



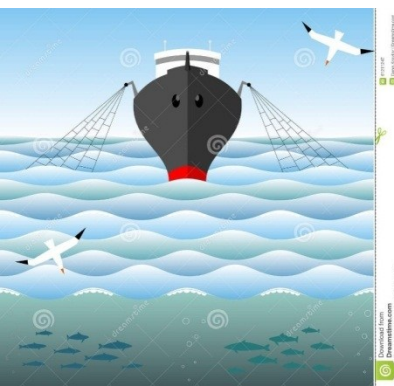
NPFC

1st Meeting of the Small Scientific Committee on Japanese
Sardine, 26-28 July 2026 Tokyo, Japan (hybrid)



Review of Japanese Sardine fishery in China and research activities

China



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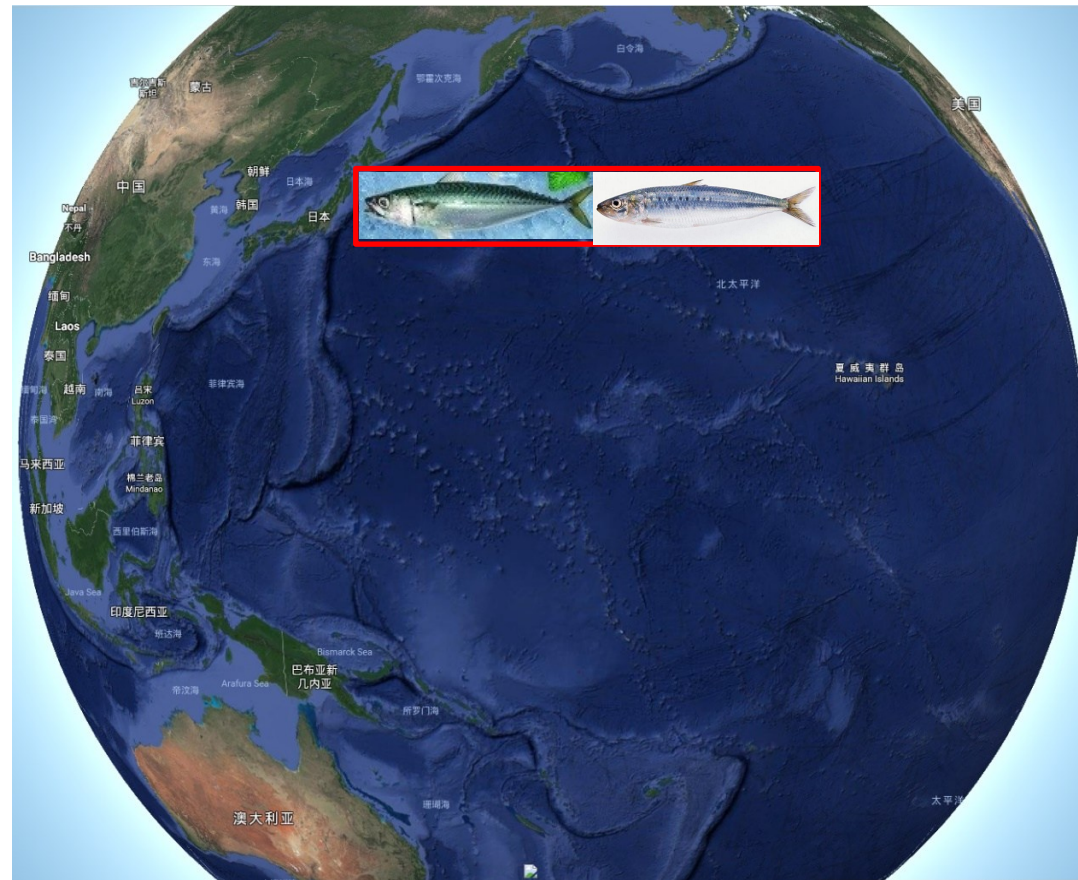
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1. Introduction



Japanese Sardine (**Chinese name 拟沙丁鱼**) and **Chub mackerel** (*Scomber japonicus*) population are widely distributes in the Pacific Ocean.

The fishing grounds of these two fish species have a high degree of overlap, therefore, they are both caught by purse seine and trawl fishing.



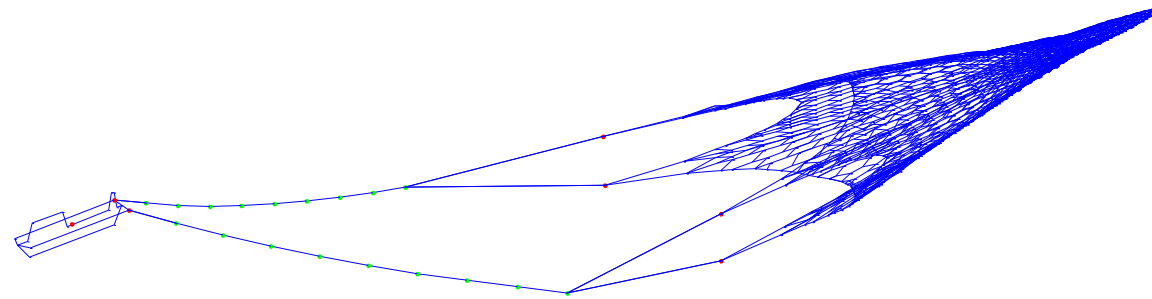


light-purse seine

In 2024-2025 year, China has two types of fishing nets operated in this fishery including the light-purse seine nets(>97%) and pelagic trawl nets(<3%). **Sardine and mackerel are the target species.**

Trawl nets — **Pelagic trawling**

In 2025, three vessels seasonally catch sardine in the NPFC areas.



2. Description of sardine fishery in China in North Pacific ocean

Fishing effort and catch

NPFC-2026-AR-Annual Summary Footprint - Japanese Sardine (Rev. 1)

Annual Report Summary Table - Japanese sardine

(data from less than 3 vessels were redacted and marked as "x" in accordance with the NPFC Data Sharing and Data Security Protocol)

Catch in metric ton

Year	China			Japan			Russia					
	Total	Purse seine	Pelagic trawl	Total	Purse seine	Other	Total	Purse seine	Mid-water trawl		Other	
		CA	CA		NW	NW		NW	NW	CA	NW	CA
2025	295,316	284,363	10,952	544,478	460,024	84,454	x	x	10,444	44,500	1,510	x
2024	261,104	233,781	27,323	500,564	411,743	88,821	x	34,509	473,482	29,504	55,067	x
2023	233,161	220,143	13,018	569,777	459,109	110,668	x	29,818	457,935	0	56,315	x

The Chinese catch of sardine in recent three years is more than 200,000 tons every year.

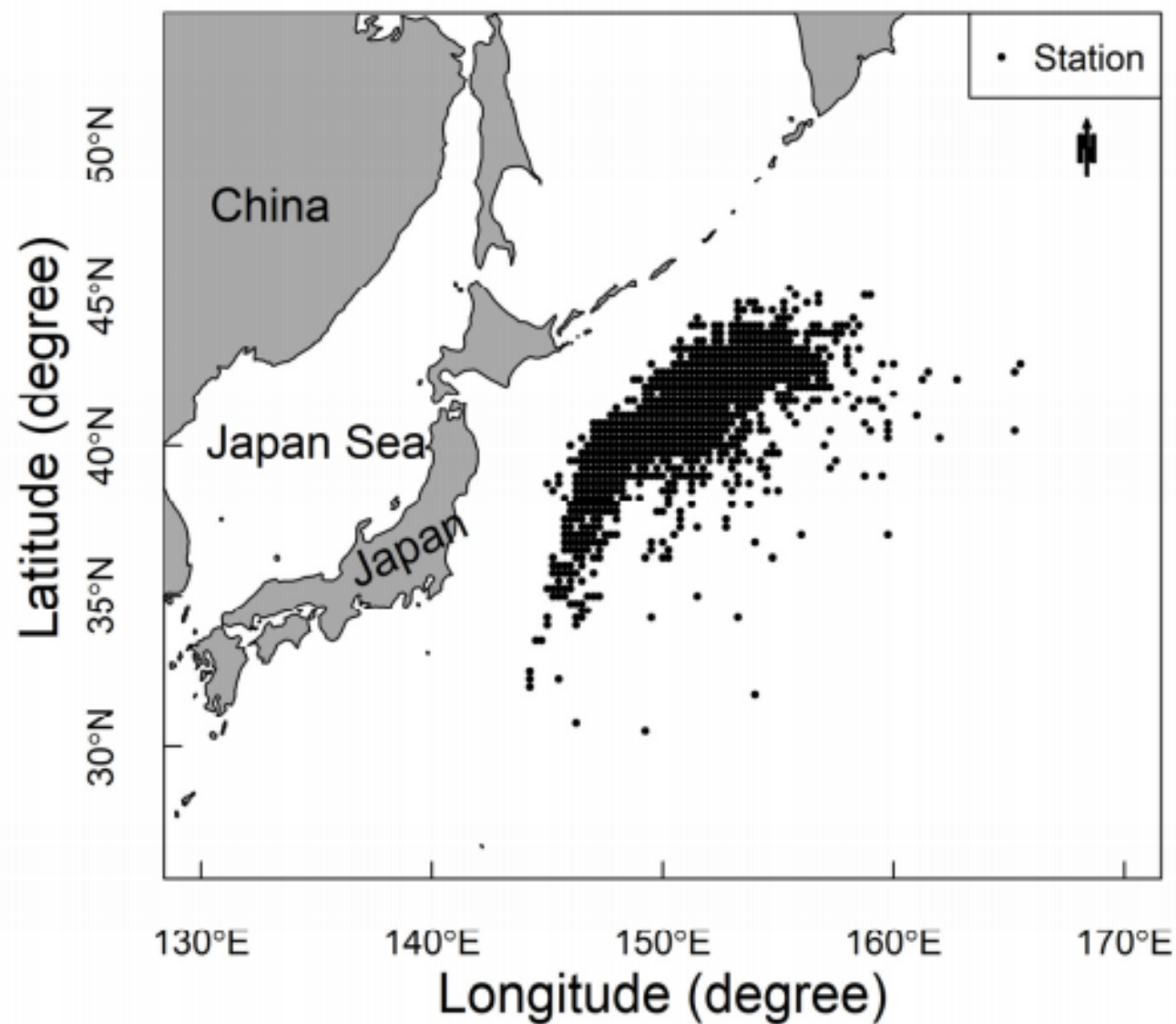
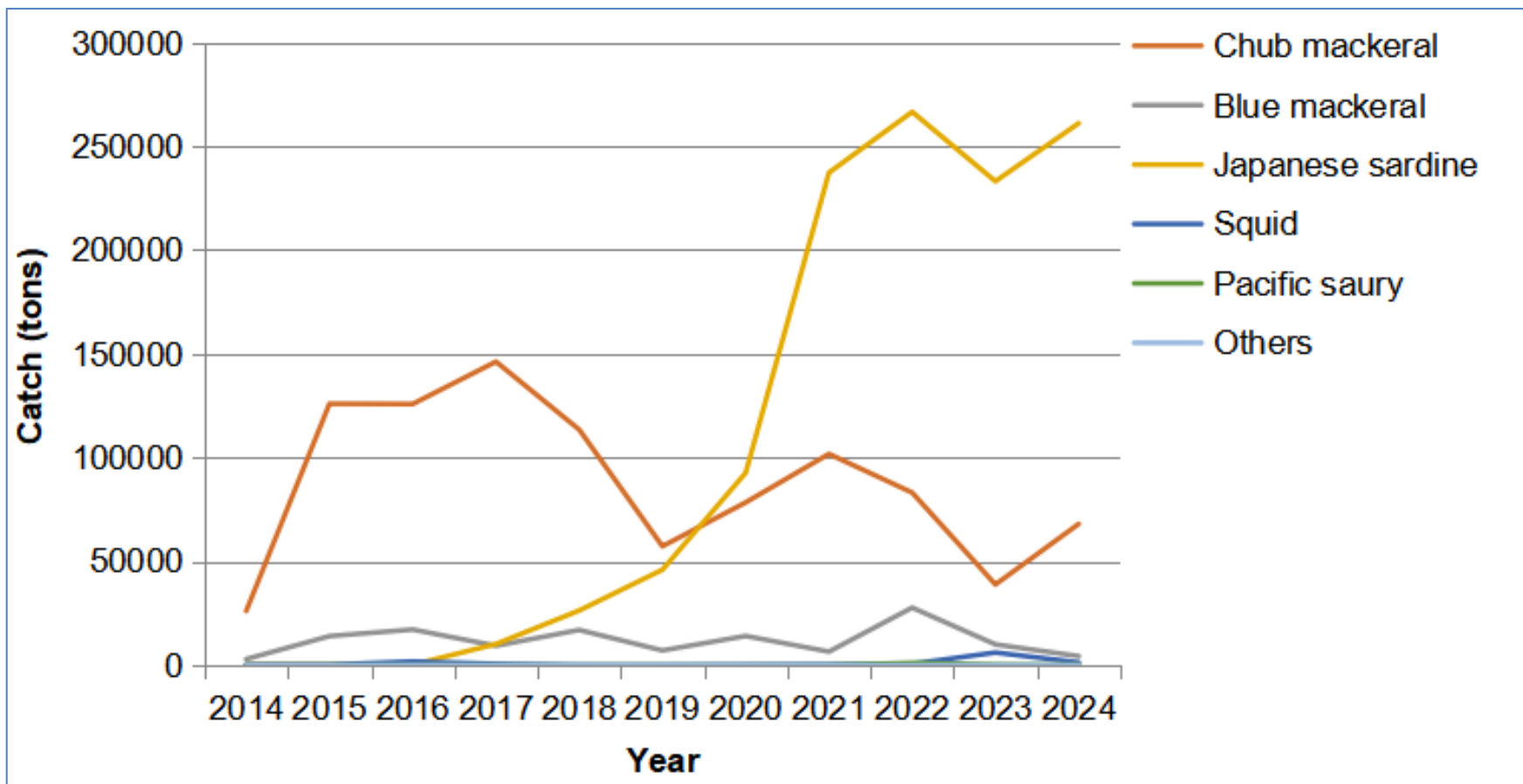


Figure 1. Sampling locations (black dots) of Pacific sardines in the Northwest Pacific Ocean.

Species composition of Chinese purse seine and trawl fishery



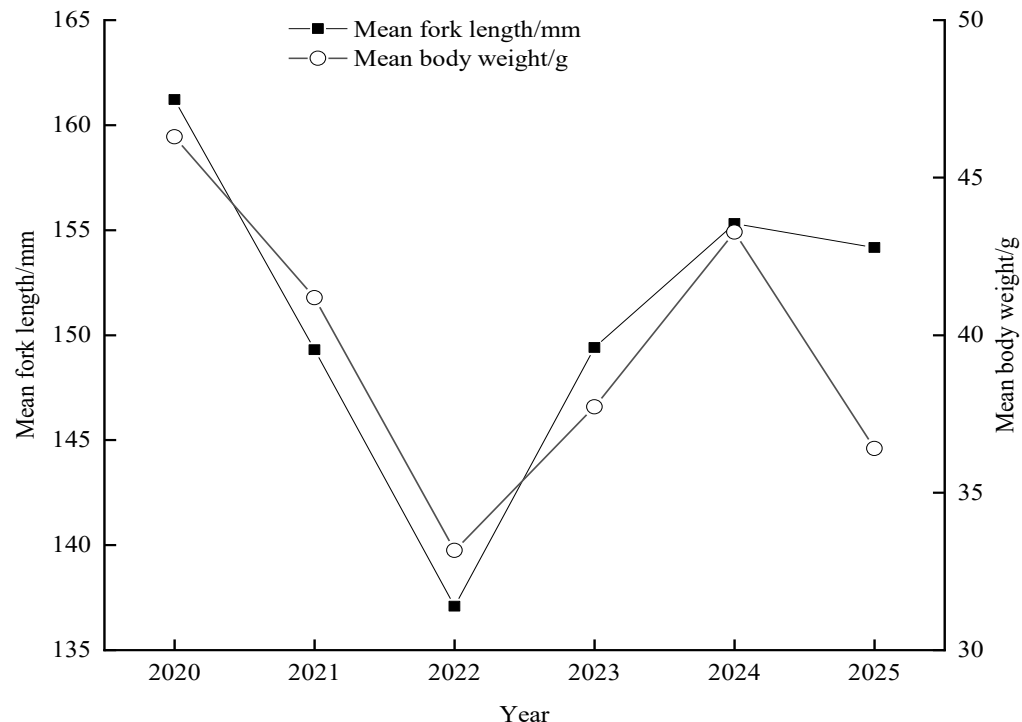
Sardine become the largest production species since 2019

3. Fisheries data collection and research activities

- Population biology

Since 2020, we collect the samples every month during fishing season.

In 2022, the measured mean fork length and weight of sardine is the lowest, and in 2025, the fork length and weight is also be slightly reduced compared with that in 2024.



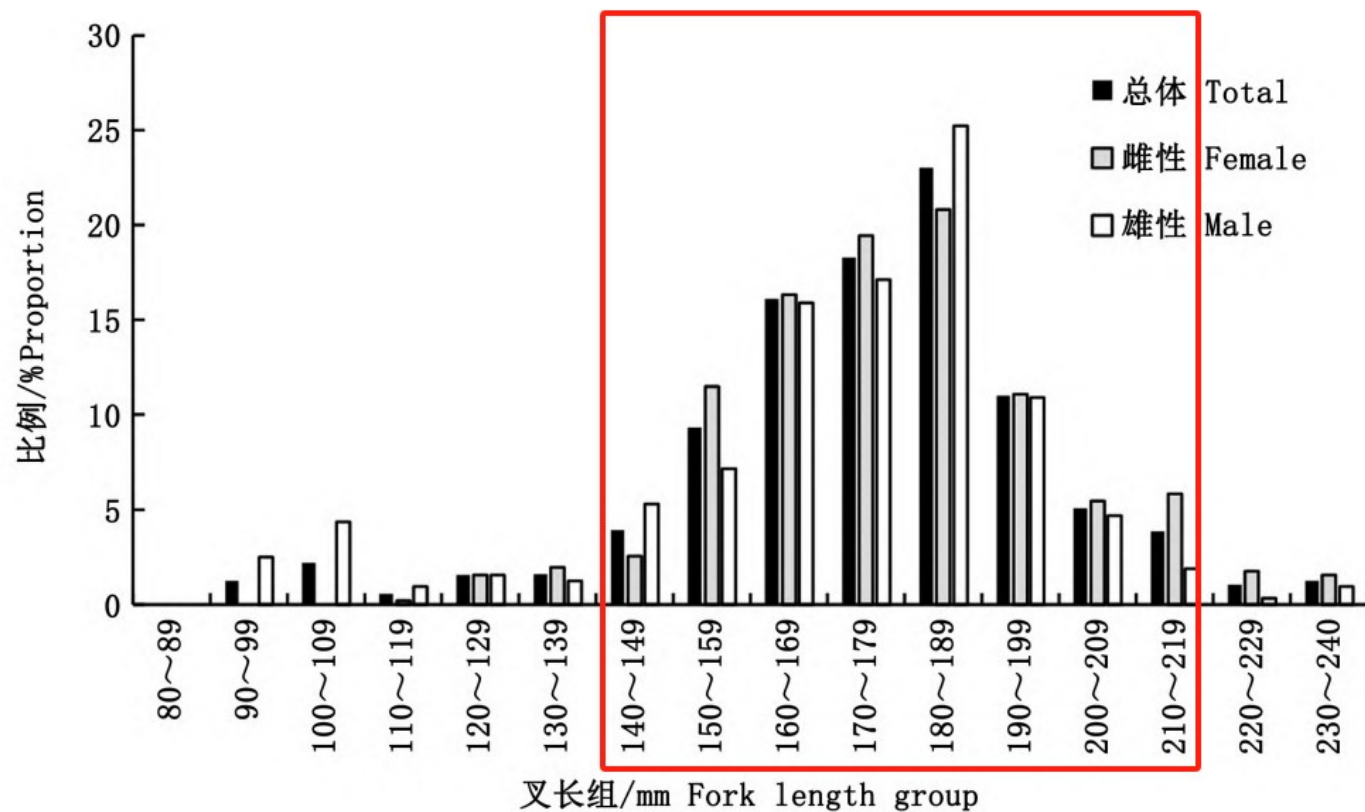
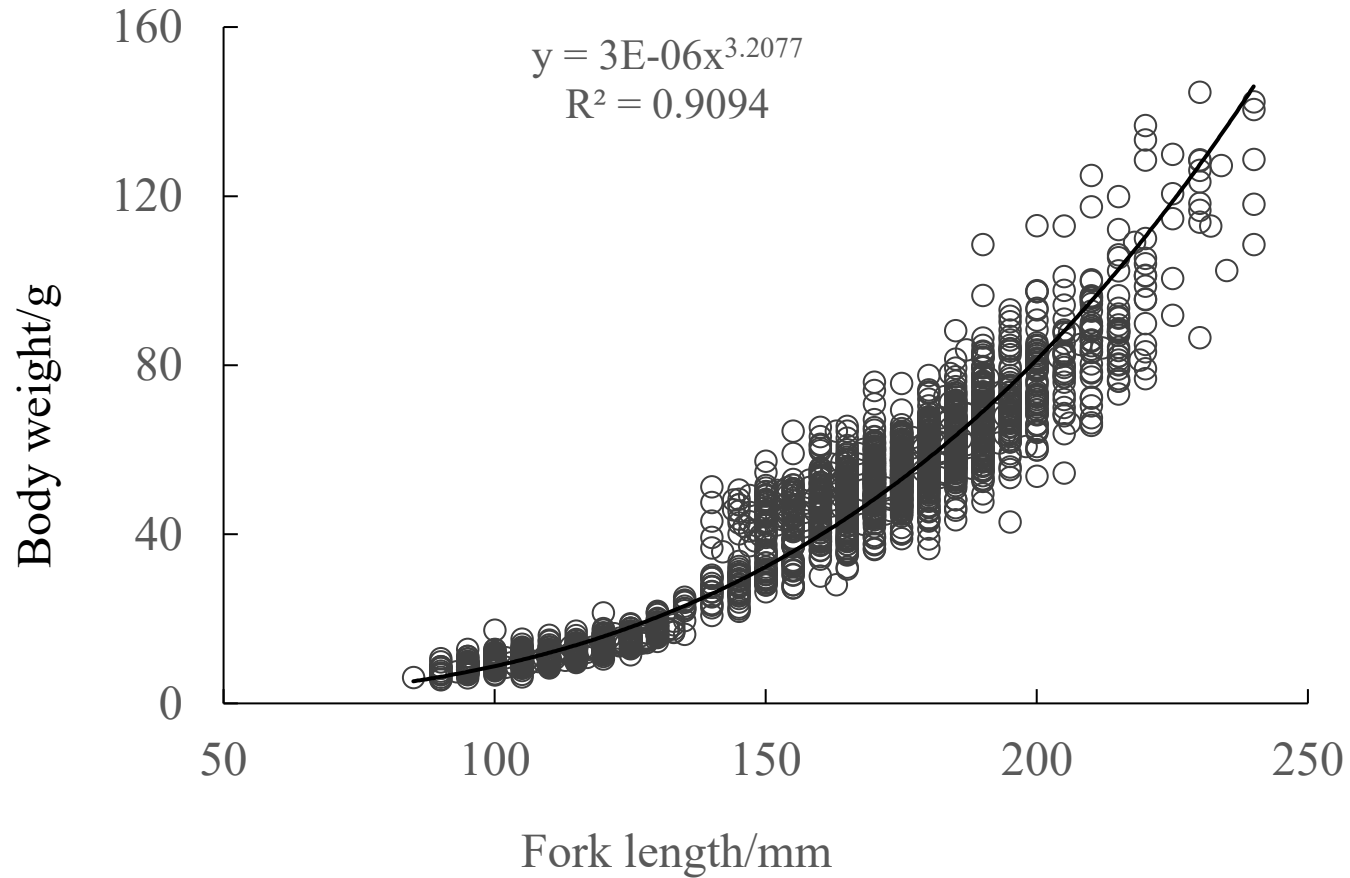


图2 远东拟沙鱼不同性别叉长组的分布

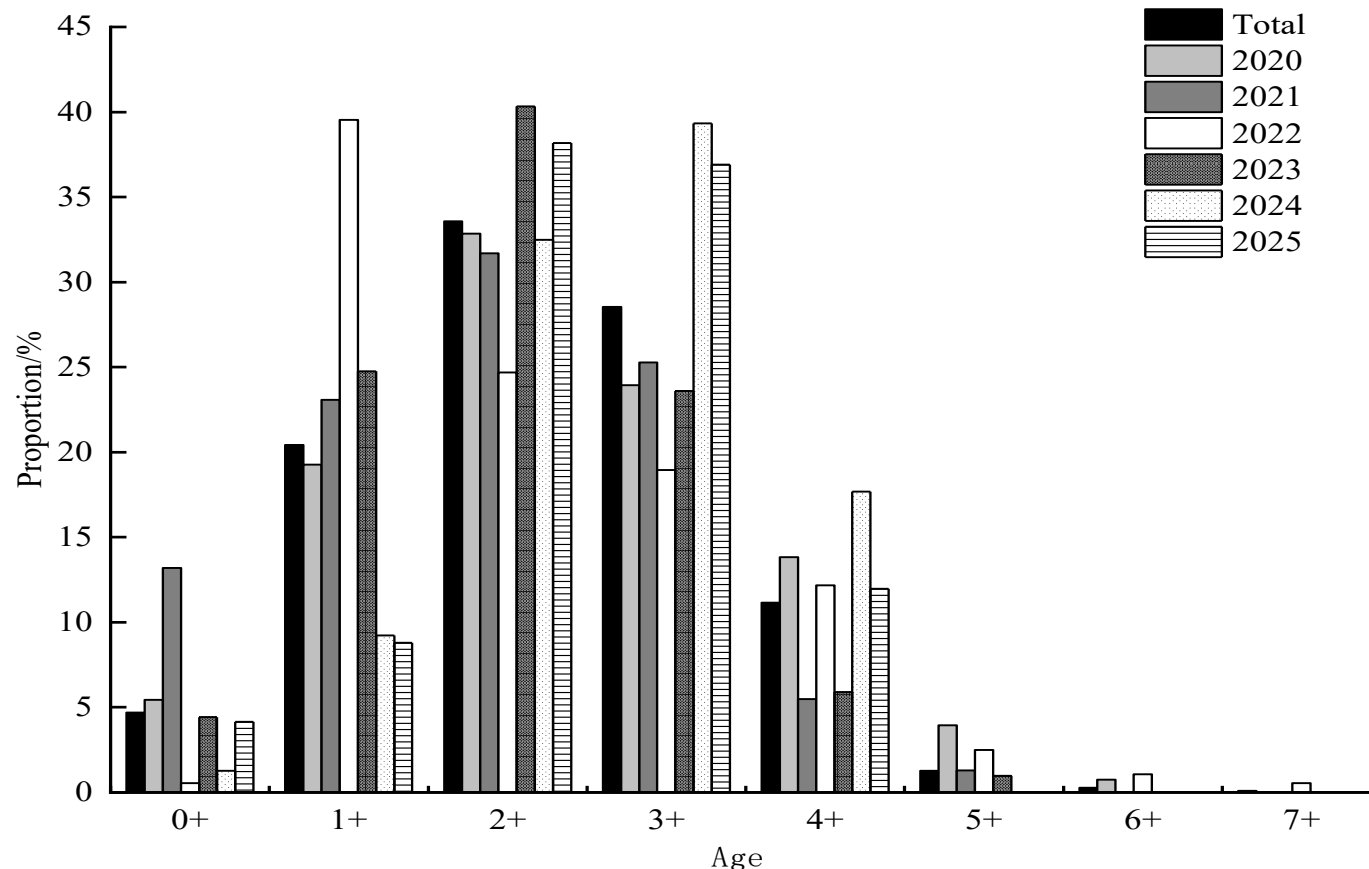
Fig.2 Fork length group frequency distribution of *S. sagax*

The fork length group of 140-220mm is the dominant length size groups.

- Relationship between weight and fork length



Changes in age composition



1-4 years old are the dominant age groups of sardine in Chinese fishery

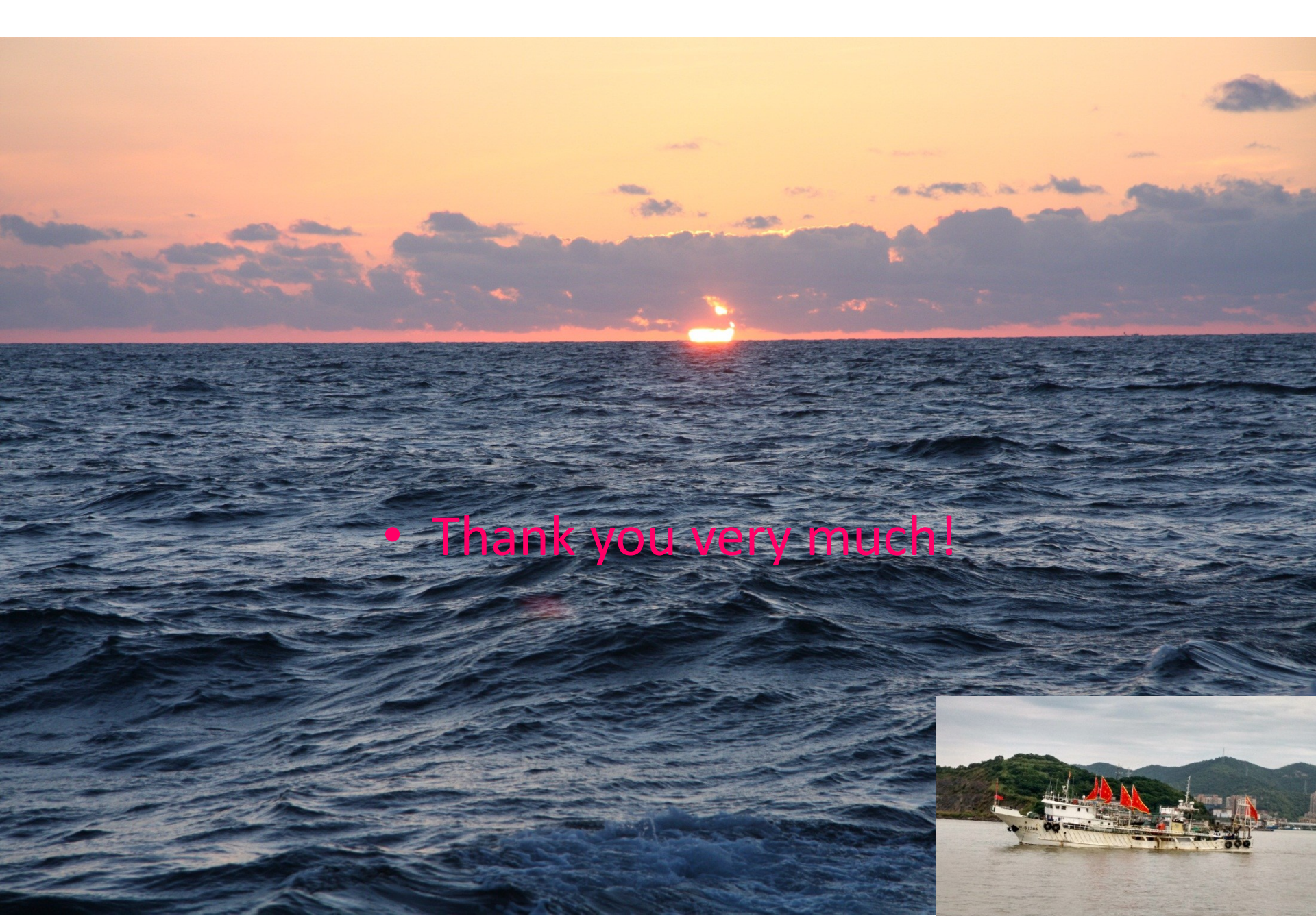
Research activities and training

- ◆ Collection and analysis of all fishing logbooks every year
- ◆ Research specialist staff went to fishing vessels or in the ports to collect the samples data
- ◆ Monitor the monthly biological characteristics on JS.



Conlusions

- Distribution on the fishery ground of JS fishery in China, very similar to Chub Mackerel Fishery in the past 5 years.
- Sardine become the largest production species since 2019 for China's fleet.
- In 2022, the fork length and weight of sardine is the lowest, and in 2025, the fork length and weight is also be slightly reduced compared with that in 2024.
 - It indirectly reflects that the living marine environment of sardine may have been changed, or the increase in the proportion of small individuals.
- 1-4 years old is the dominant age group of sardine.

A large photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is a bright orange orb on the horizon, surrounded by a layer of dark, silhouetted clouds. The sky above is a gradient of orange and yellow. The ocean is dark blue with white-capped waves. In the center of the image, there is a red text overlay.

- Thank you very much!

