Meeting note at Chiba Prefectural Office 28/04/2022

Meeting member:

Chiba Prefectural government: Mr. Kofune, Mr. Yamada. Mr Gomi, Mr Yamada, Mr Hara, Mr Mita

Kaiko Bussan: Mr Ohno, Mr Nakamura, Mr Munakata , Mr Yugeta

Funabashi Fishery Cooperative Association: Mr Takita

Umito Partners: Okamoto, Fukuyama, Mori

The first formal meeting for Japanese sea perch fishery with the Chiba prefectural government, Funabashi Fishery Cooperative Association, Kaiko Bussan (as representative fishermen) and Umito Partners was held at the Chiba prefectural office on 28th of April.

Agenda

**The current stock assessment for Japanese sea perch**

It was still unsure whether Japanese sea perch would be added to the managed species list in the new TAC management system. UMITO Partners explained the stock assessment was not enough to obtain MSC certification for Japanese Sea Perch fishery in Tokyo Bay. The Chiba prefectural government mentioned that they would follow the same method as the Fishery Agency’s decision, especially in stock assessment using MSY base. Note, the fishery Agency has not decided how Japanese sea perch would be managed under new management rules. Currently, stock levels and trends of Japanese sea perch are assessed by CPUE base and simple reports in Chiba prefecture, which are published annually on the Chiba prefecture website. Kaiko Bussan and Funabashi Fishery Cooperative Association requested an appropriate stock assessment for the Japanese Sea Perch fishery in Tokyo Bay using the MSY base. Chiba prefectural government mentioned that they would positively consider the stock assessment for Japanese Sea Perch fishery using the MSY base, but they could not decide because there were no staff (researchers) from the Chiba prefectural fishery research center in this meeting. A discussion including these researchers are required in the next stage.

**The Release of seedings** **of Japanese sea perch**

Restarting the release of seedings of Japanese sea perch was discussed. There were concerns about the accuracy of stock assessment for sea perches in Tokyo Bay by the fishermen group. The Chiba prefectural government decided not to restart the fish release this year because the stock level of fish was high. Kaiko Bussan and Funabashi Fishery Cooperative Association requested the restarting of the fish release. This topic would be continuously discussed with the Chiba prefectural fishery research center in the future.

**School lunch**

Japanese sea perches fished by Kaiko Bussan were served as local school lunch as local food education in 2020, which was supported by national governmental budget support. Kaiko Bussan asked whether there would be an opportunity to provide their fishes to schools in Chiba prefecture in near future. The Chiba prefectural government agreed that this project succeeded with good evaluations by students and other related people, and then thought they would proceed with this project with Funabashi Fishery Cooperative Association when next budgets would be available.

**Cleanup activity**

Kaiko Bussan requested the budget support program from the Chiba prefecture for their voluntary cleanup activities, and the Chiba prefectural government suggested they could advise about it by sharing the contents of the cleanup activities.