

**REPORT ON SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERY  
MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE EASTERN SECTOR  
OF THE AUSTRALIAN FISHERY 2003**

**R2001/1300**

W W Fisheries (Aust) Pty Ltd has been involved in the east coast southern bluefin tuna fishery for over 19 years, being responsible for the provision of length frequency data and the collection of significant data on processed weight/whole weight conversions for SBT. W W Fisheries (Aust) Pty Ltd has also supplied qualitative information on the local fishery development and trends for a similar period.

Data for the eastern sector of the southern bluefin fishery for the 2003 calendar fishing year has been sent to BRS. These data are the individual size data collected from the processors involved in the east coast longline fishery.

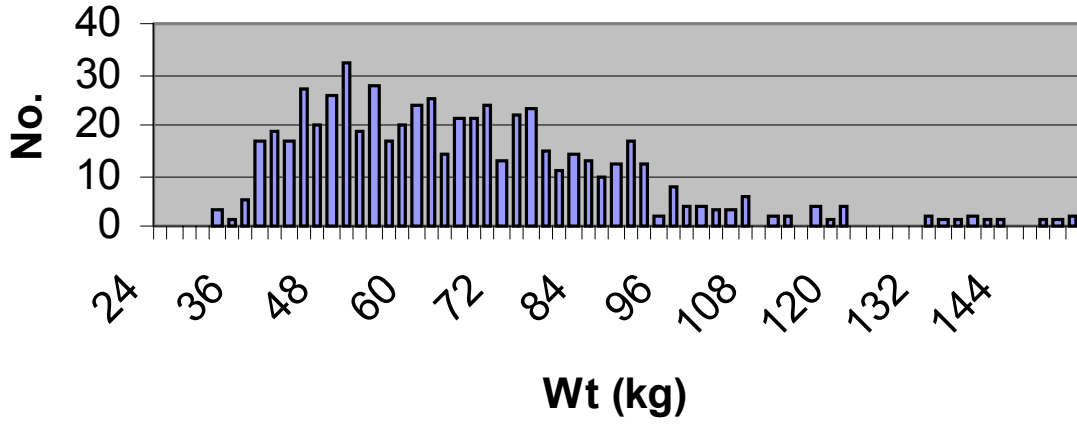
All data for 2003 have been integrated into appropriate computer spreadsheets as required by the scientific agencies using the data. The 2003 data covers the period from June to October 2003 and as such spans two fiscal years but for simplicity is logged as the 2003 calendar year to avoid confusion. Weight frequency graphs for 2001, 2002 and 2003 are attached. The 2003 individual weight data collection probably represents two thirds of the total landed NSW longline catch of SBT.

The small amount of SBT quota available for longline fishing on the east coast has meant the 2003 catch is extremely small, as was the 2002 catch compared to the previous years. The very high price and the lack of availability of quota, combined with new administrative requirements has resulted in little targeted SBT longlining again in 2003. However substantial changes to the structure of the SBT fishery for farming could mean more quota is available in the next few years for east coast longlining. This situation will have to be closely monitored.

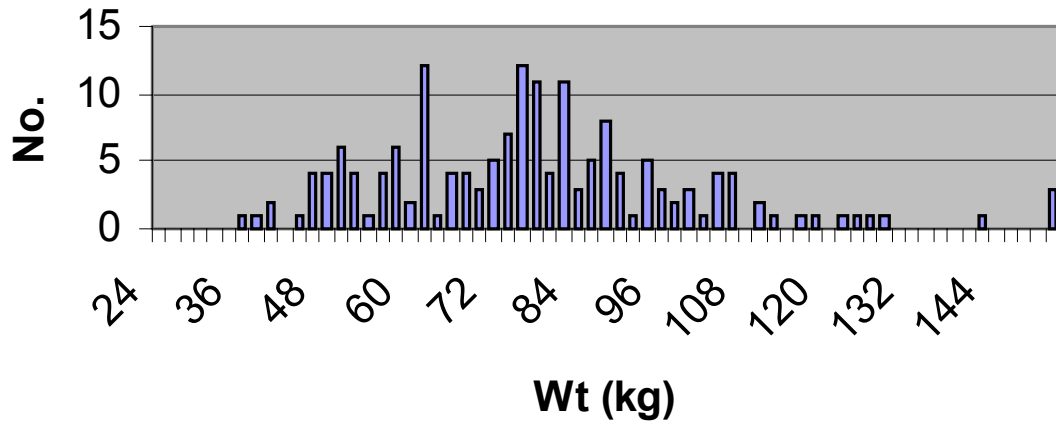
Kevin Williams  
W W Fisheries (Aust) Pty Ltd

19<sup>th</sup> November 2003

### NSW Bluefin 2001



### NSW Bluefin 2002



# NSW Bluefin 2003

