



**COMMISSION  
EIGHTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Electronic Meeting  
1 – 7 December 2021

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**COMPILED INFORMATION ON PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA  
(FISHING EFFORT AND CATCH IN THE WCPO)**

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**WCPFC18-2021-IP07<sup>1</sup>  
11 October 2021**

**Secretariat**

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<sup>1</sup> This was posted to NC17 meeting as **WCPFC-NC17-2021-WP02**

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE  
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA  
SIXTH SESSION (JWG-06)**

ELECTRONIC MEETING  
8am-11am, Japan Standard Time  
27-29 July 2021

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**COMPILED INFORMATION ON PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA  
(FISHING EFFORT AND CATCH IN THE WCPO)**

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**NC17-WP-01  
(IATTC-NC-JWG06-2021/WP-01)**

**Secretariat**

According to Paragraph 2-5 of the WCPFC CMM 2020-02, fishing effort and catch of Pacific bluefin tuna are compiled based on WCPFC Member's reports, which are annexed as Table 1 and 2, respectively.

2. *CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that:*
  - (1) *Total fishing effort by their vessel fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of the 20° N shall stay below the 2002–2004 annual average levels.*
  - (2) *All catches of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg shall be reduced to 50% of the 2002– 2004 annual average levels. Any overage or underage of the catch limit shall be deducted from or may be added to the catch limit for the following year. The maximum underage that a CCM may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 5% of its annual initial catch limit<sup>1</sup>.*
  
3. *CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that all catches of Pacific Bluefin tuna 30kg or larger shall not be increased from the 2002-2004 annual average levels<sup>2</sup>. Any overage or underage of the catch limit shall be deducted from or may be added to the catch limit for the following year. The maximum underage that a CCM may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 5% of its annual initial catch limit<sup>1</sup>. However, in 2021 CCMs may use part of the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg stipulated in paragraph 2 (2) above to catch Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger in the same year. In this case, the amount of catch 30 kg or larger shall be counted against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg. CCMs shall not use the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger to catch Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg. The ISC is requested to review, in its work referred to in Section 5 of Harvest Strategy, the implications of this special provision in terms of PBF mortality and stock rebuilding probabilities in 2021. Based on that review, in 2021 the Northern Committee will determine whether it should be continued past 2021, and if so, recommend changes to the CMM as appropriate.*
  
4. *All CCMs except Japan shall implement the limits in paragraph 2 and 3 on a calendar-year basis. Japan shall implement the limits using a management year other than the calendar year for some of its fisheries and have its implementation assessed with respect to its management year. To facilitate the assessment, Japan shall:*
  - a. *Use the following management years:*

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<sup>1</sup> Notwithstanding paragraph 2 and 3, a CCM may carry over up to 17% of its initial 2020 catch limits, which remain uncaught, to 2021.

<sup>2</sup> CCMs with a base line catch of 10 t or less may increase its catch as long as it does not exceed 10 t.

- 1) *For its fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, use the calendar year as the management year.*
  - 2) *For its other fisheries, use 1 April – 31 March as the management year<sup>3</sup>.*
- b. In its annual reports for PBF, for each category described in a.1 and a.2 above, complete the required reporting template for both the management year and calendar year clearly identifying fisheries for each management year.*

5. *CCMs shall report to the Executive Director by 31 July each year their fishing effort and <30 kg and >=30 kg catch levels, by fishery, for the previous 3 year, accounting for all catches, including discards. The Executive Director will compile this information each year into an appropriate format for the use of the Northern Committee.*

The information in the Tables below will be modified subject to any further updates from Members.

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<sup>3</sup> *For the category described a.2, the TCC shall assess in year 20XX its implementation during the management year that starts 1 April 20XX-1 (e.g., in the 2020 compliance review, the TCC will assess Japan's implementation for its fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries during calendar-year 2019 and for its other fisheries during 1 April 2019 through 31 March 2020).*

**Compiled Information on Pacific Bluefin Tuna  
(Fishing Effort and Catch)**

**Table 1. Fishing effort by vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of 20° N in the Convention Area**

Fishery	Unit of fishing effort <sup>4</sup>	Baseline fishing effort (Para 2, CMM 2020-02)				Fishing effort (Para 5, CMM 2020-02)		
		2002	2003	2004	2002-2004 Average	2018	2019	2020
<b>Canada</b>								
Not applicable		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>China</b>								
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Cook Islands</b>								
Longline		Unknown	Unknown	0		0	0	0
<b>Fiji</b>								
Longline	No. of vessels	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Japan</b>								
Purse Seine	No. of vessels	69	60	59	63	37	35	45
LonglineDist.&Off.	No. of vessels	654	632	613	633	484	439	437
Longline Coastal	No. of vessels	399	422	386	402	335	337	311
Artisanal fisheries	No. of vessels	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		18,147	18,127	18,138
Set Net	No. of licenses	1,876	1,956	1,956	1,929	1,784	1,784	1,784
Others	No. of vessels	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown				
<b>Korea</b>								
large-scale purse seiners	No. of vessels	32	29	29	30	23	23	18
<b>Philippines</b>								
Not applicable								
<b>Chinese Taipei</b>								
Longline	No. of vessels	684	659	632	658	480	491	493
<b>U.S.A.</b>								
Not applicable		Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Vanuatu</b>								
Longline	No. of vessels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Australia</b>								
Eastern tuna and billfish fishery	No. of hooks							0

<sup>4</sup> e.g., sets, fishing days, vessels

**Table 2. Catches (mt), including discards, of Pacific bluefin tuna *in the Convention Area* (include all the fisheries in the previous table, plus all other fisheries that catch any Pacific bluefin tuna)**

Fishery	All catches (Para 5, CMM 2020-02)								All catches (Para 5, CMM 2020-02)					
	2002		2003		2004		2002-2004 Average		2018		2019		2020	
	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg
<b>Canada</b>														
N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>China</b>														
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Cook Islands</b>														
Longline	0	1,789	0	2,94	0	1,35	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Fiji</b>														
Longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.695	0.191	0.360	0	0
<b>Japan<sup>5</sup></b>														
Purse Seine	5,174	3,730	4,995	774	3,466	4,792	4,545	3,099	1,006	3,033	1,328	3,131	783	3,165
Longline Dist.&Off.	0	52	0	97	0	240	0	130	17	184	56	415	31	585
Longline Coastal	0	794	0	1,152	0	1,616	0	1,187	85	447	112	440	118	725
Artisanal fisheries	2,607	0	2,060	0	2,445	0	2,371	0	307	63	677	42	687	73
Set Net	1,008	92	648	191	660	235	772	173	260	385	686	255	858	376
Others	422	210	205	241	82	432	236	294	184	234	178	180	184	288
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><u>9,310</u></b>	<b><u>4,878</u></b>	<b><u>7,952</u></b>	<b><u>2,455</u></b>	<b><u>6,785</u></b>	<b><u>7,315</u></b>	<b><u>8,016</u></b>	<b><u>4,883</u></b>	<b><u>1,859</u></b>	<b><u>4,347</u></b>	<b><u>3,037</u></b>	<b><u>4,463</u></b>	<b><u>2,660</u></b>	<b><u>5,212</u></b>

<sup>5</sup> Catches (mt) in calendar year basis, including discards, of Pacific bluefin tuna *in the Convention Area* (include all the fisheries in the previous table, plus all other fisheries that catch any Pacific bluefin tuna)

**(Japan continued)**

Catches (mt) in management year<sup>6</sup> basis, including discards, of Pacific bluefin tuna *in the Convention Area* (include all the fisheries in the previous table, plus all other fisheries that catch any Pacific bluefin tuna)

Fishery		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
		<30 kg	≥30 kg	<30 kg	≥30 kg	<30 kg	≥30 kg	<30 kg	≥30 kg	<30 kg	≥30 kg
Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Purse Seine	1,938	3,027	1,219	3,273	1,006	3,033	1,328	3,131	783	3,165
	Longline Dist.&Off.	2	191	1	287	17	184	56	415	28	577
Other fisheries	Longline Coastal	152	377	270	487	83	232	111	466	118	755
	Artisanal fisheries	648	32	466	45	588	60	565	72	687	86
	Set Net	1,140	512	1,071	522	430	129	719	348	1,222	378
	Others	442	242	367	359	145	177	164	173	181	297
Total		4,321	4,382	3,395	4,974	2,270	3,814	2,943	4,604	3,091	5,257
Catch limit <sup>7</sup>		4,007	4,882	3,424	5,132	3,757	5,132	3,757	5,132	4,238	6,160

**<sup>6</sup> Management year is as follows.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> management period: January 2015 - December 2015 for Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, January 2015 - June 2016 for Other fisheries.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> management period: January 2016 - December 2016 for Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, July 2016 - June 2017 for Other fisheries.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> management period: January 2017 - December 2017 for Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, July 2017 - June 2018 for Other fisheries.
- 4<sup>th</sup> management period: January 2018 - December 2018 for Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, July 2018 - March 2019 for Other fisheries.
- 5<sup>th</sup> management period: January 2019 - December 2019 for Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, April 2019 - March 2020 for Other fisheries.
- 6<sup>th</sup> management period: January 2020 - December 2020 for Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, April 2020 - March 2021 for Other fisheries.

**<sup>7</sup> Catch limit is as follows.**

- 2016 small fish: 4,007 tons  
large fish: 4,882 tons
- 2017 small fish: 4,007 tons - 250 tons (transfer from small fish to large fish) - 333.5 tons (overage in 2016 fishing year)  
large fish: 4,882 tons + 250 tons (transfer from small fish to large fish)
- 2018 small fish: 4,007 tons - 250 tons (transfer from small fish to large fish)  
large fish: 4,882 tons + 250 tons (transfer from small fish to large fish)
- 2019 small fish: 4,007 tons - 250 tons (transfer from small fish to large fish)  
large fish: 4,882 tons + 250 tons (transfer from small fish to large fish)
- 2020 small fish: 4,007 tons - 450 tons (transfer from small fish to large fish) + 681.1 tons (carry over from the previous management year)  
large fish: 4,882 tons + 450 tons (transfer from small fish to large fish) + 527.5 tons (carry over from the previous management year) + 300 tons (transfer from Chinese Taipei)

Fishery	All catches (Para 5, CMM 2020-02)								All catches (Para 5, CMM 2020-02)					
	2002		2003		2004		2002-2004 Average		2018		2019		2020	
	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg
<b>Korea</b>														
Purse seiner	932		2,601		773		1,435	0	498.9	24.5	525.0	16.5	154.1	412.7
Set net									7.1	0	35.4	0.4	34.5	0.8
Others									4.6	0	3.3	0	2.2	0.4
Reserved									0		0			
<b>Total</b>	932		2,601		773		1,435	<u>0</u>	<u>510.6</u>	<u>24.5</u>	<u>563.7</u>	<u>16.9</u>	<u>190.8</u>	<u>413.9</u>
<b>Philippines</b>														
Artisanal Handline or Hook-and- Line fisheries								0	0	2 pcs (~250 kgs + ~215 kgs)	0	0	0	2 pcs (~300 kgs + ~220 kgs)
<b>Chinese Taipei</b>														
Longline	0	1,523	0	1,863	0	1,714	0	1700	0	381	0	492		1,150
Other coastal fisheries	0	4	0	21	0	3	0	9	0	+	0	+		4
<b>Total</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>1527</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1884</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1717</u>	0	<u>1,709</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>381</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>492</u>		<u>1,154</u>
<b>U.S.A.<sup>8</sup></b>														
American Samoa LL	0	3	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
USA LL	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Vanuatu</b>														
Longline <sup>9</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Australia</b>														
Eastern tuna and billfish fishery														0.919

<sup>8</sup> Pacific bluefin tuna catches are reported on longline logsheets for the American Samoa fishery, however the species may be misidentified.

<sup>9</sup> These small catches are bycatch only. Vanuatu does not target PBF at all.