

**Japan
Fisheries
Association**

ISARIBI
漁火
Fishing Fire

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Views and Opinions of Japan's Fisheries Industry

✚ ICFA Resolution ✚

ICFA adopts resolution on the contribution of fisheries to global security

The International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA), the largest non-governmental organization of the world's fisheries industry, adopted on February 13 a resolution regarding the contribution of fisheries to global food security. It is aimed at alerting the attention of the international community to the importance of fisheries to the world's food security, encouraging all nations to cope positively with the promotion of sustainable fisheries, and expressing a firm commitment to advance responsible fisheries.

The resolution is based on discussions at ICFA's annual meeting held in Rome, October 17-18, 2013. The Japanese delegation, led by Toshiro Shirasu, President of the Japan Fisheries Association (JFA), played an active role in developing a draft of this resolution.

ICFA intends to appeal the resolution at conferences of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other related inter-governmental organizations in the future.

The entire text of the resolution is given below.

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTION OF FISHERIES TO GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

WHEREAS ICFA

Recalls the Kyoto Declaration and Plan of Action on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security adopted at the International Conference on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security (Kyoto, Japan December 1995) and conveyed to the 1996 FAO World Food Summit.

Is concerned that the rate of progress in hunger reduction is far below the rate to reach the 1996 World Food Summit (WFS) target, which is to halve the number of hungry people by 2015, and that even today, globally, 842 million people, which is around one in eight people in the world, are likely to have suffered from chronic hunger.

Recognizes that fisheries and aquaculture make crucial contributions to the world's wellbeing and prosperity, and that fish constitutes an important source of nutritious food and animal protein for much of the world's population, and that the sector provides livelihoods and income, both directly and indirectly, for a significant share of the world's population.

Recognizes that responsible fish trade is important sources of food security and incomes particularly for developing countries.

Notes that properly managed fisheries enable sustainable food production with minimal impact on ecosystem, and is concerned that such role of fisheries is not well understood by the global

community because of which, movements toward extreme fisheries regulation never cease.

Is concerned that regulation of fisheries and fish trade not based on scientific grounds hampers optimal production of seafood, disturbs animal protein supply system, and thereby increases the environmental impact on terrestrial ecosystem.

Recognizes that fishermen's proactive engagement in resource management and enhancement of sustainability is essential for contribution fisheries to food security.

ICFA, therefore,

1. Requests the FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization) the following for the purpose of fulfilling the FAO 's mission, "Achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO's efforts -- to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives."

The FAO plays a principal role in issues regarding conservation and sustainable development of marine living resources.

The FAO takes the lead on issues regarding conservation of marine ecosystems to ensure that adopted conservation measures are based on scientific grounds and in harmony with sustainable fisheries.

The FAO strengthens public relations to improve understanding of role of fisheries in human food security by the global community

2. Urges all nations to reconfirm the importance of contribution of fisheries to food security and be engaged in promotion of sustainable fisheries with proper conservation measures.

3. Resolves to further commit to promotion of responsible fisheries in order to ensure contribution of fisheries to food security.

What is ICFA?

ICFA is an international nongovernmental organization committed to the sustainable use of the world's ocean resources, adhering to the UN FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. ICFA members represent the fishing and seafood sectors

and include the national associations from major fishing nations of the world.

President's message

JFA chief pledges his best efforts to promote fish consumption in Japan

In his New Year message of the "Suisankai," JFA's Japanese-language monthly news bulletin, JFA president Toshiro Shirasu renewed his pledge to make all-out efforts to expand seafood consumption in Japan and boost Japan's seafood exports. Following is an excerpt from his message.

The administration of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe launched in 2012 set policy priorities to put an end to the deflationary trend that persisted for the past years, and revitalize the Japanese economy. Some bright signs toward economic recovery are in sight now, as seen in the recent upturn of the Japanese stock market. It is hoped that demand for seafood will expand, fish prices will rise, and exports of fishery products will be bolstered through further economic recovery measures.



Nearly three years have passed since the great earthquake and tsunami in Eastern Japan in March 2011. Thanks to the government's assistance and the efforts of the fisheries industry and the people in the disaster-stricken area, fish landings have recovered to a considerable extent. However, restoration and rehabilitation are still in their midway. Impacts of rootless negative rumors generated by the accident at the nuclear power plant in Fukushima still exist around seafood produced in the disaster area. We in the fisheries industry are committed to redouble our joint efforts toward a full recovery and revitalization of the fisheries in the region at the earliest possible time.

It is essential to secure human and natural resources as well as fishing vessels in order to

ensure a "stable supply of seafood"--which is the important mission of our industry. The bases for the development of fisheries are to: maintain a workforce in fishing vessel-based fisheries, secure successors for coastal fishing, promote construction of alternative fishing vessels, improve and update seafood processing and distribution facilities, and conserve and manage fishery resources.

Supply and demand are, so to speak, two wheels of the vehicle. Supply naturally presupposes demand. In order to expand demand for seafood as a whole, it is necessary to expand consumption and promote a fish-based diet. We will deepen our cooperation with the Fast Fish campaign--a program that has been promoted by the government's Fisheries Agency and has been gaining increasing recognition among consumers and the mass media. Further, F-1 Grand Prix, a project to highlight and publicly commend excellent seafood products, will be awarded in Tokyo on January 18. This project was launched in the current fiscal year (ending March 2014) with the aim to bring knowledge of local seafood to consumers throughout the country and to attract people to fishing areas.

We will try our best to expand Japan's seafood exports by promoting HACCP certification and strengthening cooperation with the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).

As an organization leading the entire fisheries industry, the JFA pledges our all-out efforts to promote and develop the industry in the years to come.

Topic

NFI launches new website on Fukushima Fish

The National Fisheries Institute (NFI), representing the seafood industry in the United States, has recently launched a website titled **www.FukushimaFishFacts.com**. The following is a brief introduction of the site.

After a March 2011 earthquake damaged Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant

on the country's coast, fears over radiation leaks have fueled speculation, misreporting, and hyperbole about the safety of seafood from the Pacific.

The science on this issue is unified and clear: seafood is and will continue to be safe to eat in the wake of the tragedy in Japan.

The site includes sections on "What Experts Are Saying," "What the Government & Global Organizations are Saying," "What Research Tells Us" and the latest accurate reporting "In The News."

The website will be updated regularly as media reporting and scientific developments warrant.

The JFA appreciates the NFI's commitment to proactive communication.

Osaka Seafood Expo

Osaka Seafood Expo attracts record number of participants

The 11th International Osaka Seafood & Technology Expo, organized by the Japan Fisheries Association (JFA), was held at ATC Hall in this western Japan commercial city.

The expo was attended by a record number of participants from 254 seafood-related companies who displayed about 2,400 products, equipment and technologies in 265 booths. The number of visitors during the two-day session registered 13,860.

Four booths related to Marine Eco-label Japan (MEL Japan) displayed MEL Japan-certified products and distributed pamphlets explaining the MEL Japan certification scheme.

Hokkaido Set-net fishermen to apply for MEL Japan certification --Mounting buyer interest observed at Osaka Seafood Expo--

The Soya Branch of the Hokkaido Set-Net Fisheries Association decided at its board meeting last December that it would apply for MEL Japan certification for 52 salmon set-net fishing units operated by its members.

The association intends to proceed with the required process with the aim to obtain the certification by the time it starts the fall chum season this year.



In August 2012, the Fujimoto Fisheries Section of Sarufutsu Village, one of the branches of the association, obtained production-stage certification for the Hokkaido Sarufutsu Small-type Set-net Fisheries and the Hokkaido Sarufutsu Salmon Set-net Fisheries. Similarly, Okhotsk Katsugyo Co., a seafood company in Esashi Town, acquired chain-of-custody certification for these fisheries. It is likely that more Hokkaido fishermen will now be motivated to apply for MEL Japan certification in the future.

The MEL Japan Secretariat hopes that if the examination for certification of the Hokkaido fisheries advances smoothly, the MEL Japan scheme will certainly move up to another higher stage.

Prior to submission of the application by the Hokkaido Set-net fishermen, MEL Japan introduced through its booth at the Osaka international Seafood & Technology Expo the seafood from three set-net fisheries in Hokkaido which had already obtained certification – the Southern Kayabe Set-net Fisheries, the Hokkaido Sarufutsu Salmon Set-net Fisheries, and the Hokkaido Sarufutsu Small-type Set-net Fisheries.

There was keen interest among the Expo visitors toward the products from Hokkaido, one of the leading seafood producing areas in Japan. Although only displays of product took

place because of the shortage of time for the preparation of food sampling, many buyers were seen taking photos of the displays with avid interest. The MEL-Japan Secretariat considers that when actual products are placed on the market after this fishery is expanded to 52 fishing units this year, it will mark an epoch-making event in the history of the MEL-Japan scheme.



MEL Japan booth



Certified seafood from Large-sized Set-net Fishery



Certified seafood from Small-type Set-net Fishery and Salmon Set-net Fishery (above: right and left)