

Press Release (This is provisional translation. Please refer to the original text written in Japanese.)

March 22, 2011

Policy Planning and Communication Division,
Inspection and Safety Division,
Department of Food Safety

To Press and those whom may concern,

Measures taken to deal with the presence of radioactive contaminants in seawater in the coast near the Fukushima Daiichi Power Plant (in relation to the accident at Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant)

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) has been informed of the test results carried out by TEPCO Co. Ltd (operating company of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant) indicating the presence of radioactive contaminants in seawater samples, which were collected at and around the point of water drain located in the south of the Nuclear Power Plant. Considering this fact, the MHLW has immediately requested Ibaraki and Chiba Prefectures to extend their monitoring plans for examining seafood in the coasts of these prefectures.

It has been reported that in Fukushima Prefecture, there is no capability for coastal fishing in the sea area of the Prefecture in this moment, due to damage of the coast by the earthquake.