

ICCAT BYP PROGRAMME - SPANISH RESEARCH ACTIVITIES ON BYP

Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO)

1. INSTITUTO ESPAÑOL DE OCEANOGRAFIA SPANISH RESEARCH ACTIVITIES ON BYP

IEO continues research activities on bluefin tuna; some of them comprised in studies developing the UE financed project: "*Characterization of large pelagic stocks in the Mediterranean*"; as the studies about reproductive biology of the species. During 1994 we have enlarged mature tuna sample, reaching a total of 63 fishes sized between 130-257 cm LH. Final results will be reported during 1995.

Furthermore, we continue juvenile tagging trips (< 50 cm) during September, October and November off Spanish Mediterranean Coasts. Hence, for 1993 and 1994 period we have outdone 1100 tagged fishes by means a recreational ship from Valencia seaport. Furthermore, on November, 1994 we aim another tagging trip with a commercial ship. These tagging trips recaptures have shown important results about relationship between Western Mediterranean and the Bay of Biscay fisheries.

Relating to growth studies by spiny rays, we have got during 1994 and in the Bay of Biscay fisheries some samples belonging to tagged and injected with oxitetraciclina tuna, during 1991 Western Mediterranean surveys. We continue collaboration with Instambul University in order to obtain juvenile fish samples from Turkish fishery in Aegean Sea, operating on winter period.

During 1993 and 1994 we have got an observer on board purse seine bluefin tuna surveys on Western Mediterranean, therefore we have improved the basic statisticals for this fishery.

A spanish scientific took part in the japanesse survey for location of bluefin tuna spawning areas, on board B/O "Shoyo Maru" on July 1994.

Studies about stock structure by genetic identification are being developped within the activities financed by the aforementioned UE project.

2. NEW RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

According to research activities within IEO Tuna fish project we have planned the elaboration of standardized abundance indices of bluefin tunna catches by Spanish trap from South Atlantic and Mediterranean region during the last ten years, taking into account environmental and oceanographical factors which could affect catchability of the species with this gear, during tuna migration movements - right and back- through Gibraltar Strait.

Developping the activities planned inside IEO Research Planning and DG-XIV-CEE Project "Investigations on abundance indices of purse seine bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) catches in the Mediterranean Sea by observers on board", we attempt to obtain data relating catches, effort, length distributions and environmental factors, which allow us the elaboration of standardized abundance indices of purse seine bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean sea.

We continue migration and stock structure studies by IEO's juvenile tagging trips and subsequent analysis of the recaptures. Furthermore our aim is to present a project proposal to DG-XIV-CEE, relating to bluefin tuna adults tagging captured by the Spanish trap in their back migratory movement from Mediterranean Sea to Atlantic.

Carrying on growth and validation studies.