



As the war progressed the size of Japanese ships decreased as the larger ships in the merchant fleet were destroyed and efforts concentrated on smaller coastal vessels in the Japanese inland sea and around the coast. Thus the average size of the ships sunk fell from the 4 tons in the quarter of 1944 to 2 tons in the second quarter of 1945.

Francis Pike: Hirohito's War - The Pacific War, 1941-1945 [Bloomsbury 2015]