

**STATUS REPORT OF THE JAPANESE TUNA LONGLINE FISHERY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA  
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SWORDFISH**

*Takeuchi, Y.*

*National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries,  
5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu-shi, Shizuoka 424, Japon*

**SUMMARY**

This status report briefly describes characteristics of the Japanese longline fishery, the relevant statistics as well as process and result of creating catch at size of swordfish in the Mediterranean Sea. More detailed information was given by Miyabe and Warashina (1990) who put emphasis on bluefin tuna, only one target species of the Japanese boats operating in the Mediterranean, while the present document summarizes mainly information of swordfish which consists of a very minor catch in the fishery in the Mediterranean.

**RESUMÉ**

Ce rapport de travaux en cours décrit les caractéristiques de la pêche palangrière japonaise, les statistiques pertinentes, ainsi que le traitement et les résultats de la création de la prise par taille pour l'espadon de la Méditerranée. Une information plus détaillée a été fournie par Miyabe et Warashina (1990), qui ont mis l'accent sur le thon rouge, qui n'est que l'une des espèces cibles des bateaux japonais qui pêchent dans la Méditerranée, alors que le présent document résume surtout l'information sur l'espadon, qui constitue une partie minime de la pêche en Méditerranée.

**RESUMEN**

Este informe sobre situación describe brevemente las características de la pesquería de palangre de Japón, las estadísticas relevantes, así como el proceso y resultado de la creación de captura por clases de talla de pez espada en el Mar Mediterráneo. Miyabe y Warashina (1990) facilitan información más detallada, con especial énfasis en el atún rojo, la única especie objetivo de los barcos japoneses que operan en el Mediterráneo, mientras que el actual documento resume principalmente información sobre pez espada, que compone una captura muy pequeña en la pesquería en el Mediterráneo.

Status report of the Japanese tuna longline fishery in the Mediterranean Sea  
with special reference to swordfish (revised)\*

Yukio Takeuchi

(National Research Institute of the Far Seas Fisheries , Shimizu, Japan)

Introduction

This status report briefly describes characteristics of the Japanese longline fishery, the relevant statistics as well as process and result of creating catch at size of swordfish in the Mediterranean Sea. More detailed information was given by Miyabe and Warashina (1990) who put emphasis on bluefin tuna, only one target species of the Japanese boats operating in the Mediterranean, while the present document summarizes mainly information of swordfish which consists a very minor catch in the fishery in the Mediterranean.

1. History of the Japanese longline fishery in the Mediterranean

Started -----from 1972 ( Japanese longline fishing in the Atlantic started from 1952)

Target species-----bluefin tuna (aim mostly at fish before spawning)

Regulation-----ICCAT----no fishing for large longliners (larger than 24 m) in June  
and July from 1995

Domestic(voluntary measures by Japanese industry--35 Japanese boats  
maximum

2. Fishing operations, gears, species composition, areas and seasons

Operation-----boat size, about 300-400 GMT with 20 crews

start setting from approximately 04:00 end hauling mid-night

ca. 3000 hooks per operations

Gears----- lines made of synthetic fibers

---

\*Document presented to Mediterranean Swordfish Data Preparatory Meeting (Second meeting of the Ad Hoc GFCM/ICCAT joint working group on stocks of large pelagic fishes in the Mediterranean Sea), Bari, Italy- September 13 to 19, 1995

hanging depth of hooks covers from 50 to 200 m from the surface  
 dead baits, mainly squid are used

species composition-----predominantly bluefin, sporadically swordfish and very rarely bigeye and  
 \_ albacore

Catch (MT) by species caught by the Japanese longline boats in the Mediterranean Sea

	1972-1975	1976-1980	1981-1985	1986-1990	1991-1993
Bluefin	3813	1767	3780	1178	901
Swordfish	1	7	45	17	7
Bigeye		1		3	
Albacore		1			

Kume, 1987, Anonymous (1988, 1992, 1994)

Fishing grounds and seasons----- waters around Balearias Islands, Sicily, Tunisia and  
 Libia from May to June (no swordfish is taken into account  
 for area-time coverage of the longline operation because target  
 is strictly bluefin)

### 3. Catch, effort and nominal CPUE trends for swordfish

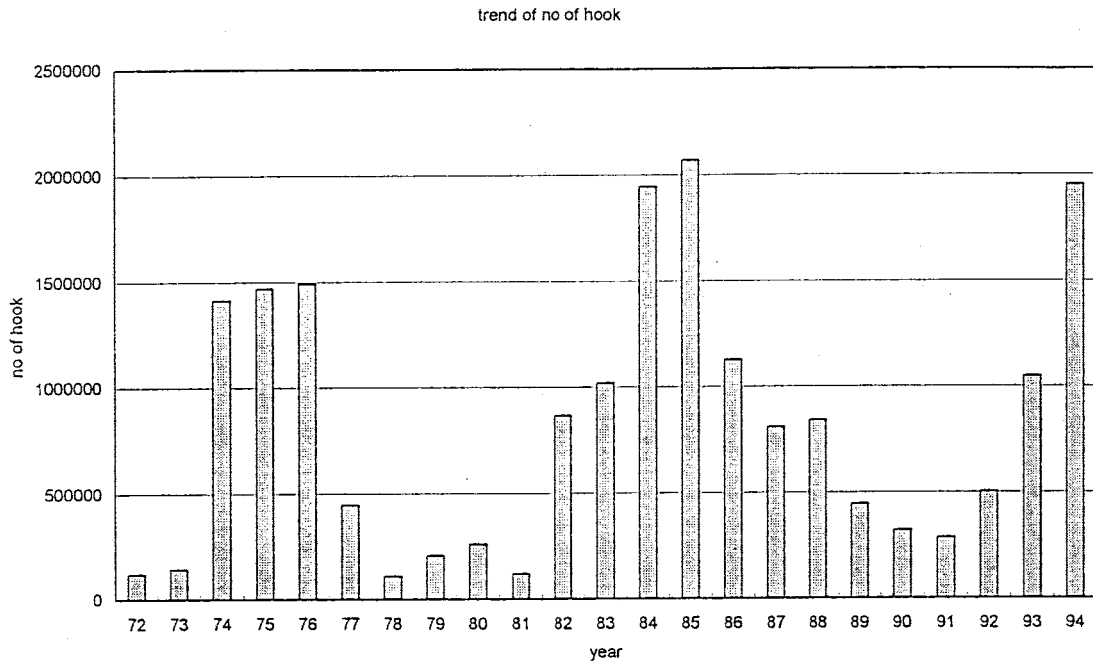


Figure 1 Trend of hook number of the Japanese longline fishery in the Mediterranean Sea

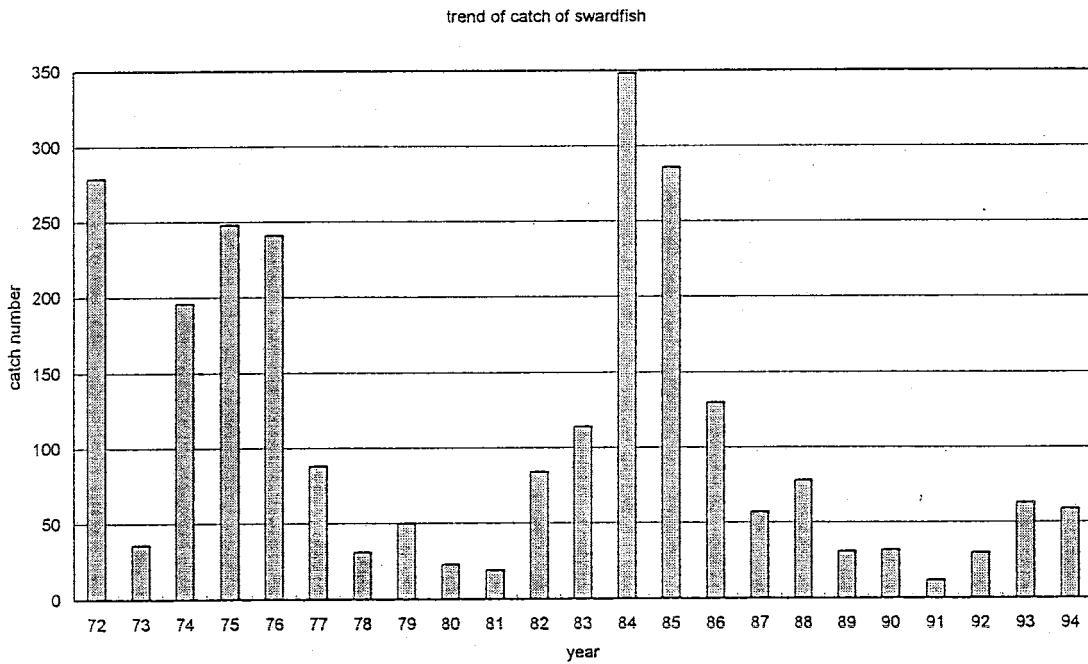


Figure 2 Trend of catch of the swordfish caught by the Japanese longline fishery in the Mediterranean Sea

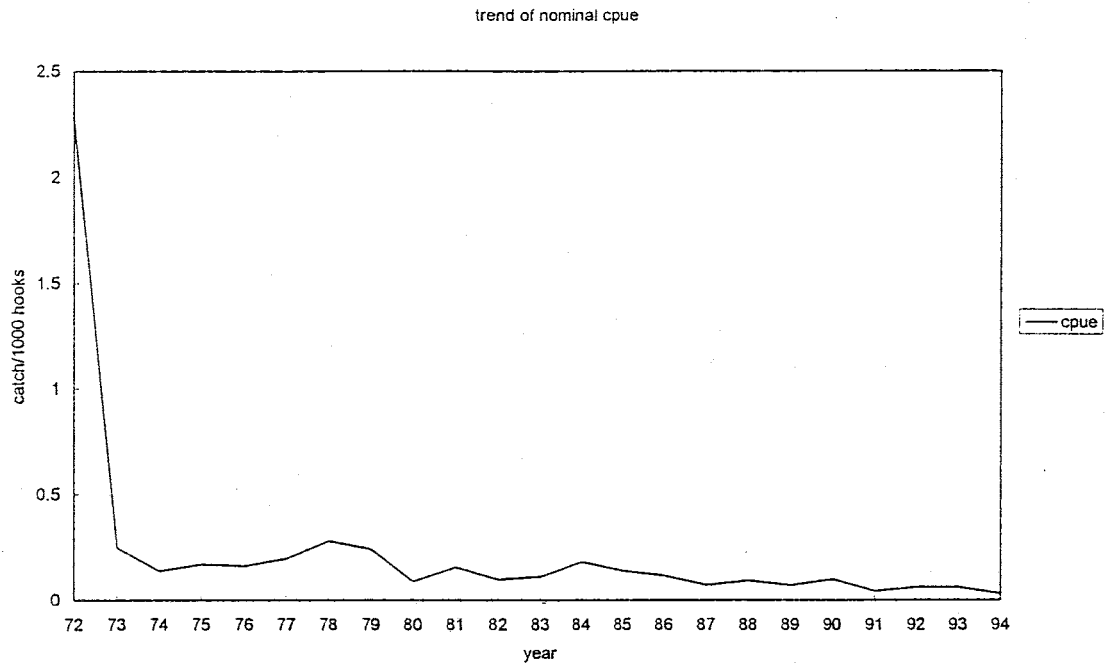


Figure 3 Trend of nominal cpue of the swordfish caught by the Japanese longline fishery in the Mediterranean Sea from '72 to '94

4. Size data

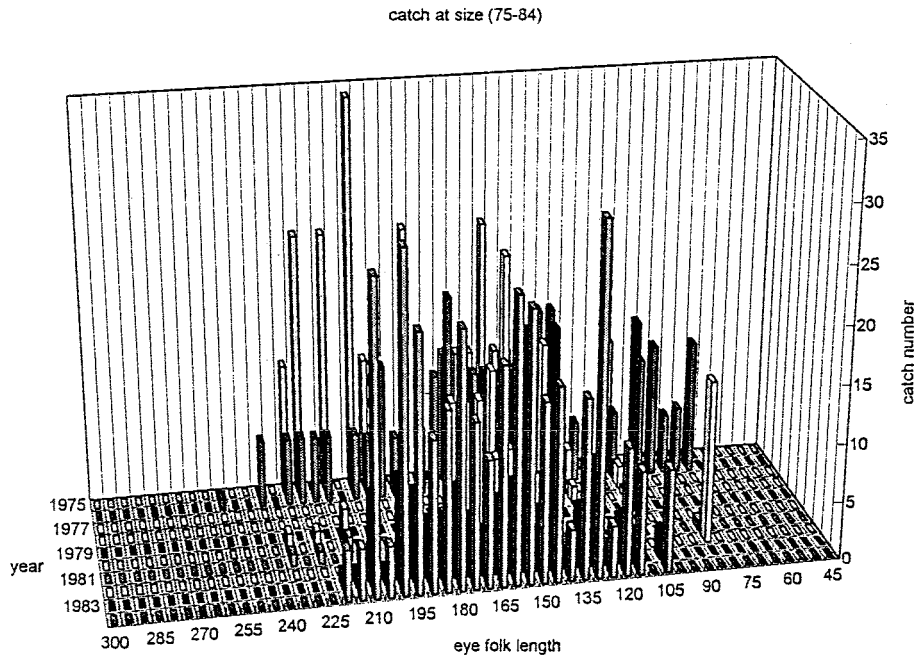


Figure 4 catch at size of the swordfish caught by the Japanese longline fishery in the Mediterranean Sea (1975-84)

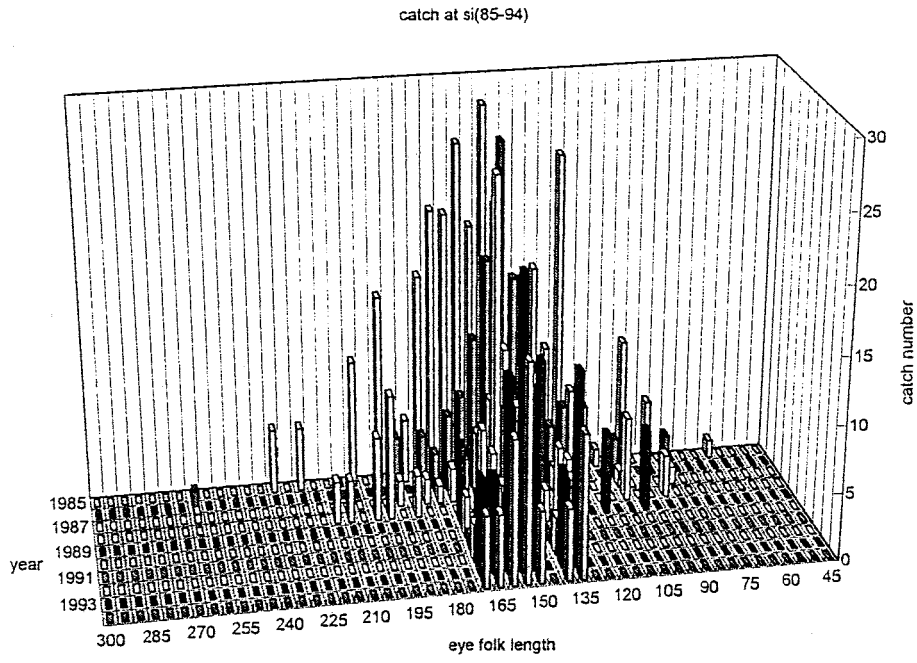


figure5 catch at size of the swordfish caught by the Japanese longline fishery in the Mediterranean Sea (1985-94)

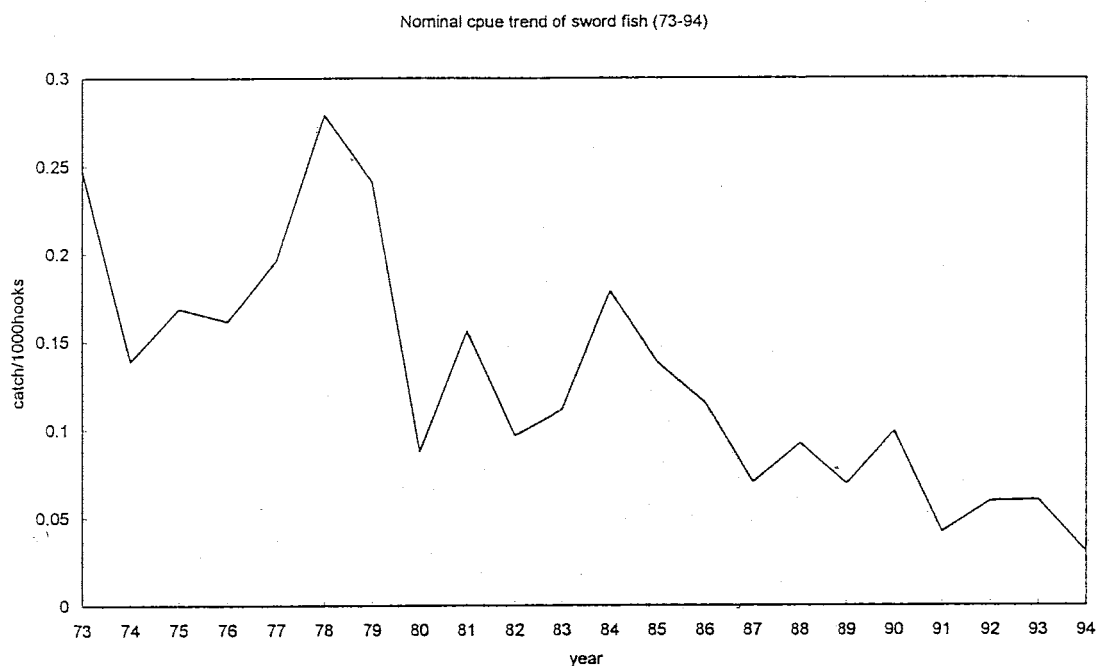


figure 6 Trend of nominal cpue of the swordfish caught by the Japanese longline fishery in the Mediterranean Sea from '73 to '94 ('72 is excluded)

#### 5. Creation of catch at size of the swordfish caught by the Japanese longline fishery

Since no size data is available after 1990 the size frequency of 1990 has been substituted to that of '91-'94.

#### References

- Anonymous 1988: Historical statistical bulletin, Vol. 3 [1970-1979], ICCAT, 180 pp.
- Anonymous 1992: National Report of Japan, ICCAT Report for biennial period, 1990-91, Part II (1991), 263-266.
- Anonymous 1994: National Report of Japan, ICCAT SCRS/94/79.
- Kume, S. 1987: National report of Japan, ICCAT Report for biennial period, 1986-87, Part I (1986), 277-280.
- Miyabe, N. and I. Warashina 1990: General description of Japanese longline fishery in the Mediterranean and some information on the size of bluefin imported from Mediterranean countries to Japan, ICCA CVSP XXXIII, 179-184.