

Some information on statistics of the incidental catches of North Pacific common minke whales including the ‘effort’ expressed by the numbers of the set nets in the coast of Japan.

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#### **Progress made**

The number of annual incidental catches by sub-area and month were compiled for the period 2001 – 2009 (Goto, 2010). Catches are available by sub-area and month.

The total annual number of ‘large set nets’ and ‘salmon set nets’ in Japan were summarised for the period 1970 -2003 (Figure 1).

#### **Suggestions for additional work**

Butterworth suggested that, if at all possible, the number of set nets should be separated by sub-area and month, same as the incidental catches.

#### **Data screening and treatment**

Detailed information on the number of different kind of set nets in Japan is available at the Annual Statistics on Fishery and Aquaculture Production reports, by prefecture, for the period 1970–2006. In principle the number of different set nets can be separated by sub-areas from these reports. However such task would involve a considerable amount of work as there are no electronic files of the data. In order to complete this data set on time for the *ISTs*, a previous ‘screening’ of the data would be very useful to save time and effort. For example some localities could be excluded for the analysis and the treatment of “effort” data could be simplified. It is proposed the following:

- The number of the set nets in Seto Island Sea could be excluded from the ‘effort’ data because there was only one historical by-catch ever and no incidental takes of the common minke whale in that locality has been reported after the start of the new regulation in 2001.
- The number of the set nets in Okinawa Prefecture could be excluded from the ‘effort’ data because there was no historical by-catch in that locality. Only one whale was incidentally taken by the set net after the start of the new regulation, which was released subsequently.
- There is no need to separate “large set net” from “salmon set net”. According to the Statistics Department, MAFF, (2006), classification of these two kinds of set nets only differ in the target species of the net (e.g. whether or not the target species is salmon).
- Information on “effort” data by month is not available.

#### **REFERENCES**

- Goto, M. 2010. Biological data collected from by-caught western North Pacific common minke whales in Japan (2001-2009). Paper SC/S10/NPM3 presented to this meeting. 1pp.
- Statistics Department, MAFF. 2006. The Annual Statistics on Fishery and Aquaculture Production reports in 2004 (in Japanese).

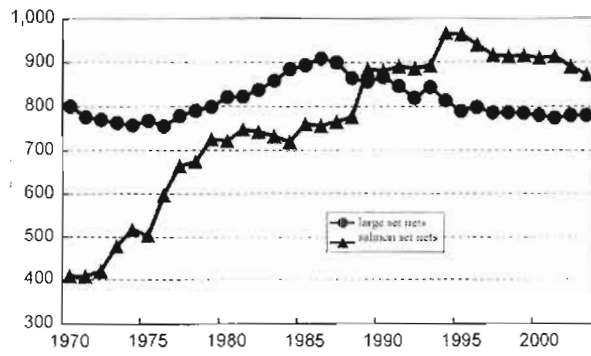


Fig. 1. Total number of large and salmon set nets in Japan during 1970 – 2003.