

(Provisional translation)

Press Release

6 May, 2011

Fisheries Agency of Japan

The Fisheries Agency of Japan has established the “Basic Policy for Inspections on Radioactive Materials in Fishery Products”, and notified to the relevant Prefectural and Metropolitan Governments and organizations.

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### **Basic Policy for Inspections on Radioactive Materials in Fishery Products**

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Inspections on radioactive materials in fishery products have been conducted in response to the emission of radioactive materials from the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. In order to strengthen our inspection on radioactive materials in fishery products, including fish species with their peak fishing season in upcoming months, the Fisheries Agency of Japan has established the “Basic Policy for Inspections on Radioactive Materials in Fishery Products”, as follows.

#### **1. Basic policy for inspection**

##### (1) Inspection of coastal species

##### **(a) From Kanagawa Prefecture to the southern part of Fukushima Prefecture**

Based on formation of fishing grounds off the coast of each prefecture, Prefectural Governments should designate areas where inspection is necessary, and conduct sampling once a week in principle (once every two weeks in Kanagawa Prefecture and islands belonging to Tokyo Metropolis), at the main landing ports of each designated area. When sampling is conducted at markets, the area where the fish was caught should be confirmed.

Major species caught in each fishing season should be selected as the target species for inspection, taking into local circumstances into account. They should be selected to cover a wide spectrum of marine habitat such as surface (e.g. Juvenile Japanese sand lance), middle column (e.g. sea bass, sea bream) and bottom (e.g. flounder, conger eel), taking into account that larger amount of radioactive materials has been detected so far in species swimming in the surface (sand lance).

##### **(b) Northern part of Fukushima Prefecture and to the north**

Inspection should be conducted before resumption of fishery operations. Decision on whether to resume fishery operations should be based on the analysis results of the inspection.

When fishery operation is resumed, Prefectural Governments should designate areas where inspection is necessary, and conduct sampling once a week in principle (once every two weeks in Iwate Prefecture and to the north), at the main landing ports of each designated area.

Target species for inspection should be selected in accordance with the procedure (a) above.

(2) Migratory species (skipjack, Japanese jack mackerel, Pacific saury, etc.)

Inspections should be conducted through cooperation between relevant fisheries industry organizations and the Prefectural Governments where the fish is landed. (The inspection framework when the fishing grounds of such fish species move northward is under discussion among relevant parties, including industry organizations. Use of Hokusho-maru, a research fishing vessel of the Federation of North Pacific District Purse Seine Fisheries Co-operative Associations of Japan, in this framework will be considered.)

(a) Skipjack

After the formulation of fishing grounds off the coast of Izu Islands and Boso Peninsula (around the middle of May), inspections should be conducted once a week in principle (sampling should be conducted at the fishing ports in Chiba Prefecture where landing of skipjack is expected (namely Choshi and Katsuura fishing ports)).

When formation of fishing grounds off the coast of Fukushima Prefecture (usually 240-320 km off the coast) is expected (around early June), sampling by a trial fishing vessel should be conducted prior to commercial operations. Decision on whether to operate fishery in the area should be based on the analysis results. When fishery operation is to continue, sampling should be conducted once a week in principle at landing ports.

When fishing grounds are formed off the coast of Miyagi Prefecture and to the north, inspections should be conducted once a week in principle.

(b) Sardine and mackerel

While fishing grounds are formed off the coast of Chiba Prefecture, sampling should continue at the fishing ports in Chiba Prefecture where landing of sardine and mackerel is expected (namely Choshi fishing port).

When formation of fishing grounds off the coast of Ibaraki Prefecture is expected (in May), sampling by the research vessel of the Ibaraki Prefectural Fisheries Experimental Station should be conducted, in cooperation with the Ibaraki Prefectural Government. Decision on whether to operate fishery should be based on the analysis results. When fishery operation is to continue, sampling should be conducted once a week in principle at landing ports.

When formation of fishing grounds off the coast of Fukushima Prefecture is expected (in June), sampling should be conducted by a research fishing vessel. The rest of the procedure will be the same as described above.

When fishing grounds are formed off the coast of Miyagi Prefecture and to the north, inspections should be conducted once a week in principle.

(c) Pacific saury and salmon migrating southward

Starting from summer, inspections should be conducted once a week in principle.

## **2. Amount of sample**

Sample size should be a sufficient amount to conduct inspection; i.e. 5kg or more per species in principle. The sampling site and date should be recorded.

## **3. Additional notes**

Due to the migratory nature of fish, and to varying weather conditions, sampling of target species at the scheduled site and date may not always be possible. Sampling plans should be drawn up with ample flexibility to allow for these conditions.

## **4. Publication of inspection results**

The publication and reporting to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of inspection results should be conducted by the prefectural Government in whose water the sample is caught, or in which the sampling port is located.

## **5. Response to inspection results that exceed the Provisional Regulation Value in migratory species**

When inspection results exceeding the Provisional Regulation Value are detected in migratory species, the industry concerned will be requested to voluntarily refrain from relevant fishing operations around the site where the sample was caught (generally on a prefecture by prefecture basis). Then sampling by a research fishing vessel should be

conducted once a week in principle. Fishery operations could resume only after the inspection results are below the Provisional Regulation Value for 3 consecutive times.

For more information

Resources and Environment Research Division

Fisheries Agency of Japan

+81-3-3502-8487