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CSIRO Division of Fisheries
GPO Box 1538
Hobart 7001, Tasmania
1/6/88

Dr M. Walker
Executive Officer
Fishing Industry Research Committee
PO Box 108, Fremantle, WA 6159

Dear Michael,

I am enclosing some material on project 87/113 'Tag lottery for southern bluefin tuna' that you requested. The colour slide is a photograph of the lottery draw at the conference room of Port Lincoln Tuna Processors on 17th July 1987. Left to right - Mr Mario Velcic (Managing Director of Port Lincoln Tuna Processors), Mr Tom Secker O.A.M (Mayor of Port Lincoln), Mr Dinko Lukin and Mr Sam Skoljarev.

Due to the very low number of tag returns from Australian catches during the 1987-88 season (tags from only six fish) it was not feasible to conduct another lottery this year.

Regards,



Bill Hearn

CSIRO Tuna Tag Lottery - Results

Bill Hearn

In 1983 and 1984 CSIRO tagged 10,179 SBT off Western Australia and South Australia. This program was jointly funded by FIRTA and CSIRO. The aim was to provide information on abundance, migration, growth, natural and fishing mortalities, and interactions among southern bluefin tuna fisheries.

To now, 40% of tagged fish have been caught and reported by fishermen. More than 4,000 (about 4030) were recaptured by Australians and 29 by Japanese fishermen. We expect Japanese fishermen to catch more tagged fish, because southern bluefin tuna can live to 20 years of age. In previous CSIRO tagging experiments (1959-1980) only 15% of tagged fish were recaptured.

The number of tagged tuna being caught by Australian fishermen is declining each year. The purpose of the tuna tag lottery was to maintain fishermen's interest in returning tags - especially from tuna caught in past years that for some reason have not been returned.

From 1st October 1986 to 30 June 1987 there were 137 tags returned by 25 people from 82 tuna of which 64 were caught during the 1986-87 season and 18 were from previous seasons, 11 from the 1985-86 season and 7 before that. Five people sent in more than half the tags and ten people sent in tags from only one tuna each. Ninety percent of tags were sent in by people with South Australian addresses.

The large proportion of tags returned from the 1983-84 CSIRO tagging program indicates the excellent co-operation of fishermen and processors in returning tags to CSIRO. For experiments in some other fisheries it has been found that up to 60% of recaptured tags are never reported to the organizers of the tagging programs. The 1986-87 lottery was also designed, in part, to "flush out" tags lying in drawers, shelves, boats and cars. The small number of returns during 1986-87 from fish caught in previous seasons indicates that non-reporting of tags by Australian SBT fishermen has been light.

CSIRO DIVISION OF FISHERIES RESEARCH
ANNUAL REPORT 1986 / 87 FOR FIRC

**Tag Lottery for Southern Bluefin Tuna
(FIRTA 87/113)**

The objectives of this project were to maintain the interest of tuna fishermen and fish processors in the CSIRO 1983-84 tagging program so as to encourage the return of tags from southern bluefin tuna (SBT) caught in 1986/87 and to 'flush out' tags from fish that were caught in previous years, but for some reason were not returned.

Tags returned by Australian residents to CSIRO during the period October 1, 1986 to June 30, 1987 were eligible for the lottery. During this period 137 tags were returned by 25 fishermen and fish processors from 82 tuna of which 64 were caught during this period and 18 were from previous seasons, 11 from the 1985/86 season and 7 before that. Ninety percent of tags were sent in by people with South Australian addresses.

The lottery was publicised by publishing an article in the Australian Fisheries magazine, advertisements in the Australian and regional newspapers and by sending announcement posters to fishermen and fish processors. For each tag returned the tag finder was allocated an equal chance of winning the cash prizes of \$1000 (1st), \$600 (2nd) and \$400 (3rd).. The prizes were drawn by the Mayor of Port Lincoln Mr Tom Secker O.A.M., at Port Lincoln, SA on July 17, 1987. The prizes were paid to the winners soon after and losers were sent a CSIRO T-shirt.

The results of the lottery were presented to the Sixth Meeting of Australian, Japanese and New Zealand Scientists on SBT in August 1987 and the scientists recommended that a major effort be made to obtain tags from the Japanese fishery, including one or more lotteries.

CSIRO

SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA

TAG LOTTERY

WINNERS

The CSIRO tuna tag-lottery was drawn by the Mayor of Port Lincoln, *Mr T. Secker O.A.M.*, at Port Lincoln, SA, on Friday, 17th July 1987.

The prize winners are:

1st Prize Mr G. Carnie
 \$1000 Port Lincoln, SA
 Tag No. 47844 Red

2nd Prize Mr N. Dorward
 \$ 600 Port Lincoln, SA
 Tag No. 44662 Red

3rd Prize Australian Southern Bluefin Exporters
 \$ 400 Port Lincoln, SA
 Tag No. 51768 Yellow

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