

**BASIS Contribution by the Captain and Crew of the Research Vessel and Training Ship *Wakatake maru* (Japan)**

Since 1991 the *Wakatake maru* (666 gross tonnes), owned by the Hokkaido Education Committee, Bureau of Training Ships and chartered by the Japan Fisheries Research Agency, has returned annually to the same transects in the central North Pacific and Bering Sea to monitor salmon abundance, conduct tagging experiments, and collect oceanographic and plankton information. In 2002-2006 her contributions to BASIS included 11 cooperative inter-calibration operations comparing catch efficiencies of her research gillnet to the research trawl of the *Kaiyo maru*. In addition, she is equipped with surface longline gear making her uniquely suited to catch live salmon for tag-and-release experiments. During this time, she conducted 71 tagging operations in the Bering Sea where 3,018 tagged salmon were released carrying disk-tags of NPAFC-member nations, and 471 of these fish were released with data storage tags recording physical characteristics of ocean salmon habitat.

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