The effects of acute gamma irradiation on the survival of Chinese black sleeper (Bostrichthys sinensis)

Wen YU, Tao YU, Yusheng ZHANG, Feng LIN
Third Institute of Oceanography,
State Oceanic Administration, China







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1. Introduction

Main sources of radioactivity in Ocean

Global nuclear weapons testing, 1950s-'60s

400 peta-Bequerels (PBq)

Chernobyl

S5 PBq

Fukushima

10-30 At mospheric

PBq

3-30 PBq

Di Pect

Fukushima released 3 to 30 petaBecquerels of radioactive cesium-137 directly into the sea and 10 to 30 PBq into the atmosphere, of which about 50% eventually ended up in the ocean.

Three Mile Island released 0.00004 PBq entirely into the air.

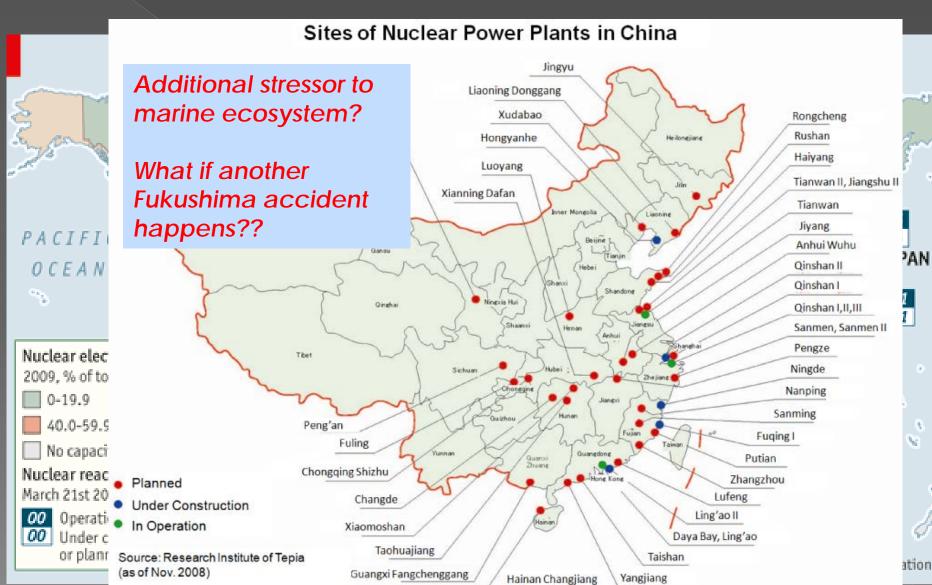
Chernobyl released 85PBq, mostly into the air.

Uranium-238 37,000 PBq Nuclear weapons tests released 400PBq over several years. The majority has eventually landed in the sea.

Though serious, these totals pale compared to the abundance of radioactive substances naturally present in seawater such as uranium-238 and potassium-40. Potassium-40 15,000,000 PBq

From Jack Cook, WHOI

Nuclear Energy Growth



Existing studies

Number of data for each exposure irradiation pathway Ecosystem Total number of Number of data for each exposure duration (number of references) data (%) % Other^a Туре Total number External Internal 12 273 61.4 11 564 288 421 Acute 6 795 344 3 002 Chronic 34.0 3 449 Terrestrial 19 983 (579)(72.6)Transitory^b 913 4.57 670 40 203 2 2 Not stated 0.03 0 0 Acute 4 526 74.6 4 058 97 371 1 484 24.5 970 20 494 Chronic Freshwater 6 067 (195)(22.0)0.89 12 Transitory 54 40

1 116

0.01

75.9

No data from China!!

From UNSCEAR (2008)

Not stated

Acute

Chronic

Transitory

Not state

470

Viruses

0

58

63

Molluscs

995

Few data for tropical ecosystem!

From Garnier-Laplace (2006)

Marine

(45)

Objectives

- To examine the effect of acute gamma radiation on the survival and biochemical indicators of a typical fish species in the coastal environment of China
- To provide essential information for radiological risk assessment and relevant stakeholders, including policymakers, nuclear regulators, environmental agencies, nuclear power plant, fisheries departments, marine aquaculture organizations and companies.

Facts about Chinese black sleeper

- An intertidal species
 - More presumable pollution from both land and water
- A facultative air-breathing fish
 - perfect for irradiation study
- High economic value





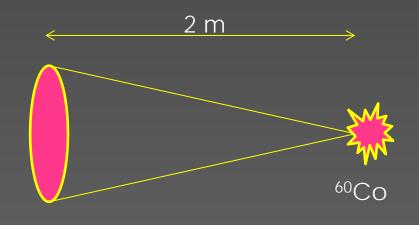
2. Methods

Sampling



Irradiation

- 5 irradiated groups + 1control group
- ~ 60 individuals in each group
- Co-60 point source
- Single exposure of 3, 6, 12, 24 and 48 Gy (determined by Alanine dosimeter (Aerial, France), respectively
- Obserate: 1.5 Gy/min





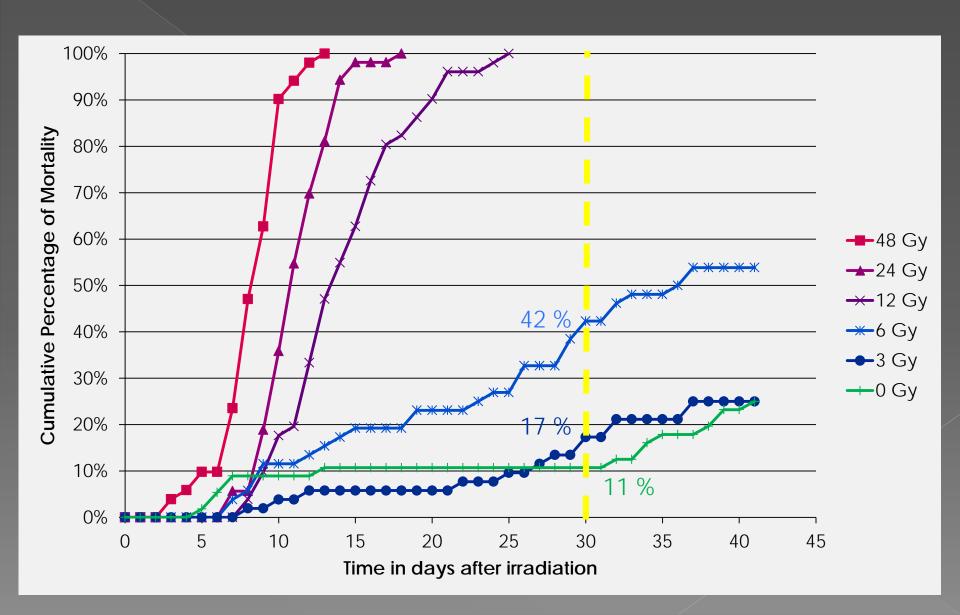
Culturing

- 25 ~ 26 °C
- Sterilized local seawater
- Fed with shrimp twice a week



3. Results and Discussion

Cumulative Percentage of Mortality



LD_{50,30} Calculation Formulas

o Karber's Method:

$$\lg LD_{50} = x_k - d[(\sum_{i=1}^k p_i - (3 - p_1 - p_k)/4]]$$

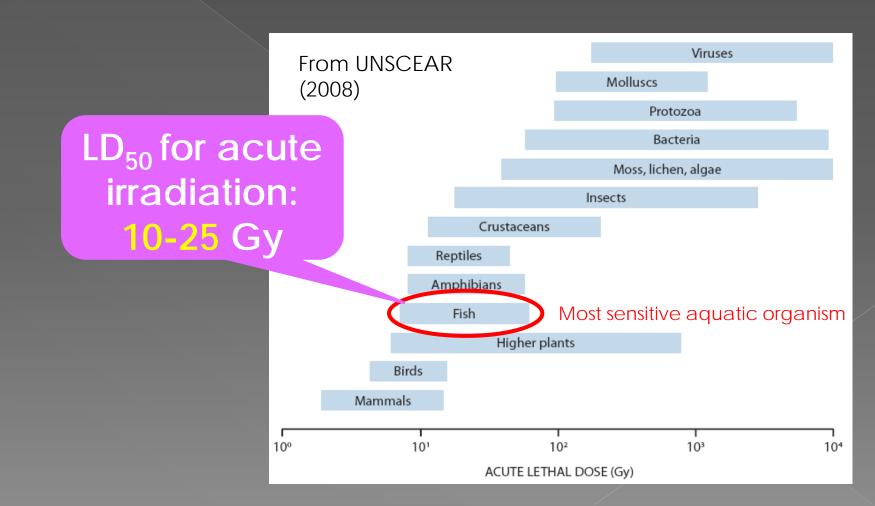
- > Where: x_k the log value of maximum dose
- d the log value of dose difference
- p_i mortality in group i
- 95 % confidence Interval:

$$\lg^{-1}(\lg LD_{50} \pm 1.96S_{\lg LD_{50}})$$

$$S_{\lg LD_{50}} = d \sqrt{\sum \frac{p_i(1-p_i)}{n_i}}$$

Estimated LD₅₀

 \circ LD₅₀ = 7.1 Gy (6.3 ~ 7.9 Gy)



4. Conclusion and prospects

Conclusion

 LD_{50,30} for the acute irradiation on Chinese black sleeper was estimated to be 7.1 Gy, with a 95 % confidence interval of 6.3 Gy to 7.9 Gy, which is lower than the previous value summarized by UNSCEAR. More experiments are needed to confirm the above result.

The way forward...

- DNA deficiency tests
- Chronic radiation experiment
- Other local species

