

(Provisional translation)

Press Release

21 June, 2011

Fisheries Agency of Japan

The Fisheries Agency of Japan decided to allow skipjack fishery operations in the sea area east of longitude 147 degrees east offshore Fukushima Prefecture, and notified it to the relevant fisheries organizations. The decision was made based on the recent water temperature data around the area and the results of inspections on radioactive materials that showed radioactivity level of skipjack tuna samples in the area was below the provisional regulation value.

Result of the inspection on radioactive materials in skipjack tuna in the eastern sea area offshore Fukushima Prefecture

Regarding skipjack tuna fisheries offshore Fukushima Prefecture, the Basic Policy for Inspections on Radioactive Materials in Fishery Products provides to conduct sampling by a research fishing vessel prior to commercial operations. Decision on whether to operate in the area should be based on the result of the analysis.

(The Basic Policy URL: http://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/j/kakou/kensa/pdf/110520_kihonhosin_en.pdf)

As warm water front extended northward around longitude 150 degrees east, formulation of skipjack tuna fishing grounds is expected in the eastern sea area offshore Fukushima Prefecture. Accordingly, sampling of skipjack tuna was conducted by a research fishing vessel in the area of latitude 37.20 degrees north and longitude 150.53-55 degrees east for inspections on radioactive materials.

The results of the inspections showed that radioactivity level in the skipjack tuna samples was below the Provisional Regulation Value. Considering these results and the water temperature data, the Fisheries Agency of Japan decided to allow skipjack fishery operations in the sea area east of longitude 147 degrees east offshore Fukushima Prefecture, and notified it to the relevant fisheries organizations.

Sampling inspections of landed skipjack tuna will be continued.

Sampling was also conducted on 19 June in the area closer to the shore, around latitude 37.03 degrees north and longitude 149.49 degrees east. The samples are under analysis at the Fisheries Research Agency of Japan, and the results will be announced on 22 June. If the radioactivity level is lower than the Provisional Regulation Value, the sea area west of longitude 147 degrees east offshore Fukushima Prefecture will also be allowed for skipjack tuna fisheries.

[Reference] Result of analysis

Item: skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

Sampling date: 15 June, 2011

Sampling site: eastern sea area offshore Fukushima Prefecture

N 37° 20, E150° 55

Result of analysis

Radioactive cesium: 5 Becquerel/kg

Radioactive iodine: not detectable

Item: skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

Sampling date: 15 June, 2011

Sampling site: eastern sea area offshore Fukushima Prefecture

N 37° 20, E150° 53

Result of analysis

Radioactive cesium: 5.5 Becquerel/kg

Radioactive iodine: not detectable

[Note] Provisional Regulation Value for fish and seaweed

Radioactive cesium: 500 Becquerel/kg

Radioactive iodine: 2,000 Becquerel/kg

*Link to results of inspections on radioactive materials in fisheries products conducted by prefectural governments and other organizations

For more information

Resources and Environmental Research Division,

Fisheries Agency of Japan

+81-3-3502-8487