

A NEW LONGLINE FISHERY IN NEW CALEDONIA

(ABSTRACT)

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A longline fishing company , which production is sold on the japanese sashimi market, started to operate in New Caledonia waters last November 1983 using a first vessel bought in Japan. Activities were expanded in June 1984 when a second vessel was put into fishing operation.

From November 1st 1983 to July 19th 1984, 221 tonnes of fish were caught during 145 fishing days with a total of 323 910 hooks being set, which represents 2234 hooks per fishing day. Distribution of the fishing effort is given by 1° square as well as yields for several species.

A total of 7342 fish were caught which correspond to :

- 51 fish per fishing day
- 1.5 tonnes of fish per day
- 2.3 fish per 100 hooks

and 68 kg of fish per 100 hooks.

Albacore is the main species by number and by weight followed by yellowfin and striped marlin. Albacore are more abundant during southern hemisphere winter and striped marlin more numerous during the hot season.

Fishing effort, catches and yields achieved as today are similar to those obtained by the japanese longline vessels which traditionnaly fish in this region of the south-west Pacific. Fish quality meets consumer support on the sashimi market.

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