

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
EIGHTH SESSION (JWG-08)**

Fukuoka, Japan
3 – 5 July 2023

Report on CMM 2021-02 (Pacific bluefin tuna)

IATTC-NC-JWG08-2023/DP-04

Fiji

FIJI
Information on Pacific Bluefin Tuna CMM 2021-02
(Fishing Effort and Catch)
2022

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA CMM 2021-02

1. *Paragraph 2: CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that 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.*

Fiji had no vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the Convention Area north of 20 degrees north in 2022.

2. *Paragraph 4: CCMs, not described in paragraph 3, may increase their catch of Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger by 15% above their 2002-2004 annual average levels. CCMs with a base line catch of 10 tons or less of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger may increase their catch as long as it does not exceed 10 metric tons per year.*

Fiji did not catch any Pacific bluefin tuna in 2022.

3. *Paragraph 5: 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*

Fiji did not catch any Pacific bluefin tuna in 2022.

4. *Paragraph 8: CCMs shall report to the Executive Director by 31 July each year their fishing effort and <30 kg and >=30 kg catches levels, by fishery, for the previous 3-year, accounting for all catches, including discards. CCMs shall report their annual catch limits and their annual catches of PBF, with adequate computation details, to present their implementation for paragraph 5 and 6, if the measures and arrangements in the said paragraphs and relevant footnotes applied. The Executive Director will compile this information each year into an appropriate format for the use of the Northern Committee*

Refer to Attachment 1 for fishing effort by vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna and catches of Pacific bluefin tuna in the Convention Area, where effort and catch are all zeros.

5. *Paragraph 10: CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year.*

Fiji flagged vessels do not target any Pacific Bluefin tuna. However, vessel operators are supplied with fish identification booklets to correctly identify bluefin tuna should they encounter them. All mandatory reporting of catches is sent to the WCPFC Secretariat through SPC.

- 6. Paragraph 11: Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, and in accordance with domestic laws and regulations CCMs shall, to the extent possible, take measures necessary to prevent commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of this CMM, especially measures prescribed in the paragraph 2 and 3 above. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.**

Fiji has national laws and regulations in place to ensure that fish and fish products imported into the country carries necessary valid documents such as certificate of origin, export permit from the country of export and approved import permit issued by Fiji's Ministry of Fisheries to the importer. This catch documentation process can also assist in preventing commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of this CMM.

- 7. Paragraph 13: CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen monitoring and data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and farming to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting.**

Fiji flagged vessels do not target Pacific Bluefin tuna. However, vessel operators are supplied with fish identification booklets to correctly identify bluefin should they encounter one. Also, captains are required to report all catch irrespective of whether they are released or retained on board. Logsheets are checked by enforcement officers upon port arrival.

- 8. Paragraph 16: To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and, if appropriate, work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties bilaterally.**

Fiji meets with relevant parties during the WCPFC's Northern Committee meeting and communicates with the concerned IATTC contracting parties as and when need arises.

