

## A Yellow Specimen of Sablefish Taken in the Bering Sea

Kazuyuki TESHIMA\*

A yellow specimen of sablefish (black cod), *Anoplopoma fimbria* with partial normal coloration (Fig. 1) was caught in the Bering Sea on May 31, 1985 from a bottom depth of 650 m off Akutan Island of the Aleutian Islands (54°21'N, 166°9'W). The specimen was taken by the *No. 32 Daikichi maru*, a commercial stern trawler (349 gross tons) chartered as a research vessel by the Fisheries Agency of Japan. The vessel was engaged in a bottom trawl operation during a Japan-U.S. cooperative groundfish survey.

The specimen after freezing and thawing, measured 60.4 cm in total length and weighed 1.79 kg. It was bright yellow in color with the exception of areas between the lateral line and abdomen and on margins of the fins which had the normal drab slaty color. The color pattern was similar on both sides of the body. The iris of the eye was a normal black (Fig. 1).

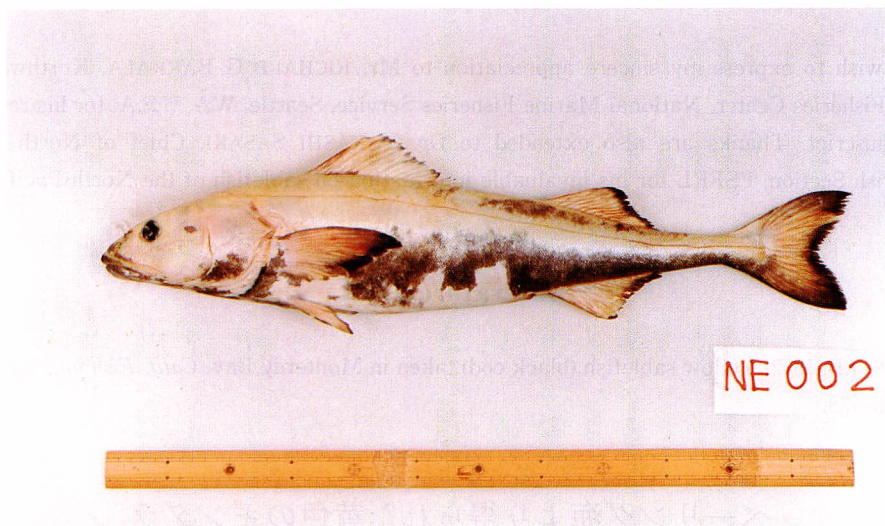


Fig. 1. A Yellow sablefish.

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\* Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory, 7-1, 5-chome Orido, Shimizu 424, Japan.

A predominantly yellow sablefish, 57.2 cm in total length, with some vestigial smudges of dusky-black at a few locations on the body was caught by a longliner in Monterey Bay off Santa Cruz, California, U.S.A. on September 14, 1951 (PHILLIPS, 1952). This author reported that the two local fishermen who caught the specimen had fished sablefish since 1925 and had never previously seen such a yellow sablefish. The fishing master and crew members of the *No. 32 Daikichi maru* also stated that they had never previously observed a yellow sablefish during their long fishing experience in the Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands region. It is therefore likely that sablefish with this coloration are quite rare in the Bering Sea.

The specimen reported here was taken in the 32nd tow of 376 trawl operations. The starting position of the tow was 54°21.60'N, 166°7.19'W; ending position 54°20.82'N, 166°10.29'W; depth trawled 590-710 m; duration of tow 60 minutes; and surface and bottom temperature 4.8°C and 3.1°C.

Photographs of the specimen were taken on October 17, 1986 after it was frozen aboard the vessel and returned to the Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory (FSFRL). The specimen has been preserved in formalin and assigned Specimen No. NE002 at the FSFRL.

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### Literature cited

- PHILLIPS, J.B. 1952. Yellow sablefish (black cod) taken in Monterey Bay. *Calif. Fish and Game*, 38: 437-438.

## ベーリング海より得られた黄色のギンダラ

手島和之

1985年5月31日、東部ベーリング海南西部のアリューシャン列島アクタン島北側水域(54°21'N, 166°9'W)の水深650メートルの海底から、日・米共同底魚資源調査に従事中的調査船によって黄色をした1個体のギンダラ(全長60.4cm;体重1.79kg)が漁獲された。この個体は、腹部と側線との間及び各鱗の端の部位を除き、ほぼ黄色であった。過去の記録及び乗組員からの聞き取りによれば、本水域における黄色のギンダラの出現は極めてまれであることが推測される。