

A PRELIMINARY NOTE ON THE RESULTS OF THE JAPANESE TAGGING CRUISE FOR ISYP IN 1980

Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory

1. Two tagging cruises for skipjack were conducted by the Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory (FSFRL) in the Gulf of Guinea during the period from July 28 to September 26, 1980. Cruise tracks are shown in Fig. 1.
2. A baitboat type fishing boat was chartered for tagging, 301 Katsushio-maru (379 gross tons) based at Tema, Ghana. A research personnel of FSFRL, Mr. T. Shiohama, was in charge and all the crew assisted him for tagging as principal objective and other research items.
3. Actual tagging was carried out during the period from July 31 to September 14. Number of released fish by species were 5,976 skipjack, 1,042 yellowfin and 946 bigeye tuna.
 - 1) Distribution of released area by 1° square is shown in Figs. 2-4.
 - 2) About 45 % of the released fish were measured on fork length. Length frequency distributions of the measured fish are shown in Fig. 5.
 - 3) All fishes were single-tagged.
4. Up to May 1981, total of 478 tagged fishes were recaptured and reported to FSFRL, and monthly recovery is summarized in Table 1. Recovery rates are 6.3 %, 4.8 % and 5.4 % for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye, respectively. More than 1/4 of the recoveries were not able to determine the date of recovery, as shown by the figures in the parentheses of Table 1, since the recoveries were made at cannery or transshipment unloading.
5. Positions of recovery are shown by 1° square in Figs. 6-8, as of January, 1981. Westward migration of skipjack and yellowfin, as shown by the recaptures in the area west of 10° W, is characteristic.

Table 1. Monthly recovery number of tagged tunas, released by the 1980 Japanese tagging cruise in the Gulf of Guinea during the summer (as of 1981 May - preliminary)

Released number		Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye
		5,976	1,042	946
Year	Month			
1980	8	45 -	5 -	6 -
	9	76 (22)	8 (1)	24 (1)
	10	43 (20)	1 (2)	6 (1)
	11	39 (11)	7 (1)	6 (1)
	12	31 (9)	11 (1)	4 -
1981	1	15 (11)	4 -	(1)
	2	7 (30)	3 (2)	-
	3	3 (7)	2 (1)	-
	4	1 (6)	-	(1)
(unknown)	1	1	-	
Total		261 (115)	42 (8)	46 (5)

() : Date of recapture can not be determined, and categorized by the date of recovery at cannery or transshipment.

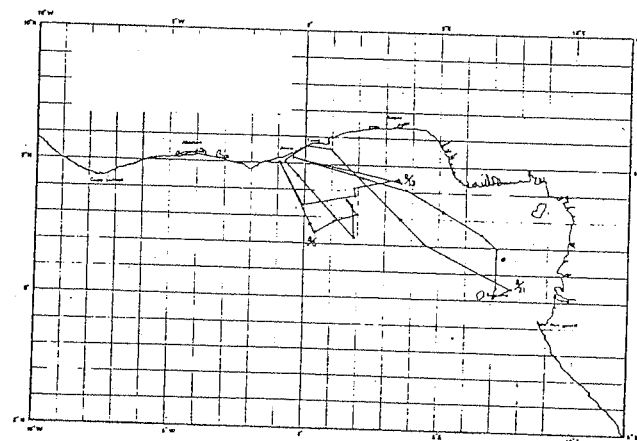


Fig. 1-1. Cruise tracks: first cruise, Jul. 28 - Aug. 24.

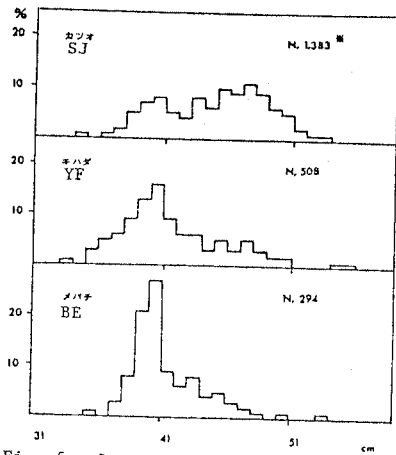


Fig. 5. Length frequency of tagged fish.
 (* skipjack size data: sampled by 1/2)

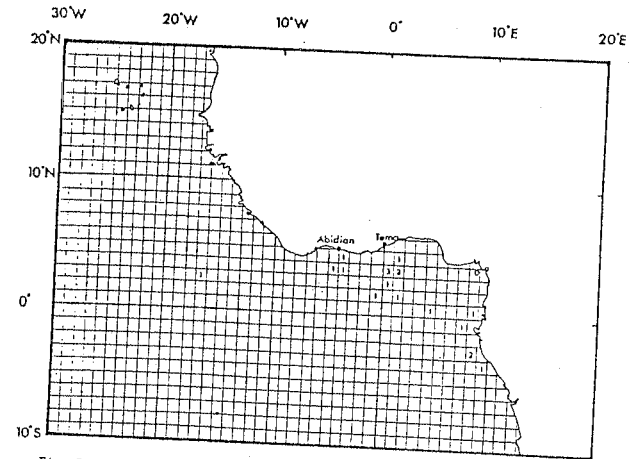


Fig. 7. Positions of recovery by 1° square for yellowfin, as of January 1981.

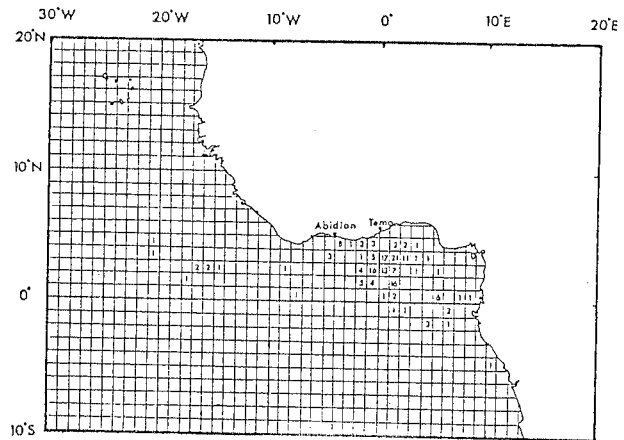


Fig. 6. Positions of recovery by 1° square for skipjack, as of January 1981.

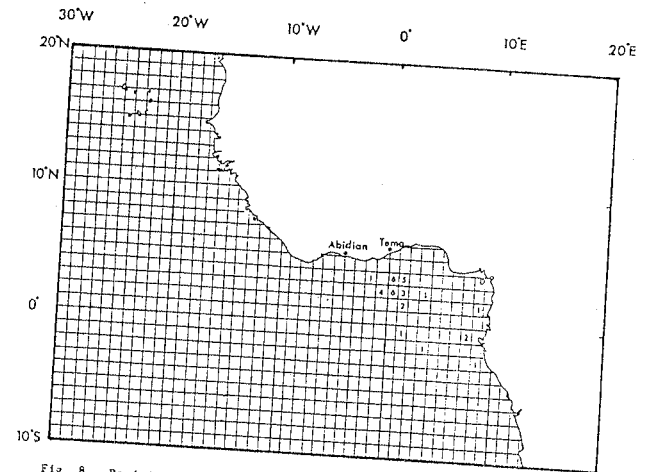


Fig. 8. Positions of recovery by 1° square for bigeye, as of January 1981.