

## NATIONAL REPORT OF TAIWAN

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## 1. The fishery

The total number of Taiwanese longliners in the Atlantic Ocean increased from 116 vessels in 1984 to 180 at the end of 1985, which represents an increase of about 55 percent over the previous year. The total landings made by Taiwanese longliners also increased from 24,964 MT in 1984 to 37,728 MT in 1985. Albacore was still the target species in 1985 and comprised 91.56 percent (34,542 MT) of the total landings (37,728 MT). Of the albacore landings, 14,899 MT were from the north Atlantic and 19,643 MT were from the south Atlantic.

## 2. Statistics

## 2.1 Task I statistics

Landing reports made at the base ports around the Atlantic were used to estimate Task I statistics. Landings statistics, in weight by species, were reported by local agents to each corresponding fishing company in Taiwan. Each company then summarized the landing statistics and reported them to the Taiwan Fisheries Bureau (TFB). The TFB then compiled the monthly Taiwanese total landing statistics by port. Task I statistics were estimated primarily based on these port landing statistics released by the TFB, excluding the landings from those vessels which actually operated in another ocean but transshipped their catch to nearby Atlantic ports for landing.

## 2.2 Task II statistics

Logbooks filled out on board each vessel operating in the Atlantic were either mailed directly to the corresponding fishing company in Taiwan or passed through local agents at the base port to the corresponding fishing company in Taiwan. Each company then submits the logbooks to the TFB where the first check is made. The TFB then transfers them for further data compilation to the Tuna Resources Research Center (TRRC), located at the Institute of Oceanography of the National Taiwan University. The TRRC technicians double check the logbooks before using the computerized data processing system to compile the statistics.

For compiling Task II statistics, monthly coverage rates for each five-degree square block (FDSB) were estimated. The coverage rate for each FDSB area was estimated by:

$$\text{Coverage rate} = \frac{\text{Total no. of hooks of the logbooks returned}}{\text{Total no. of hooks used}}$$

The total number of hooks used in each FDSB area was obtained from the daily position report of longliners, provided by the Kaohsiung Fisheries Radio Station (KFRS), which is operated by the TFB. According to our regulations, every longliner operating in distant waters is requested to report its fishing position, the number of hooks and total catch in weight to the KFRS on a daily basis.

Thus, the catch and effort statistics from logbooks were summarized and then raised to 100 percent coverage according to the calculated monthly coverage rate of each FDSB area.

## 2.3 Biological data

All longliners fishing in the Atlantic were requested to conduct on-board size measurements of the first 30 fish captured in each operation. The size data thus obtained were either mailed along with the logbook or transferred separately by the local agent at the base port to the corresponding fishing company in Taiwan. Each company then submitted them through the TFB to the TRRC. The TRRC then compiled these size data by month, species, and FDSB. In compliance with the ICCAT format for biological data, size data compiled by ICCAT large-area units and by quarter were also provided.

## 3. Quick projected annual catch estimates for 1986

As of August, 1986, the number of vessels fishing in the Atlantic was 202. Based on landing statistics for the first six months, by port, this year's total landings will be approximately 57,000 MT.

## 4. Research

Size measurements of the ten most important species of longline catches were carried out in 1985. A total number of about 379,000 individuals were measured, broken down as: 362,100 albacore, 7,200 yellowfin and 8,300 bigeye tuna.

Standardized total longline effort on albacore was updated to 1985. Based on this, fishing intensity and CPUE of the albacore longline fishery were analyzed. Evaluation of the south Atlantic albacore stock was also updated to 1985.