

TAIWANESE LONGLINE FISHERY STATUS IN THE ATLANTIC, 1988

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1. Fishery Status

1,498 Taiwanese longliners cruises operated in the Atlantic in 1988, the monthly boat-cruises were shown in slight decline from January to December (Fig. 1). The monthly average 125 boat-cruises was compared with 140 boats operating in the Atlantic in 1987, this variation is not very significant. However, a fact is obvious that Taiwanese longliners in the north Atlantic have been moving out for other Oceans. In primary, the difficult and expensive living supplies, which was always transported from Taiwan, may mainly result in the withdrawal of longliners to other Oceans, other than any vagaries of tunas resources.

The fishing boats have made an even total catch of tunas in the Atlantic in comparison with catches of 1987; also the species composition of catch was not significantly changed (Table 1) between these two years. The 1988 yearly total catch of tunas and tunas-like species by Taiwanese longline fishery were estimated 28,595 MT, where about 4,600 MT were estimated for the north Atlantic, and about 24,000 MT for the south Atlantic. This obviously indicated an almost equivalent catch in the north Atlantic, and on the other hand, an about 5,000 MT estimate of 1988 higher than of 1987 in the south Atlantic. Of these, the catch of

albacore is still dominant about 23,218 MT from both the north and south stocks (in about 81.2 % of the total catches). And the estimate of 2,150 MT were caught from the north stock, and 21,068 MT from the south stock. For the other tunas and tunas-like species, the proportions were 4.84% yellowfin tuna; 4.55% bigeye tuna; and 9.41% for the rest species.

2. Statistics

The Tuna Resource Research Center, Institute of Oceanography, National Taiwan University has still been in charge of the responsibility on the processing catch statistics and delineation of scientific researches. The catch and effort were estimated by logbook system and raised by the total efforts by month 5° square grid. There were some difficulties occurred in processing 1988 catch statistics, which the logbooks recovered from the north Atlantic were few, moreover a low coverage rate was obtained. But alternatively the catch and effort of north Atlantic were raised by the total longliners operating in the north Atlantic by the monthly basis. These data were very reliable since as was known a few longliners have operated in 1988 in the north Atlantic. Taiwanese catch and effort, length measurements have regularly been submitted to ICCAT Secretariat.

3. Research

1989 researches have been dealt with the Data Preparatory Meeting for albacore held at Institute of Oceanography, National Taiwan University in Taipei on July 19-25, 1989, and the 1989 Albacore workshop held at Headquarter of ICCAT in Madrid. And currently, some topics on the catch-at-age, standardized effort, and some analytical analyses for the Atlantic albacore stock has been beginning from August, 1989. As a well expectation, those results will be shown in next SCRS meeting.

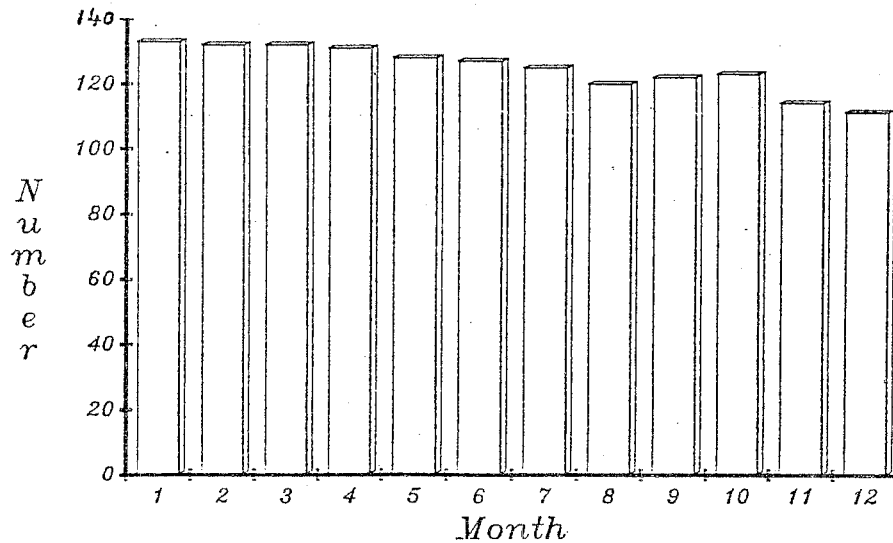


Fig. 1 Number of vessels operating in the Atlantic in 1988.

Table 1 Catch estimate in number and in weight by species in the Atlantic Ocean, 1988.

Area	Species	Alb.	B.E.	Y.F.	B.F.	Y.T.	Sr.F.	St.M.	Ba.H.	Ba.H.	O.B.	S.J.	Sharks	Others	Sum	Unit:kg
North Atlantic	Number	138521	908	64	0	0	295	0	293	0	7	0	0	0	140088	
	%	98.88	0.65	0.05	0	0	0.21	0	0.21	0	0	0	0	0	100.00	
South Atlantic	Weight	2149953	28288	1888	0	0	17658	0	20179	0	251	0	0	0	2218227	
	%	96.92	1.28	0.08	0	0	0.80	0	0.91	0	0.01	0	0	0	100.00	
Whole	Number	1415092	40524	51451	267	3277	13466	28918	3773	13	18058	975	18483	3107	1598104	
	%	88.55	2.54	3.22	0.02	0.21	0.84	1.80	0.23	0	1.18	0.06	1.16	0.19	100.00	
Whole	Weight	23218072	1272399	1380677	14624	72253	614177	539204	211860	466	299554	8578	844727	51835	26376474	
	%	79.87	4.82	5.23	0.06	0.27	2.33	2.05	0.80	0	1.14	0.03	3.20	0.20	100.00	
Whole	Number	1553613	41432	51515	267	3277	13761	28918	4066	13	18065	975	18483	3107	1738192	
	%	89.38	2.38	2.96	0.02	0.19	0.79	1.66	0.23	0	1.09	0.06	1.06	0.18	100.00	
Whole	Weight	23218072	1300887	1382565	14624	72253	631845	539204	232039	466	299805	8578	844727	51835	26376470	
	%	81.19	4.55	4.83	0.05	0.25	2.21	1.89	0.81	0	1.05	0.03	2.96	0.18	100.00	