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**Brief report on improvement of slaughtering method in dolphin drive fishery in Taiji, Japan  
during the years between 2000 and 2010**

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**1. Back ground**

During 52nd annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission, Scientific Committee (IWC/SC) in Adelaide, Australia in 2000, a certain NGO displayed the video footprint of drive fishery operation in 1999 in Futo, Ito city, Mie city, Shizuoka, Japan. Slaughtering method in that footprint was not sophisticated and provoked severe criticism and those Fisheries. After the IWC/SC meeting, Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) requested activities for improvement of dolphins slaughtering method. Since drive fishery operation in Futo was not as frequent as that in Taiji, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries and Taiji Fisheries Cooperative Association started the experiments for the improvement of dolphins slaughtering method in Taiji. It was expected that improvement would prevent criticism and fishery and ensure the safe operation for the engaged fishermen.

**2. Consideration on previous slaughtering methods for driven dolphins and livestock**

We compared the existent killing methods for dolphins caught by drive fishery and those for livestock, in order to elucidate requirement for the efficient and safe slaughtering method.

**Previous method in Taiji (until 1999 year)**

Drive fishery in Taiji is licensed to hunt seven species including false killer, southern false killer, short-finned pilot whale, Risso's, bottlenose, striped, spotted and Pacific white-sided dolphins. Fishermen drove dolphins to a small cove and closed its mouth with net. In most cases, slaughtering process started early in the morning of the next day of the drive. To avoid the presence of unnecessary galleys, fishermen tried to finish the slaughtering process as early as possible. Fishermen threw lance (Figure 1, approximately 3m in length) from the small boat to dolphins swimming inside the net. Fishermen aimed the neck region of the dolphins (they considered it vital part); however it was difficult to hit it. Most dolphins died of bleeding. In average, it took approximately five minutes to slaughter a striped dolphin. The reason why Taiji drive fishermen threw the lance was to avoid injury from struggling dolphins. Once there occurred the accident that a fisherman, who kept holding the lance after hit, was injured by the lance and on his face because a dolphin struggled. After this process, the beach water was dyed with blood and it sometimes remained until afterwards. Fishermen tied short ropes (approximately 1m in length) on tails of dead dolphins on the beach and carried dolphins to a boat having flat deck (Figure 2) approximately 200m off the beach. On the boat deck, fishermen incised almost median line of dolphins, extracted viscera and washed off the blood with sea water. And then, fishermen carried viscera and carcass to the fish market. In general, carcass was processed to blubber and meat. In the case for smaller species such as striped and spotted dolphins, carcass was sold as it was. Viscera were sold as they were for all target species.

**Previous method in Futo (until 1999 year)**

Drive fishery in Futo is licensed to hunt four species including false killer whale, bottlenose, and striped, spotted and Pacific white-sided dolphins. Fishermen drove dolphin schools into the Futo harbor and closed the mouth of the harbor with net. Slaughtering was carried out in the daytime. Fishermen hooked blowhole and drew the dolphins to secure the short ropes on tails of