

## Information (18:30) Friday, February 28, 2014

To All Missions (Embassies, Consular posts and International Organizations in Japan)

### Detection of radioactive contaminant from the fish (*hilgendorf saucord*) caught in February 27<sup>th</sup> trial fishing conducted in the sea area around Fukushima prefecture

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to inform all Missions that according to the Fisheries Agency, as a result of screening survey conducted on February 27<sup>th</sup>, the radioactive contaminant level of *hilgendorf saucord* which was caught in the trial fishing in the sea area around Fukushima prefecture by bottom trawlers was revealed to be 112.266 Bq/kg. Since the level of radioactive contaminant of the fish to be distributed to the market is 100 Bq/kg (Cs-134+Cs-137), the radioactive contaminant level of *hilgendorf saucord* which was detected this time was exceeding this limit. Based on this survey result, the distribution of all the *hilgendorf saucord* which were caught on February 27<sup>th</sup> (total amount: 13.2 kg) is suspended. Therefore, any of *hilgendorf saucord* caught in the same trial fishing will never be provided to the market.

In addition to this measure, the voluntary recall of the *hilgendorf saucord* caught in the February 26<sup>th</sup> trial fishing is now being initiated. As the level of radioactive contaminant of these *hilgendorf saucord* was ND (ND indicates that the measurement result is below the detection limit) in the screening survey, these *hilgendorf saucord* (total amount: 33.5kg) have already been delivered to the market, but based on survey result of February 27<sup>th</sup>, the voluntary recall was decided to be taken to ensure the safety of the public.

The Government of Japan would like to stress that this course of actions is the result of strict and transparent food monitoring process. Food samples are routinely monitored to ensure that they are safe for all members of the public.

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