Reports on Advancing Comparative Ecological Studies of Early Life History and Recruitment Strategy of Bluefin Tunas and Related Species, and Effects of Environmental Changes on Fluctuations of Oceanic Top Predators

-Proceedings of the Fisheries Research Agency (FRA) and Climate Impacts on Oceanic Top Predators (CLIOTOP) joint workshop, 20-23 September 2011-

Preface

Climate Impacts on Oceanic Top Predators (CLIOTOP) was initiated in 2004 as a ten-year research program implemented under the international Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics (GLOBEC) initiative. The aims of CLIOTOP have been to facilitate international cooperation for research activities on oceanic top predators, and to accumulate and increase biological and oceanographic knowledge in order to better understand oceanic ecosystems. CLIOTOP is composed of five interacting working groups that are concerned with early life history (WG1), physiology, behavior and distribution (WG2), trophic pathways in open ocean ecosystems (WG3), synthesis and modeling (WG4) and socio-economic aspects and management strategies (WG5). CLIOTOP is focused on the identification and modeling of processes involving oceanic top predators and oceanic ecosystems, as well as comparisons of these processes in different regions, oceans and species at a global scale.

After 2009, the international program entered its second five-year cycle, CLIOTOP is acting under an implementation of Integrated Marine Biogeochemistry and Ecology (IMBER). During the second phase, CLIOTOP will place increased emphasis on developing international oceanic ecosystem–level management methods for a variety of anthropogenic and natural forcing scenarios in oceanic ecosystems in the 21st century.

In September 2011, the joint FRA-CLIOTOP workshop, "Advancing comparative ecological studies of early life history and recruitment strategy of bluefin tunas and the related species, and effects of environmental changes on the fluctuations of oceanic top predators" was held at National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRISFS) at Shimizu in Shizuoka, Japan. Thirty-nine scientists from four countries including Japan, USA, Australia and Spain participated in the workshop and 22 oral presentations were given. The presentation papers were collated and are published here as the Proceedings of the joint FRA-CLIOTOP workshop. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all participants, staff, and colleagues for their assistance with making the workshop a success.

The Executive Committee of the Joint FRA-CLIOTOP Workshop
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