



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
EIGHTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

ELECTRONIC MEETING
4 – 6 October 2022

**DRAFT Conservation and Management Measure for North Pacific Swordfish
(Japan's Proposal)**

WCPFC-NC18-2022/DP-02 (Rev. ~~02~~[03](#))

Submitted by Japan

Explanatory note

1. At the NC17 held online on 5-7 October 2021¹, the NC Chair urged Members to submit proposals for developing the CMM for North Pacific Swordfish at NC18.
2. In accordance with NC Chair's suggestion, Japan submits draft CMM for North Pacific Swordfish for discussion at NC18.
3. In accordance with paragraph 3 of CMM 2013-06, which requires assessments of any new proposal to determine the nature and extent of the impact of the proposal on SIDS and territories in the Convention area, Japan would like to submit assessments of the draft CMM against the criteria stipulated in CMM 2013-06.

Assessments against CMM 2013-06 Criteria

DRAFT Conservation and Management Measure for North Pacific Swordfish

a. *Who is required to implement the proposal?*

The proposed CMM applies to all CCMs. However, the CMM applies to the high seas and EEZs within the Convention area north of 20° N, and therefore, the convention area south of 20° N and coastal fisheries operating within the archipelagic waters and territorial waters are outside the scope of CCMs.

b. *Which CCMs would this proposal impact and in what way(s) and what proportion?*

The proposed CMM impacts those CCMs taking North Pacific swordfish in the high seas and EEZs within the convention area north of 20° N by requiring them to contain their fishing effort in accordance with paragraph 3 of the draft CMM.

c. *Are there linkages with other proposals or instruments in other regional fisheries management organizations or international organizations that reduce the burden of implementation?*

None.

d. *Does the proposal affect development opportunities for SIDS?*

Paragraph 6 of the proposed CMM, “The provisions of paragraph 3 shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of those small island developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention area whose current fishing activity for North Pacific swordfish is limited, but that have a real interest in, and history of, fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for North Pacific swordfish in the future.”

e. *Does the proposal affect SIDS domestic access to resources and development aspirations?*

See response to d above.

f. *What resources, including financial and human capacity, are needed by SIDS to implement the proposal?*

None.

g. *What mitigation measures are included in the proposal?*

None.

h. *What assistance mechanisms and associated timeframe, including training and financial support, are included in the proposal to avoid a disproportionate burden on SIDS?*

None. As described above, the Japan’s proposal should not impact fisheries by SIDS, so no special consideration for SIDS should be required.



DRAFT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR NORTH PACIFIC SWORDFISH

Proposal by Japan

Conservation and Management Measure 2022-XX

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC),

Noting that Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Swordfish Fisheries was adopted at WCPFC16, which established the Limit Reference Point for the exploitation rate (F-limit) of F_{MSY} ;

Observing that the best scientific evidence on Western and Central North Pacific Swordfish from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) indicates that the species is not likely overfished and is not likely experiencing overfishing relative to MSY-based or 20% of unfished spawning biomass-based reference points;

Also observing that the best scientific evidence on Eastern Pacific Swordfish from the ISC indicates that the species is not likely overfished but is likely experiencing overfishing some of the recent years relative to MSY-based reference points, and there is an uncertainty in stock boundary between Western Central North Pacific stock and Eastern Pacific stock that are being reviewed by the ISC toward the stock assessment scheduled in 2023;

Noting that draft Conservation and Management Measures for South Pacific Swordfish to strengthen the existing measure has been under consideration at the Commission, given that its fishing mortality has been at high levels in the last decades; and

Recalling Article 5(c) of the WCPFC Convention that requires application of the precautionary approach for the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the WCPF Convention Area;

Adopts, in accordance with the Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:

1. This measure shall apply in the high seas and EEZs within the Convention Area north of 20° N (hereinafter referred to as “the Area”).
2. The Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating territories (hereinafter referred to as CCMs) shall take necessary measures to ensure that the level of fishing effort of their fisheries taking North Pacific swordfish in the Area is not increased beyond 2008-2010 average annual levels¹²;

¹ For the US swordfish longline fishery, the level of fishing effort shall not be increased beyond the maximum number of limited entry permits available during 2008-2010.

² [For the Chinese Taipei’s coastal artisanal longline fishery, the level of fishing effort shall not be increased beyond the number of vessels licensed during 2008-2010.](#)

3. Paragraphs 2 and 4 shall not be applied to those fisheries taking less than 200 metric tons of North Pacific swordfish in the Area per year. However, if the catches of such fisheries exceed 200 metric tons in any given year, the Commission shall adopt appropriate management measure for such fisheries.
4. All CCMs shall report annually to the WCPFC Commission all catches of North Pacific swordfish in the Area and all fishing effort in those fisheries subject to the measures in paragraph 2, by gear type using the template provided in Annex 1.
5. The provisions of paragraph 2 shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of those small island developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for North Pacific swordfish is limited, but that have a real interest in, and history of, fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for North Pacific swordfish in the future.
6. The provisions of paragraph 5 shall not provide a basis for an increase in fishing effort by fishing vessels owned or operated by interests outside such small island developing State Members or participating territories, unless such fishing is conducted in support of efforts by such Members and territories to develop their own domestic fisheries.

Annex I: Average annual fishing effort for 2008-2010 and annual fishing effort for subsequent years for fisheries taking North Pacific swordfish

CCM	Area ³	Fishery (gear type)	2008-2010			Year			Year			Year		
			Average			Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days
Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days ⁴	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days									

³ If collective effort limits across the North Pacific Ocean, report the Area and North Pacific Ocean separately

⁴ Fishing days shall be the total days of fishing (both targeting and bycatch).