

## Fisheries Stock Recovery Program in Japan

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### 1. Fishing Effort Control

The management of fisheries resources in Japan has been carrying out by means of fishing effort control as shown in Fisheries Law enacted in 1949 and Fishery Resources Protection Law enacted in 1952. Fishing effort control is such as regulation in number and size of fishing boats and setting restrictions on the fishing season and fishing area basically. The above mentioned policy of the fisheries stock management is a reflex of the realities of Japanese fisheries system consisted of many kinds of fisheries using the same fisheries resources. The fisheries system in Japan was cultivated in long history of Japanese fishing industry. National research institutes of fisheries science in Japan commenced the estimation of the allowable biological catch (ABC) on some fisheries stocks in 1972 when the 200 mile exclusive economic zone was argued in the world. The Japanese government was undertaking fisheries resource management program such as development of simulation model on fisheries stock management and so on from 1984.

### 2. Fish Catch Control

Following the ratification of the U.N. convention on the law of the sea in Japan, the new law concerning conservation and management of fisheries resources was enacted in 1996 in Japan, and the system of the total allowable catch (TAC) was introduced in Japan in 1997. For setting up the TAC, National Fisheries Research Institutes (Fisheries Research Agency since 2001) started to estimate the allowable biological catch (ABC) on the fish stocks more than 40 species including 7 species specified by the TAC system, Pacific saury, Alaska pollack, jack mackerel, sardine, mackerels, snow crab, Japanese common squid in 1996. By the introduction of the TAC system, the methodology of the fisheries resources management in Japan had been combined the catch control system with the traditional system of the fishing effort control.

### 3. Fisheries Stock Recovery Program

The new control system of the total allowable fishing effort (TAE) was introduced in 2001 to improve the fisheries resources management system following the amendment of the law concerning conservation and management of fisheries resources. The TAE system means the regulation on the upper limits of fishing efforts such as duration of fishing operation days and number of fishing boats for fisheries stock recovery. The new basis of the fisheries resources management to plan the stable supply of fishery products by means of appropriate and sustainable fisheries resources management was constructed based on the new law concerning fundamental fisheries policy in Japan enacted in 2001. Following the new law, the fisheries stock recovery program has been started in Japan. The fisheries stock recovery program will be designed for the stocks with the necessity of urgent recovery to significantly reduce the adverse effects of fishing on the stocks including a number of actions that will be arranged by discussion among concerned parties.