

WORKING PAPER WPYRG3/ 10

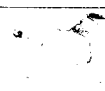
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IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

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INTRODUCTION

We reported last year during the WPYRG2 meeting in Honolulu that Taiwan has three fisheries for yellowfin tuna in the central and western Pacific Ocean, namely, distant-water longline fishery, distant-water purse seine fishery and offshore tuna longline fishery. This paper briefly reviews the status of these fisheries for yellowfin in 1991-1993.

THE DISTANT-WATER TUNA LONGLINE FISHERY

The number of distant-water tuna longliners operating in Pacific Ocean from 1991 to 1993 are 82, 92 and 98 respectively (Table 1). The total yearly yellowfin catch during 1991-92 two years in the central and western Pacific are 665 and 828 MT respectively (Table 2). Most of the catch was from the WPYF-4 and WPYF-5 areas (see Fig. 1). For example, in 1991, 82% of the total catch, i.e. 548 MT was from WPYF-4 and WPYF-5 areas (Table 3).

THE DISTANT-WATER TUNA PURSE SEINE FISHERY

The number of distant-water purse seiners operating in the western Pacific Ocean during 1991-1993 was 40, 44 and 43 respectively (Table 1). The landings of yellowfin tuna increased from 16,358 MT in 1991 to 44,459 MT in 1992 (Table 2), an increase of 28,100 MT. The purse seine fleet are now operating in the same WPYF-4 area.

OFFSHORE TUNA LONGLINE FISHERY

The total effort in number of vessels in 1991 and 1992 is 800 and 1898 respectively (Table 1). The large increase in the number of vessels in 1992 is due to a type change in registration from other types of fisheries to tuna longline fishery by the owners of the miscellaneous fish longliners at the Taiwan Fisheries Bureau in 1992 (Mr. Wang, pers. comm.). The landing of yellowfin increased from 5,838 MT in 1991 to 6,819 MT in 1992. Obviously, the sharp increase in vessel number in 1992 has not resulted in a proportional increase in landing tonnage. The offshore fleets are now operating in the same WPYF-3 area.

TOTAL YELLOWFIN CATCH

The total annual catch of yellowfin rose from 23,685 MT in 1991 to 52,650 MT in 1992 (Table 2). The increased catch is mainly from the purse seine fishery.

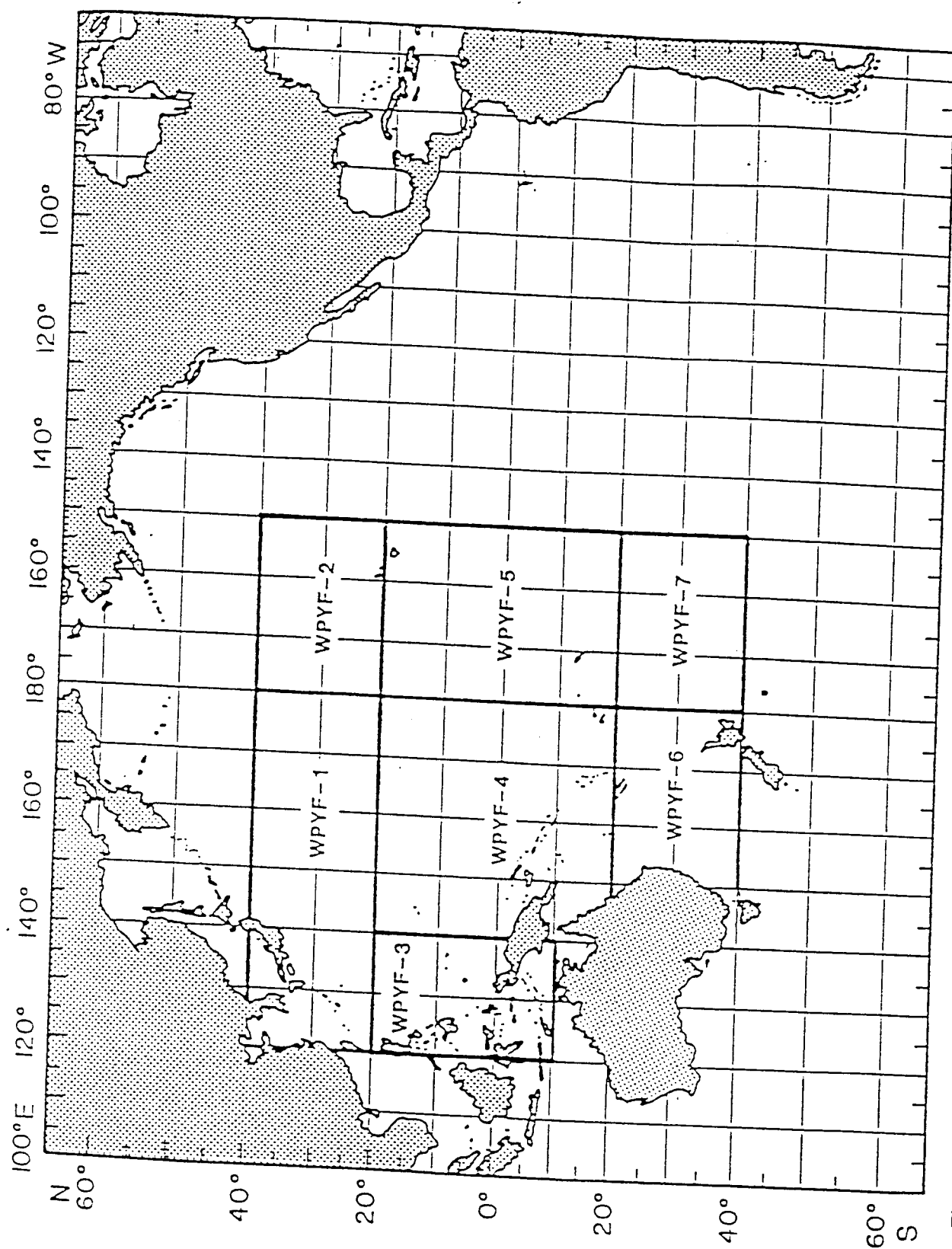


Figure 1. WPYRG statistical areas for compiling fisheries data.

Table 1. Annual number of Taiwan tuna boats operating in the central and western Pacific, 1991-1993.

Type of boats	1991	1992	1993
Longliner			
Distant-water	82	92	98*
<u>Offshore</u>	800	1898	NA
Purse seiner	40	44	43

* up to March 1993

NA data not available

Table 2. Taiwan's yellowfin catch (in MT) by type of fisheries in the central and western Pacific, 1991-1993.

Type of fishery	1991	1992	1993
Longline			
Distant-water	665	828 *	NA
<u>Offshore</u>	5838	6819	NA
Purse seine	16358	44459	NA
others**	824	544	NA
Total	23685	52650	NA

* preliminary estimate

** include catches by troll, pole and line. ... etc.

NA data not available

*Lanchief
in Taiwan*

Table 3. Taiwan distant-water longline catches of yellowfin in metric tons in the western Pacific by month and by WPYF area, 1991.

Month	WPYF area							Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	-	-	20.2	66.1	1.9	-	-	88.2
2	-	-	-	36.0	5.3	-	-	41.3
3	-	-	-	62.1	33.0	-	-	95.1
4	-	-	-	14.2	49.4	1.0	-	64.6
5	-	-	-	-	28.2	10.4	0.0	38.5
6	-	-	-	-	54.3	3.7	1.7	59.7
7	-	-	-	-	2.4	11.6	22.2	36.2
8	-	-	-	0.6	-	9.2	13.2	23.0
9	-	-	-	3.9	56.2	0.8	10.2	71.2
10	-	-	-	2.9	11.1	-	14.1	28.1
11	-	-	-	11.4	23.5	-	-	34.9
12	-	-	-	4.2	80.0	-	-	84.2
Total	-	-	20.2	201.4	345.4	36.6	61.4	665.0