

TAC management in Japan

July 2023

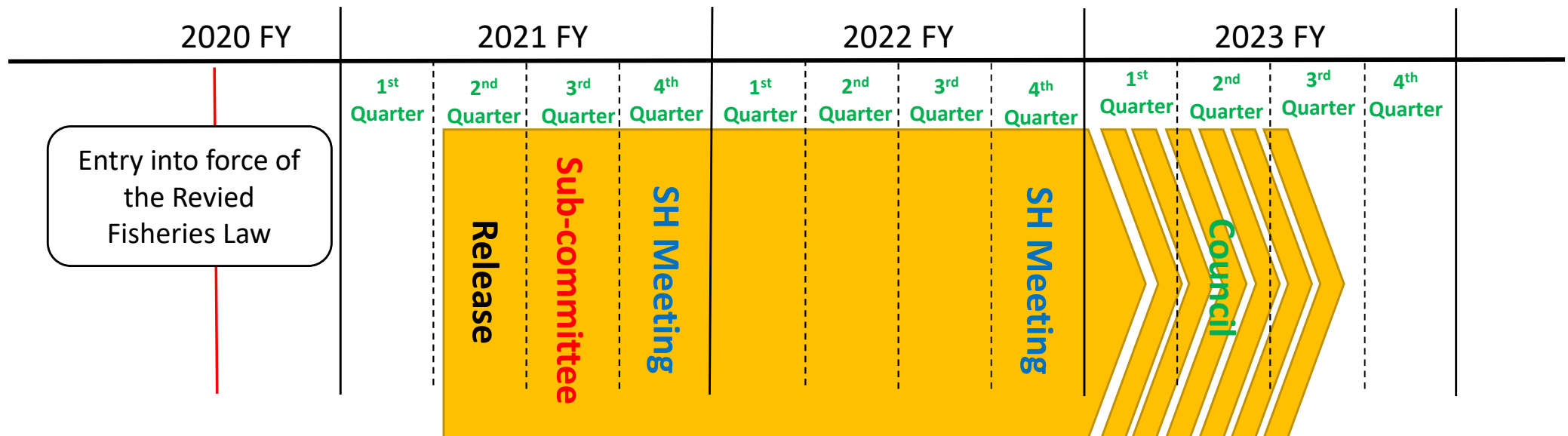
Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ)

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1. Process to add fish species under TAC management

- The process to add fish species under TAC management is basically composed of the following steps:
 - ① 「**Release**」 ...Release of MSY-based stock assessment
 - ② 「**Sub-committee**」 ...Meeting participated by representative fishermen. The objective of the meeting is to list up discussion points and/or opinions to be addressed for introducing TAC.
 - ③ 「**SH Meeting**」 ...Meeting participated by stake holders of the fish species. The objectives of the meeting is to i) discuss and agree on a target reference point and harvest control rule, as well as ii) discuss solutions to the items raised by the Sub-committee
 - ④ 「**Council**」 ...Fisheries Policy Council to make an advice to the Government in terms of the revision of a related fishery regulation in order to add fish species under TAC management

◎ Schedule of the process (Example of Japanese anchovy, *stock of the Tsushima Warm Current*)



2. Overview of flexible TAC management

1. Setting of a target reference point while taking into account socio-economic factors

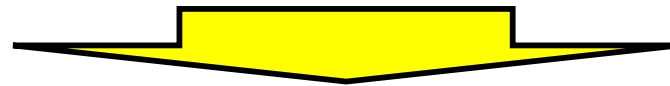
- Consider appropriate management objective, based on market demand of the stock
(Japanese anchovy, *stock of the Tsushima Warm Current*,
Sea bream, *stock of the Sea of Japan (middle-west)/the East China Sea*)

2. Flexible management during an initial period of introducing TAC

- “Step-up TAC management”

3. Dealing with unpredicted high recruitment, large annual fluctuation of stock level, and by-catch

- - Timely quota transfer from a national quota reserve (“75% rule”)、
- Quota transfer among prefectures/ fishery associations,
- Transfer of a portion of TAC from the next fishing year (Chub mackerel, *stock of Tsushima Warm Current*; Blue mackerel, *stock of the East China sea*)
- Additional TAC allocation when unpredicted large migration from outside our water is observed (Walleye Pollock, *stock of the Pacific Ocean*)



FAJ will make further efforts to improve TAC management by introducing new management tools, in accordance with stock’s biological features and state of fisheries, while appropriately operating existing tools listed above.

3. Flexible management during an initial period of introducing TAC (“Step-up TAC management”)

- When TAC is newly introduced, a framework of “step-up TAC management” will be applied. In its framework; i) flexible management will be introduced during an initial period, and ii) TAC management is gradually improved, while iii) a schedule to advance to standard TAC management is clearly defined.
- A concept and schedule of “step-up TAC management” is prescribed in a related regulation, and a step-up process will be implemented steadily in accordance with the schedule.
- Specifically, a process will be implemented in three steps, and a fundamental TAC management framework will be established by the end of the second step (a maximum of three years is expected).

	Present	1 st year	2 nd &3 rd year	4 th year or later
<p><3rd Step></p> <p>① Resetting a management objective and harvest control rule, and based on them, setting TAC</p> <p>② Implementing standard TAC management, including an issuance of order to suspend fishing</p> <p>③ Reviewing of TAC management framework in a shorter period and, as necessary, revising it</p>				
<p><2nd Step></p> <p>① Trial allocation of TAC among prefectures/ fishery associations</p> <p>② Discussion and trial of TAC management in preparation for the 3rd step (e.g., Issuance of guidance/instruction/recommendation based on allocated TAC, examination of how/when to issue an order to suspend fishing)</p>				
<p><1st Step></p> <p>① Mandatory TAC reporting</p> <p>② Examining whether TAC reporting is appropriately implemented</p> <p>③ Establishing a TAC-report collection system</p>	<p>Collection of landing data electronically</p>			

4. TAC management tools under the new fishery management system

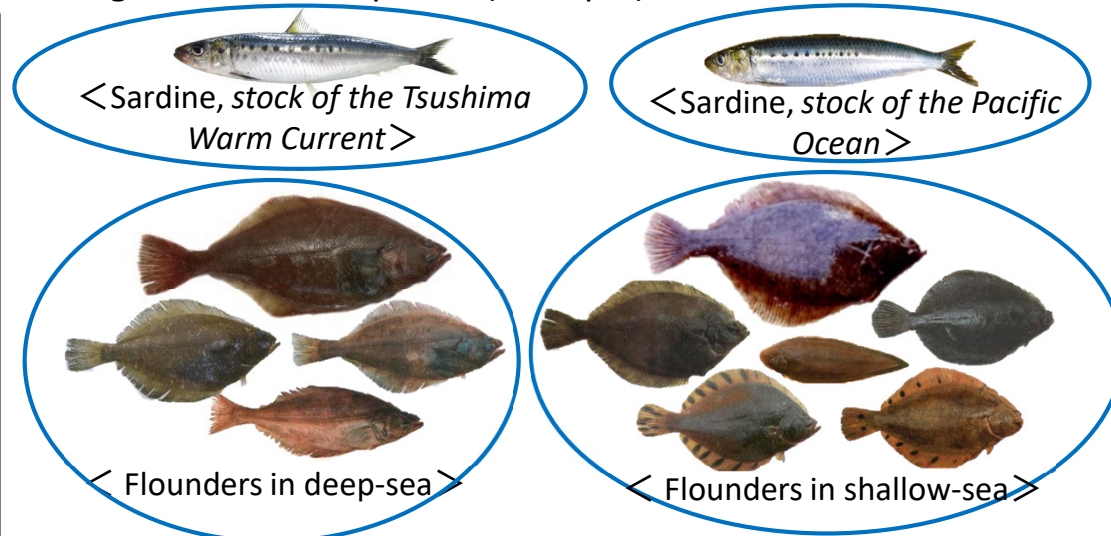
[Designation of TAC species]

- Fish species that are managed under TAC need to be designated as “TAC-species” in a related regulation.
- ◎ Normally, “TAC-species” is designated by single species/stock (e.g., *Sardine, stock of the Pacific Ocean*)
- ◎ A multi-species group (e.g., *Flounders in deep-sea, Flounders in shallow-sea, etc.*) can also be designated as TAC-species, when, for example, they are caught simultaneously by bottom-trawl fishery.

[Setting TAC]

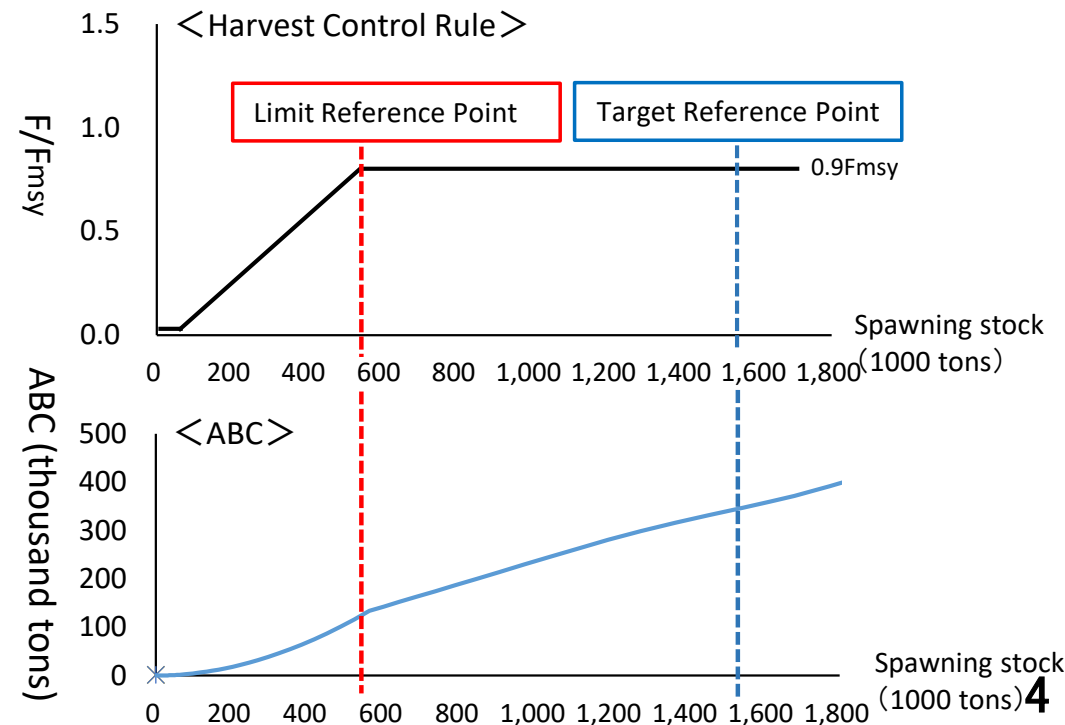
- TAC is set less than or equal to ABC, which was calculated by a scientific institution based on stock level and harvest control rule (* This rule is same as before).

【Designation of TAC species (example)】



参照：わが国周辺の水産資源の現状を知るために <http://abchan.fra.go.jp/index.html>
 岩手県水産技術センターWeb魚類図鑑 https://www2.suigi.pref.iwate.jp/others_log/reference

【Spawning stock, Harvest Control Rule and ABC (example)】



5. Progress to introduce Individual Quota (IQ) system

Fishery Permitted by the Minister	TAC species	2021 FY	2022 FY	2023 FY
Large-middle scale purse seine fishery	Chub/Blue mackerels			
	Sardine			
	Pacific bluefin tuna ($\geq 30\text{kg}$)			
Squid-jigging fishery	Japanese flying squid			
North-Pacific Ocean saury fishery	Saury			
Drift-net fishery	Pacific bluefin tuna ($\geq 30\text{kg}, < 30\text{kg}$)			
Skipjack and Tuna fishery (Offshore longline)	Pacific bluefin tuna ($\geq 30\text{kg}$)			
Skipjack and Tuna fishery (Far-seas longline)	Southern bluefin tuna			
	Atlantic bluefin tuna			

6. Fishermen's voluntary management measures under the new fishery management system

[Enhancing fishery management utilizing “fishery management arrangement”]

- For non-TAC-species, the utilization “fishery management arrangement”, which stipulates voluntary management measures by fishermen, is promoted.

- ① When developing a “fishery management arrangement”,
 - i) for fish species that stock assessment is conducted, which will expand to about 200 species by 2023, a management objective will be set based the assessment.
 - ii) for fish species that stock assessment is **not** conducted, a management objective will be set using best available scientific data, including reported fishery-related data and results of scientific research by prefectural scientific institutions.

- ② A “fishery management arrangement” is approved by the Minister or prefectural Governor and is then publicized.

- ③ All of existing “fishery management plans” will be upgraded to “fishery management arrangements” by 2023.。

- ④ The effect of voluntary management measures will be periodically reviewed, and based on its outcome, they will be improved as necessary. The outcome of the review is publicized in order to ensure transparency.

- Fishermen participating in “fishery management arrangement” are entitled to join a fishery income stabilization program.

【Illustration of voluntary management framework for non-TAC species】

