Japanese amberjack

Sea of Japan, East China Sea, and Japanese Pacific

**IDENTIFICATION**

**SPECIES NAME(S)**
Japanese amberjack

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**

According to Japan's stock assessment, there is a single Japanese amberjack stock occurring in the waters around Japan and off the southern and eastern coasts of the Korean Peninsula, and Japanese scientists conduct assessments on this stock (JFA 2013). It is unclear whether the stock extends into China and Taiwan's EEZs, because catch data and distribution information around China and Taiwan are lacking.

Catch data used to inform the Japanese stock assessment do not distinguish among three amberjack species (S. quinqueradiata, S. dumerili, and S. lalandi), but the majority of Japan's harvest is of Japanese amberjack (JFA 2013). There are wild capture fisheries for amberjack of all age classes, including a fishery that targets fry (called mojako) that are used for aquaculture. The focus of this profile is the fry fishery, but information from adult fisheries was also considered, especially for evaluation of stock status.

**RELATED LINKS:**
- Japan Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)
- Fisheries Research Agency of Japan (FRAJ)

**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**
- Although there is some uncertainty due to lack of a comprehensive, multi-country stock assessment, both Japan and Korea report that stock currently appears abundant.
- The stock currently appears to be abundant based on catch data and estimates of SSB.
- Stock assessment scientists evaluate the stock every year and estimate an ABC. They have also begun to suggest target harvest rates.
- Fry harvest quotas are in place, and catches have generally been steady.
- Catches of ETP species appear unlikely, though this supposition should be confirmed.
- This gear type does not impact bottom habitat.

**Weaknesses**
- The Japanese amberjack stock is transboundary, occurring in both Japan and S. Korea's EEZs, and possibly in China and Taiwan's EEZs as well. However, a joint, multi-country stock assessment is not conducted, and catch information for China and Taiwan is lacking.
- Although ABCs are estimated for Japan's portion of the stock, they are not used to set harvest limits or recommendations.
- Harvest control rules are not used.
- Levels of compliance with quotas are unclear, and harvest control rules are not used.
- Bycatch is not systematically monitored.

**Options**
- Scientific recommendations should be more actively considered in harvest management.
- A more precautionary harvest strategy using reference points should be implemented.
- Details about quota setting and volumes should be made publicly available.
- Implement more systematic monitoring of bycatch and incidental encounters of ETP species.

**SCORES**

**Management Quality:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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<td>&lt; 6</td>
<td>&lt; 6</td>
<td>= 6</td>
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**Stock Health:**

<table>
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<th>Future Health</th>
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<td>≥ 8</td>
<td>≥ 6</td>
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**FIPS**

No related FIPs

**MSC**

No related MSC fisheries