

学 位 論 文 要 旨	
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題 目	The Distribution Structure of Fresh Tuna from Pacific Island Countries to Japan (太平洋島嶼国における対日生鮮マグロ流通に関する研究)
<p>The economies of many of the Pacific Island countries (PICs) have been greatly impacted by the recent global economic recessions and have struggled to find avenues to develop their economies. Fisheries sector provide an avenue for development because PICs owns and have access to vast ocean area filled with valuable resources particularly tuna. Tuna consumption in the PICs are low; majority of their tuna production are exported, generating significant income. This research is therefore aimed at finding a way to promote tuna export through development of their fresh tuna distribution systems.</p> <p>To make improvements to the current distribution systems for fresh tuna in the PICs, it is important to understand the situation at their target market, which is Japan. The first part of this research was conducted in Japan with an aim of finding out the actual situation for the distribution of fresh tuna in Japan. This research was conducted at the three leading production wholesale markets for fresh tuna with an aim of finding out their distribution channels. The main finding of this research was the modern distribution channel where processing function was integrated for direct distribution to supermarkets of fresh processed tuna blocks. The development of this modern channel was due to the increasing domination of supermarkets in retailing fresh tuna instead of specialty fish stores. This result indicated the importance of incorporating a processing function into the distribution of fresh tuna.</p> <p>The second part of the research was undertaken at three PICs with an aim of finding out their current distribution system for fresh tuna to Japan. The result showed that regardless of the levels of development of the PICs tuna industries, they all face a common challenge of quality control. Currently, fresh tuna are exported through infrequent passenger flights with limited airfreight space. The freshness of the tuna is controlled by ice packs only throughout the whole distribution which is risky. The modern distribution channel where a processing function is incorporated could provide PICs with opportunities to promote their fresh tuna export. Establishing processing facilities in the PICs where fresh tuna are processed into tuna blocks is problematic as tuna quality deteriorates fast once it's processed. However, processing function can still be incorporated by establishing relationships with processing companies in Japan and the fresh tuna will be exported directly to them for processing before they are distributed to the supermarkets. This research also found out that technological advancement is required for quality control. The required technology appropriate for PICs fresh tuna export is a technology that can control the freshness of the tuna for a longer period of time because the isolated location of the PICs from major markets requires a longer distribution time. The technological improvement can be achieved through further research into technologies that can manage the freshness of the tuna for a longer period of time, yet healthy for consumers.</p>	