



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2024-TWG CMSA08-IP08

By-catch data from Japanese mackerel fisheries in the Northwest Pacific

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The most common by-catch species in the mackerel fishery are Japanese sardine and Japanese flying squid. Due to the fact that sardines, mackerel and Pacific squid often migrate for feeding together, they form combined schools that are caught by fishing vessels.

By-catch (except for sardine and Japanese flying squid) often includes Japanese anchovies, Pacific pomfret, herring and blue sharks, Pacific salmon, striped, yellowfin and bluefin tuna, moonfish, swordfish, yellowtail, coryphaena, Butter fish, Neon flying squid. In addition to these species, there are occasional catches of fish rising from the mesopelagial at night, such as Daggertooths, northern lampfish, etc. mesopelagic fish. There are also catches of tropical and subtropical fish, which are accidentally carried by currents into Kuril waters. As a rule, captures are sporadic and random. The total number of such fish that accidentally enter the Southern Kuril Islands area from subtropical waters during the warm season exceeds 50.

Sporadic catches of coryphaena, yellowtails, swordfish, tunas, Butter fish and Neon flying squid are not counted in commercial catches.

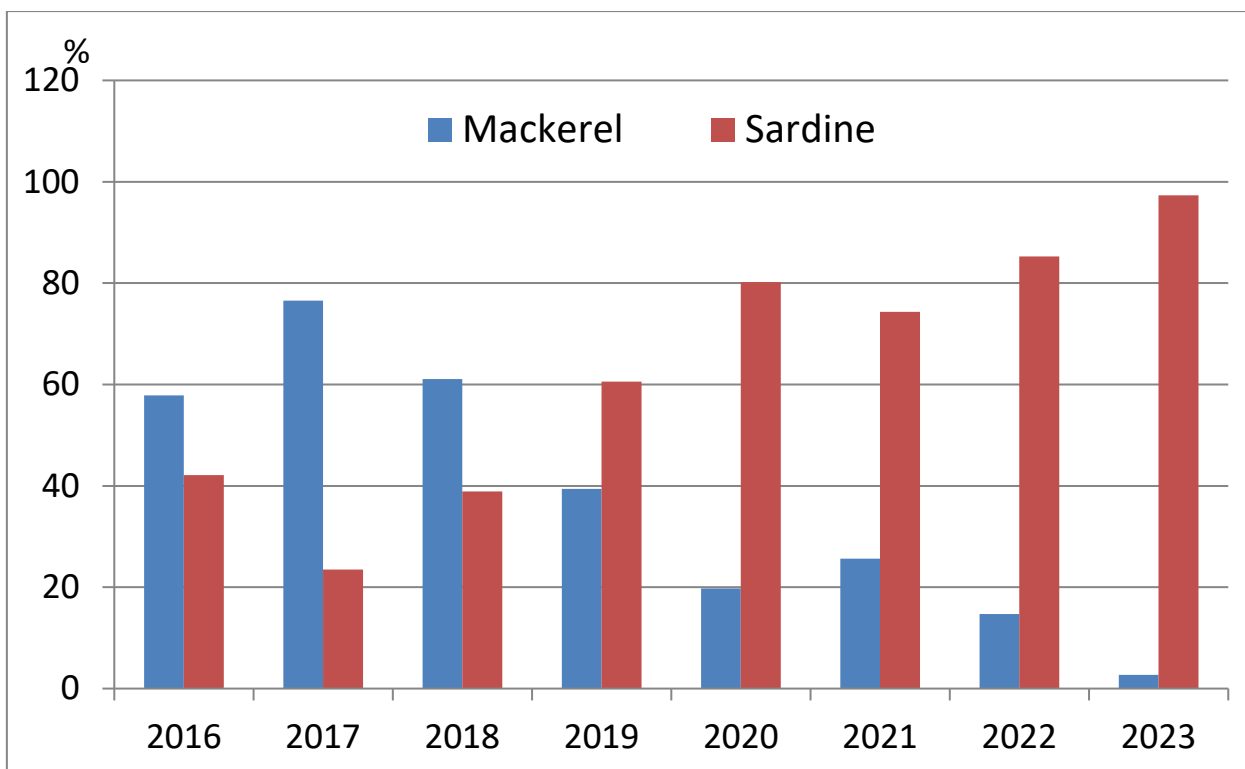


Figure – Proportion of mackerel and sardine caught by Russian vessels from 2016 to 2023.r.