876
2024	531	44	28	138	45	785

G. Bigeye

Year	Longline	Pole-and-line	Purse seine	Gillnet	Set-net	Troll	Other	Total
2020	8,675	1,125	1,622	0	1	69	135	11,627
2021	6,676	1,576	1,548	0	3	78	81	9,962
2022	5,717	1,363	927	0	1	80	100	8,188
2023	7,050	2,919	1,643	0	2	181	108	11,903
2024	6,667	2,093	1,018	2	2	197	135	10,114
2025	6,262	1,449	892	2	2	197	135	8,939

H. Skipjack

Year	Longline	Pole-and-line	Purse seine	Gillnet	Set-net	Troll	Other	Total
2020	24	48,804	55,352	70	335	949	86	105,620
2021	67	84,837	82,805	138	580	2,161	148	170,736
2022	37	53,236	65,789	124	219	900	71	120,376
2023	35	71,437	67,324	60	545	1,964	110	141,475
2024	115	81,115	99,116	111	406	3,367	124	184,354
2025	49	61,339	56,619	111	406	3,367	124	122,015

I. Yellowfin tuna

Year	Longline	Pole-and-line	Purse seine	Gillnet	Set-net	Troll	Other	Total
2020	6,321	3,070	18,224	13	125	2,008	846	30,607
2021	6,402	3,717	17,980	7	206	2,160	767	31,239
2022	5,563	2,520	13,872	4	378	2,180	818	25,335
2023	7,063	3,015	15,541	7	766	1,960	1,050	29,402
2024	8,574	3,197	7,662	10	883	1,870	919	23,115
2025	7,417	3,169	9,377	10	883	1,870	919	23,645

7 FIGURES

7.1 LONGLINE FISHERY

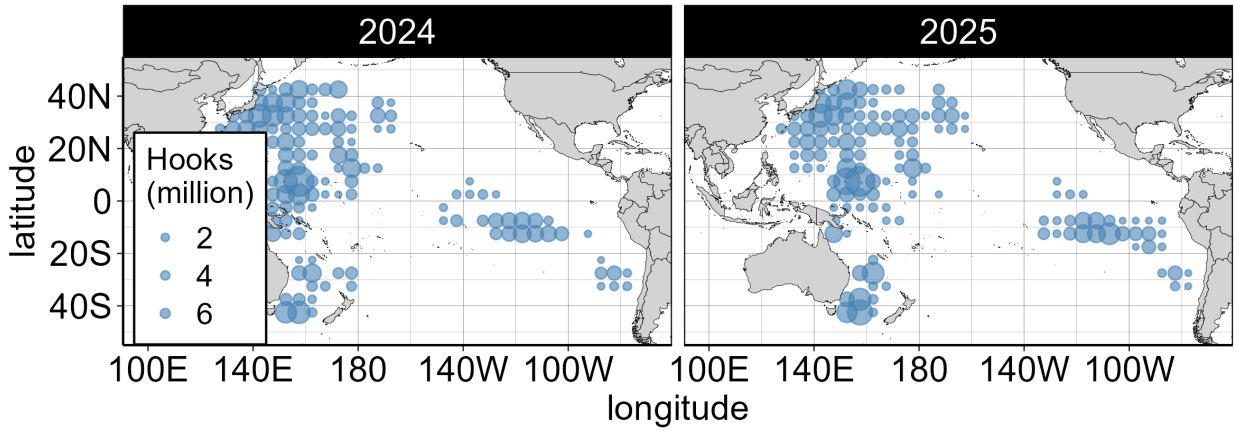

Figure 1. Distribution of fishing effort (Number of hooks) for the Japanese distant water and offshore longline fisheries in the Pacific Ocean, 2024-2025.

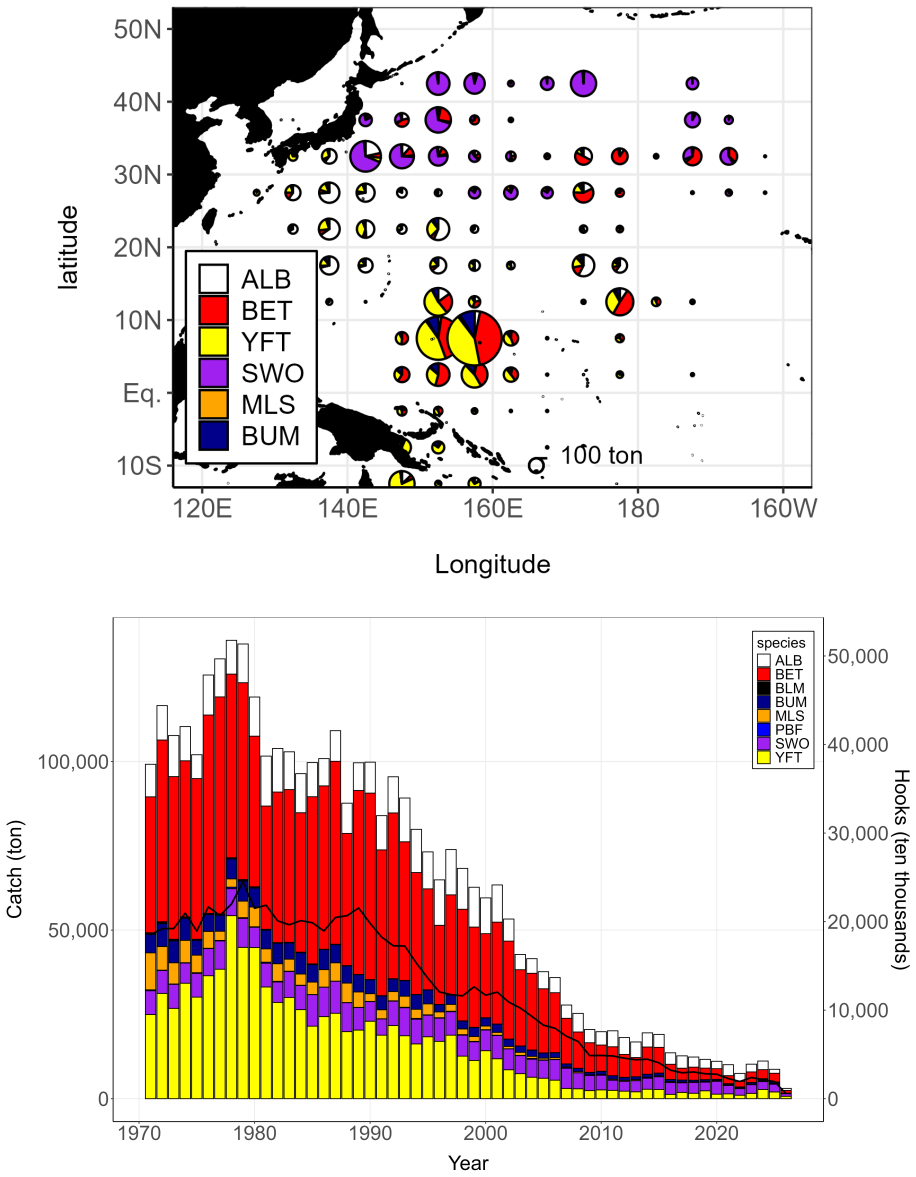

Figure 2. Geographical distribution of average catches during 2024-2025 and historical catches in weight (t) for major species along with fishing effort (number of hooks in millions), of the Japanese distant-water and offshore longline fisheries (not including small-scale offshore longline fisheries) in the North Pacific. PBF: Pacific bluefin tuna, ALB: albacore, BET: bigeye, YFT: yellowfin tuna, SWO: swordfish, MLS: striped marlin, BUM: blue marlin, BLM: black marlin. The black solid line indicates number of hooks. Values reported in the last two years in these panels are provisional.

7.2 PURSE SEINE FISHERY

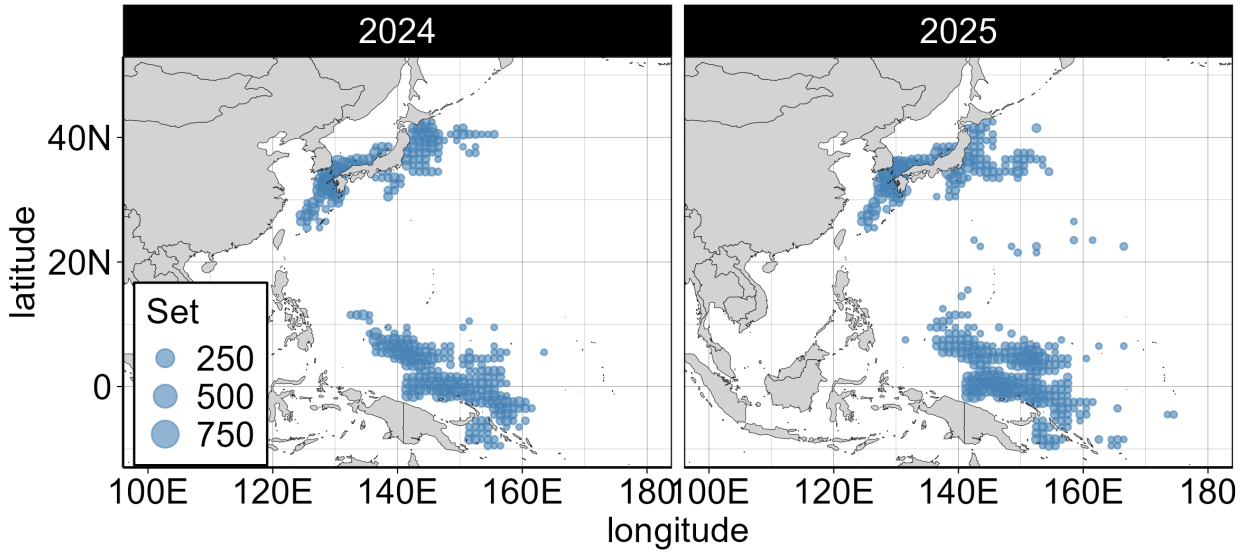

Figure 3. Distribution of fishing effort (number of sets) for the Japanese purse seine fishery in the Pacific, 2024-2025.

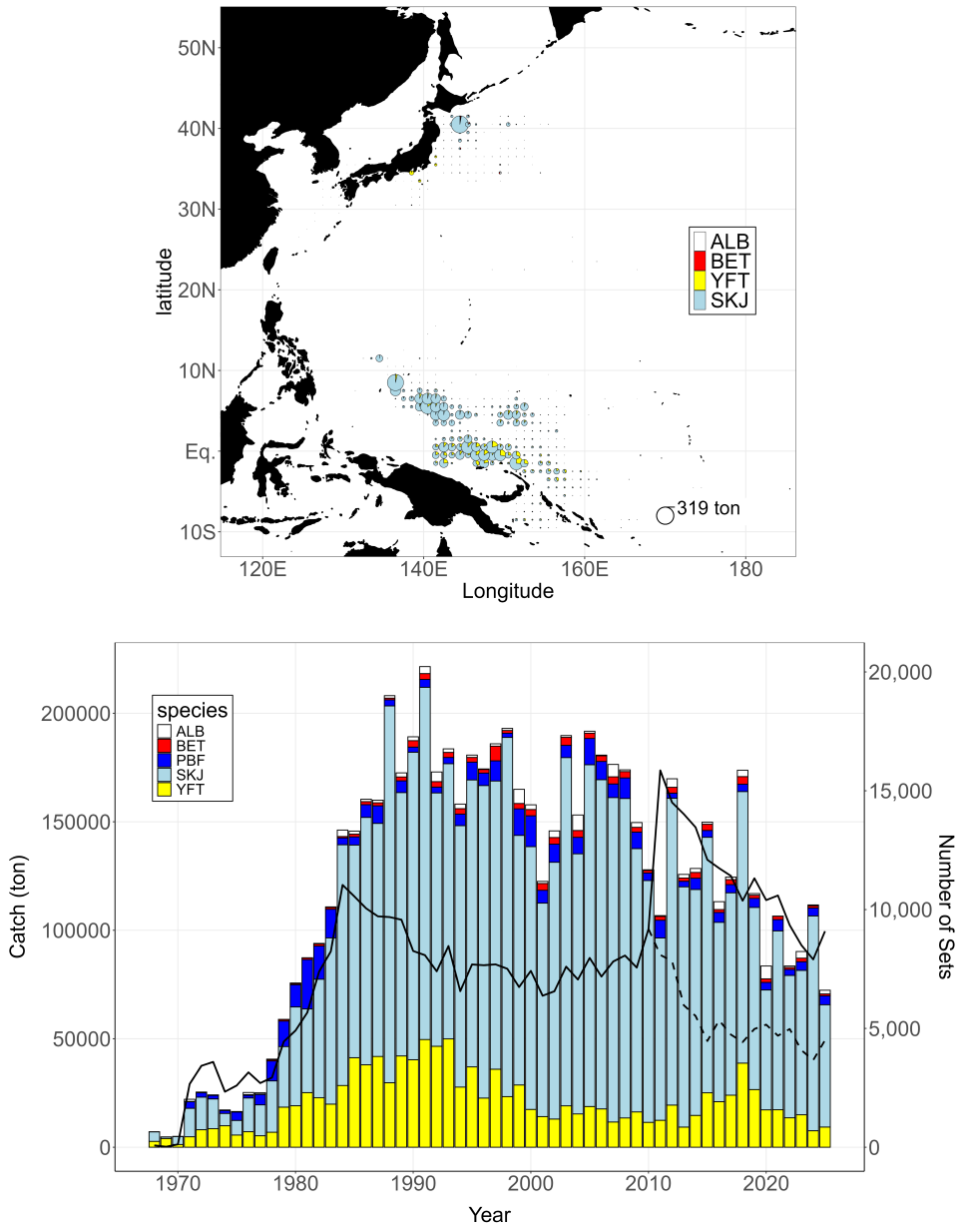

Figure 4. Geographical distribution of average catches during 2024-2025 and historical catches in weight (t) for major species and fishing efforts (number of sets) of the Japanese purse seine fishery in the North Pacific. SKJ: skipjack, YFT: yellowfin tuna, BET: bigeye, PBF: Pacific bluefin tuna, ALB: albacore. Since 2011, Japanese logbook data has included records of purse seine operations that do not specifically target tunas. The black solid line represents the overall number of sets by target and non-target tunas. The black dashed line denotes the total number of sets by targeting vessels since 2011. Values reported in the last year in these panels are provisional.

7.3 POLE-AND -LINE FISHERY

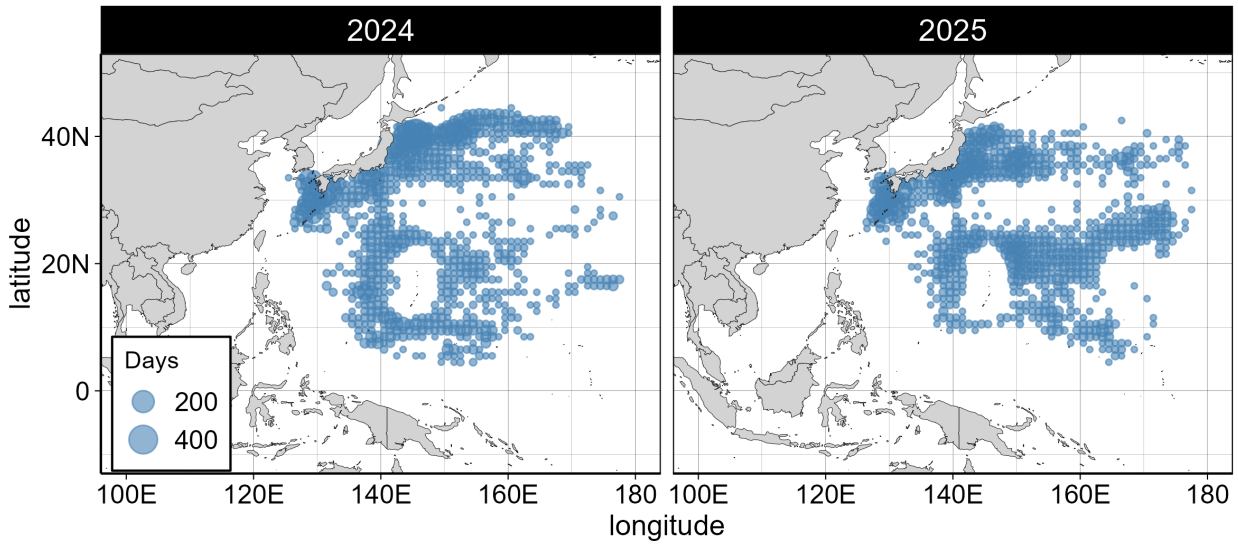

Figure 5. Distribution of fishing effort (number of days) of the Japanese pole-and-line fishery (larger than 20 GRT vessels) in the Pacific, 2024-2025. Distribution of fishing effort in 2025 is provisional (right panel).

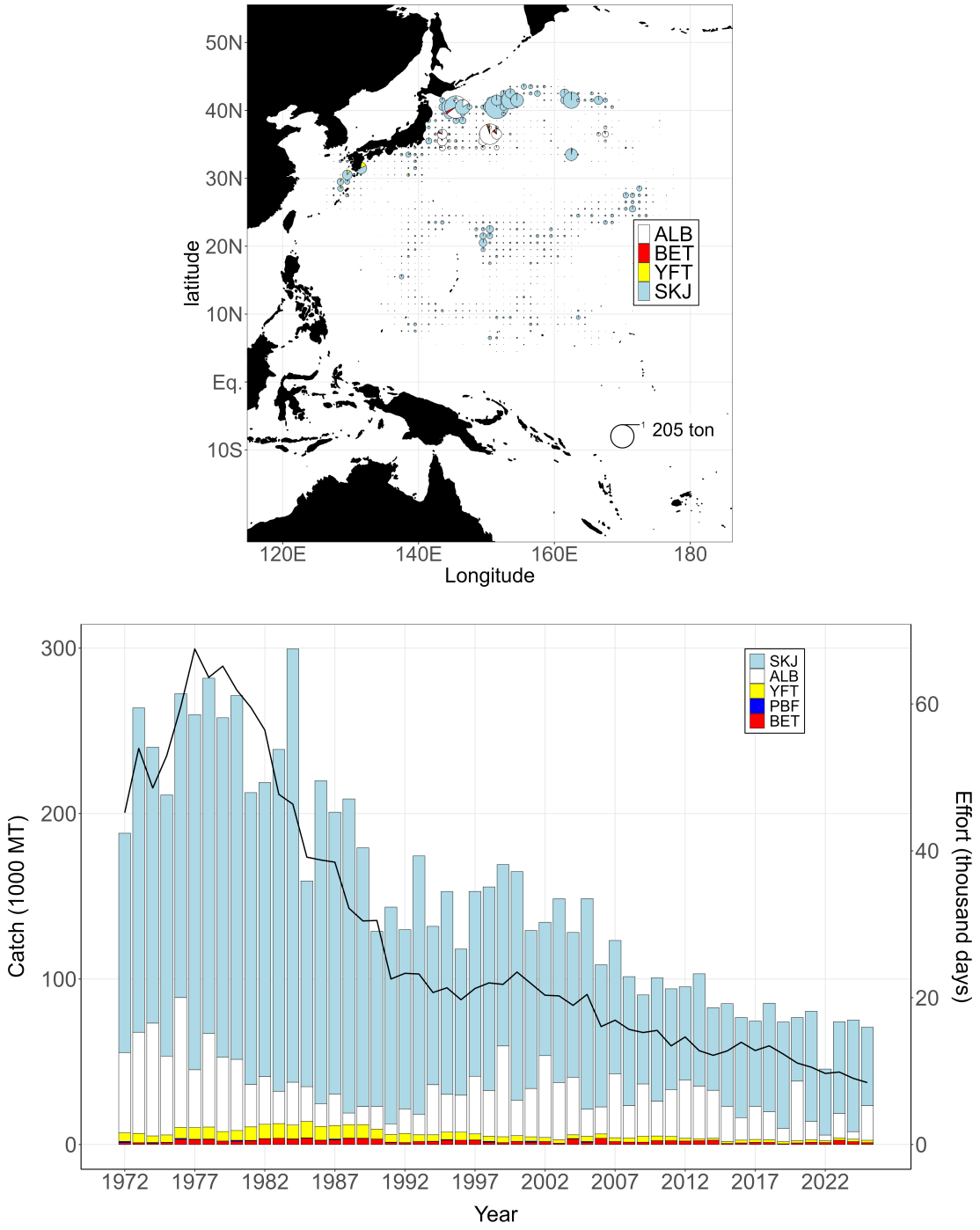

Figure 6. Geographical distribution of average catches during 2024-2025 and historical catches in weight (t) for major species and fishing effort (Number of fishing days) of Japanese distant water and offshore fisheries in the North Pacific. SKJ: skipjack, ALB: albacore, YFT: yellowfin tuna, PBF: Pacific bluefin tuna, BET: bigeye. The catch for PBF includes the catch by coastal pole-and-line (less than 20 GRT vessels) fishery. Values reported in the last year in these panels are provisional.

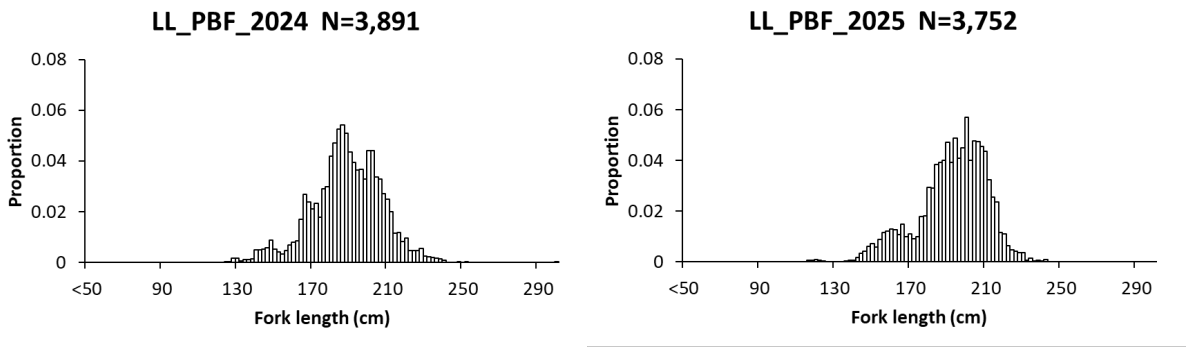

Figure 7. Annual relative length frequency distribution (simply summing up all measurements) for Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) caught by longline in 2024 (left) and 2025 (right). Texts in each graph indicate gear, species, year, and the number of fish measured.

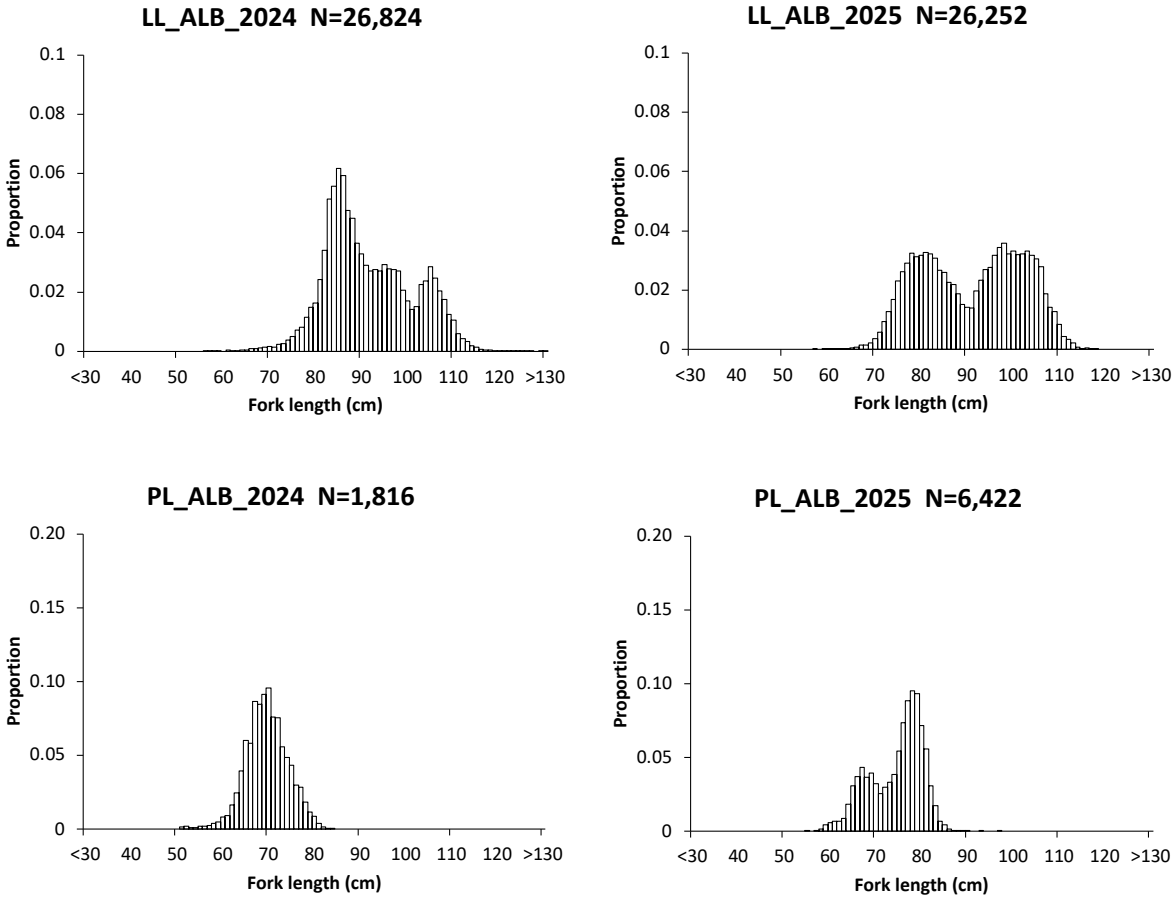

Figure 8. Annual relative length frequency distribution (simply summing up all measurements) for albacore (ALB) caught by longline (upper two panels) and pole-and-line (lower two panels) in 2024 (left) and 2025 (right). Texts in each graph indicate gear, species, year, and the number of fish measured.

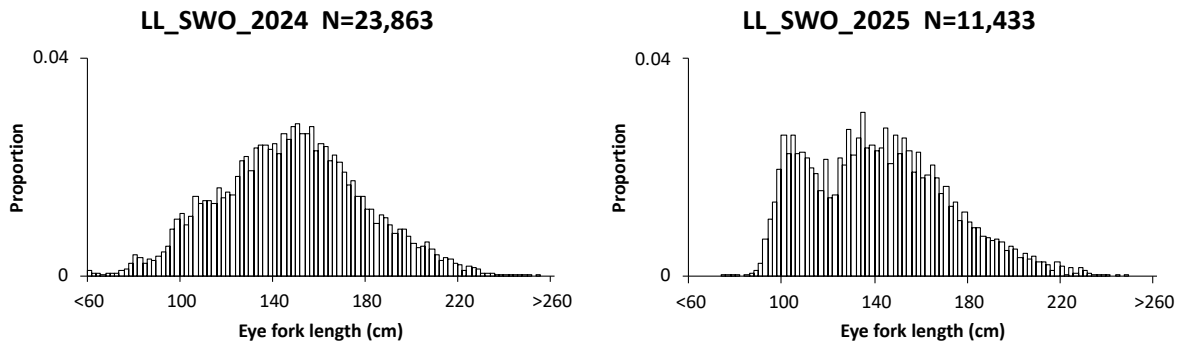

Figure 9. Annual relative length frequency distribution (simply summing up all measurements) for swordfish (SWO) caught by longline in 2024 (left) and 2025 (right). Texts in each graph indicate gear, species, year, and the number of fish measured.

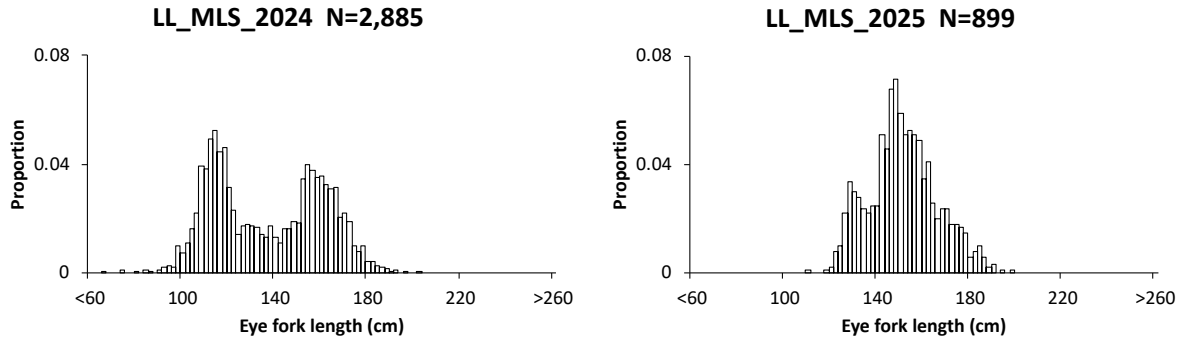

Figure 10. Annual relative length frequency distribution (simply summing up all measurements) for striped marlin (MLS) caught by longline in 2024 (left) and 2025 (right). Texts in each graph indicate gear, species, year, and the number of fish measured.