

Japan
Fisheries
Association



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Views and Opinions of Japan's Fisheries Industry

ICFA Adopts Resolutions to Oppose
Unreasonable Anti-Trawling Campaign and
Support Yokohama Declaration

--2005 ICFA Annual Meeting Held in Rome, Sept. 5-7--

The 2005 annual meeting of the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA) was held in Rome from September 5 through 7, with 13 organizations from 11 countries participating.

The discussion at the meeting focused on the analysis and exchange of views on ways to cope with an anti-highseas longlining campaign and the recent moves to ban high seas fisheries, such as the United Nations' resolutions to ban high seas trawling, to intensify protection of sea turtles, and to expand Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to the high seas.

Currently unreasonable anti-fisheries campaigns are advancing at a rapid pace. In these moves, the aim is to settle the fisheries issues at the United Nations, which is a forum established mainly to discuss issues related to peace and security, despite the existence of the special agency on marine affairs.

In face of these moves, ICFA adopted resolutions stating that, first and foremost, **the issues of fishery resources should be fully and objectively discussed at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a specialized U.N. agency having adequate scientific knowledge and expertise on marine resources and marine ecology.** ICFA called that issues relating to marine



resources should be dealt with at the FAO before they are tabled at the U.N. General Assembly.

Further, ICFA adopted a resolution to support the Yokohama Declaration adopted at the International Tuna Fishers Conference on Responsible Fisheries and the 3rd International Fishers Forum, held in Yokohama, Japan, in July this year, under the joint sponsorship of the Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT) and the U.S. Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ICFA also adopted a resolution calling on the states concerned **to support tuna fishers' efforts, such as the reduction of excessive fishing capacity, the elimination of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities and curtailing bycatch in fisheries** (See the resolutions on the next page).

OPRT reported on the recent rapid increase in the catch of tuna by large-scale purse-seine fishing vessels **in the western and central Pacific, and stressed the need to control and restrain the fishing capacity of large-scale purse-seine fishing vessels to ensure the sustainable utilization of tuna resources** in the area. ICFA members shared OPRT's concern over this issue.



John Connelly,
Current ICFA Chairman



Patrick McGuinness,
ICFA Chairman for 2006



ICFA Resolution on Yokohama Declaration by Responsible Tuna Fishers

ICFA:

-Welcomes the Yokohama Declaration on July 28th 2005, in which the tuna fishers committed themselves to sustainable use of world tuna resources and conservation of marine ecosystems,

-Supports the tuna fishers to further promote responsible tuna fisheries, particularly in addressing the resource sustainability, eliminating the IUU fishing, and reducing incidental catch of sea turtles and sea birds by the use of technologies developed.

-Supports the tuna fishers to challenge biased and unscientific accusations that attack environmentally responsible tuna fisheries.

-Recognizes that as indicated in the Declaration the FAO and RFMOs have the primary responsibility for the conservation and the management of tunas and all related issues. And, therefore, urges the UNGA to seek the technical advice of these organizations when dealing with any tuna issue.

-Requests governments support fishers worldwide to implement the Declaration.

(For the full text of the Yokohama Declaration, see What's New Section at <http://www.oprt.or.jp>)



Participants at the Yokohama Conference

ICFA Resolution on Bottom Trawling

Whereas ICFA:

-Notes that more than 90% of fishing activity takes place within nation's Exclusive Economic Zones and that trawling is the major fishing method used around the world, accounting for more than 60% of production;

-Notes that trawling is acknowledged to be a sustainable fishing method contributing to global food supply and security;

-Rejects assertions that trawling is a destructive fishing practice.

-Disputes some environmental NGOs unsubstantiated and unscientific claims that trawling, particularly on sea mounts, destroys benthic biodiversity;

-Rejects and condemns lawless acts of piracy against private fishing vessels

ICFA therefore:

-Urges all nations to continue to reject all proposals for a moratorium on trawling on the high seas;

-Encourages the United Nations General Assembly to seek the technical and scientific advice of the experts of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization on issues of trawling on the high seas.

-Urges nations to engage in appropriate regional fisheries arrangements for the high seas that provide for the utilization of demersal fish resources through trawl fishing while ensuring sustainability, including ensuring that any significant adverse effects on the aquatic environment are avoided or mitigated.

ICFA is a non-governmental organization formed in 1988 by fisheries associations of leading fishing nations to provide a unified voice and representation of the world's commercial fishing industries in international forums. ICFA website: <http://www.icfa.net>

Fish Diet Is Effective for Preventing Alzheimer's —Scientists Report at the JFA Symposium on Dietary Life in Aging Society—

The Japan Fisheries Association (JFA) held a symposium on “Dietary Life in Aging Society” in Tokyo on October 27, 2005. In the symposium, attended by 220 people including dietitians and industry representatives, lectures were delivered by three scientists.

In the opening speech, JFA President Isao Nakasu pointed out the rapid progress of aging in the Japanese society, which will be further accelerated in two years hence by the retirement of those in the baby boomers’ age bracket. He stated that how to live a healthy and comfortable post-retirement life will become an important societal issue, and healthy dietary habits will certainly assume an important role in achieving this goal. He pointed out that, based on a survey on the health and nutrition of the Japanese people, per-capita fish consumption shows an increase as people advance in age. As suppliers of fish products, **we are confident that fish is certainly benefiting the aging society**, he said.

Nakasu’s speech was followed by a lecture by **Professor Akira Ueki of Jichi Medical School** on “Dietary Life and Prevention of Alzheimer’s Disease,” in which he presented the results of up-to-date studies and preventive measures on Alzheimer’s. Ueki noted that 700,000 people have been confirmed as Alzheimer’s patients in Japan, as compared with 5 million in the United States. The cause of this disease had been previously believed to be genetic, but recently it was found that the living environment, including diet and physical exercise, are closely related with the occurrence of this disease. Consequently, as in the case of lifestyle-related illnesses, improvement in one’s dietary life is regarded important. With respect to fish diet, studies show that, **when fish is consumed once a week, the onset rate of Alzheimer’s is 1.6 times higher than when fish is consumed daily. When fish is not consumed at all, the rate is as high as 5.3 times that compared with daily consumption.** Guidance is now being given in hospitals for improving nutritional intake for the treatment of Alzheimer’s. Encouraging the patients to eat fish once a day has shown effectiveness.

Scientific surveys show daily consumption of fish tends to lower the ontake rate of Alzheimer’s

Next, **Dr. Hiramitsu Suzuki, Chief of the Physiological Function Laboratory of the National Food Research Institute**, spoke on the “Effectiveness of Fish Oil and Green Tea in Maintaining Health in Aged People.” Dr. Suzuki introduced the studies to improve the state of Alzheimer’s, carried out with the cooperation of nursing homes for the elderly. Brain tests were conducted by adding fish oil to miso (soybean paste) soup served at breakfast every day for six months. The result showed that Alzheimer’s patients of relatively light and middle levels achieved higher

scores in improvement.

Further, effects of the use of green tea having catechin and fish oil were examined. By the consumption of these two nutrients, significant high scores were observed in brain tests. Notably, high scores were obtained in memory and

language-fluency functions. At present, samples of 20 items of processed food containing fish oil and green-tea extracts have been developed, and studies are underway on what effects the consumption of these items of food may have for the prevention and improvement of Alzheimer’s. Results from these studies are anticipated to be obtained next January.

Lastly, **Professor Akie Kawabata of Kagawa Nutrition University** delivered a lecture on “Dietary Life of the Aged.” Kawabata presented the results of a survey on dietary habits of middle-age and elderly people. She analyzed the changes in the proportion of eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) in phosphatide in cell membranes. Based on the result of her survey, she pointed out that the daily intake of fish enables one to keep the proportion of EPA and DHA in cell membranes at high levels. Then she concluded that **it is necessary for the elderly to consume more fish than young people.** Further, she noted that last April the Welfare and Labor Ministry established the daily lower limit of intake of n-3 fat acid at 2.9 grams or more for males between 50 and 69 years old to encourage the increase of consumption of this fat acid. In order to attain this level, at least one or more intakes of fish (about 100 grams of fish) a day is needed, Kawabata said.

WHALING ISSUE

IWC Shows Signs of Normalization Pro-Use Votes Close to Simple Majority at the 57th IWC Meeting

The number of countries supporting the sustainable utilization of whale resources in the International Whaling Commission (IWC) is now in balance with that of the anti-whaling bloc, giving a clear signal that the balance of power will be reversed in a year or two, said Joji Morishita, Chief Fisheries Negotiator of the Fisheries Agency.

Morishita, also Japan's Alternate Commissioner to the IWC, was speaking at a meeting of the Japan Fisheries Journalists' Association, about the outcome of 57th IWC Annual Meeting held in Ulsan, Korea, in June.

Recalling the year 1999 when he first attended the IWC meeting, he said that the number of countries in the pro-use group then, including Japan, had been 10 less than that of the anti group, but at the Ulsan meeting this year, the former exceeded the latter by one member. Regrettably, however, six of small countries among the sustainable-use group could not vote because they were in arrears in the payment of their membership contributions and had other budgetary difficulties in attending the meeting. This resulted in the defeat by a small margin in the votes on matters requiring a simple majority.

However, there is likelihood that the pro-use group will reverse the votes next year or the year after next.

He further noted that a number of countries, centering on African countries, joined the IWC over the past two years, expressing their support for the sustainable use of whale resources. Anti-whaling countries and organizations blame Japan for buying their votes using its official development assistance (ODA). But such allegations are misleading. Japan is supplying its ODA to anti-whaling countries as well, such as India, Brazil and Argentina. Developing countries in Africa became members of the IWC mainly for two reasons. First, they are aware that they cannot survive without using natural and wildlife resources. Second, they are opposed to the unreasonable imposition of restrictions by CITES on their exports of wildlife products such as ivory. These countries took concerted actions at the IWC and emphasized the importance of sustainable utilization of natural resources at press conferences. These conferences were held entirely on their own and were not made at Japan's request, Morishita said.

8th International Seafood Show in Tokyo Slated for July 2006

--Osaka Seafood Show Is Also Planned for February--

The Japan Fisheries Association (JFA) announced that the 8th International Seafood & Technology Expo will be held at the Tokyo International Center (Tokyo Big Sight), July 19-21, 2006.

The event, one of the biggest among the world's exhibitions of this kind, will be organized by the JFA, and co-sponsored by the Japanese Government ministries, embassies, seafood trade organizations and other related industries.

The show will feature exhibition of wide-ranging products and services, including seafood, seasonings and food additives, as well as machinery and equipment related to seafood processing, packaging, cooking, food sanitation management, and waste disposal.

The organizer anticipates about 30,000 visitors during the Expo, which will include seafood buyers (supermarkets, chain stores, department stores,

fish dealers, retailers, etc.) and seafood users (hotels and restaurants, fishery product processing businesses, etc.)

The JFA also said that it will organize the 3rd International Seafood & Technology Expo Osaka in the western commercial city of Osaka on February 16 and 17, 2006.

In the meantime, the JFA announced the results of the 7th International Seafood & Technology Expo held in Tokyo, July 13-15, 2005. In a continued popularity from the previous shows, a total of 317 exhibitors, including those from overseas, participated in 553 booths. Exhibitors' performance was favorable, with 55.7% saying that they discovered new customers, 17.5% receiving promising inquiries and 12.5% concluding contracts during the show period. (For further information, visit: **Seafood Expo Secretariat**; <http://www.k-ide.com/seafood>)