



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Fukuoka, Japan
6 – 7 July 2023

Updated information on North Pacific swordfish catch and fishing effort

(Reference: Annex I, CMM 2022-02)

WCPFC-NC19-2023/WP-03

WCPFC Secretariat

According to Paragraphs 2 – 4 of the WCPFC CMM 2022-02 below, all catches and fishing effort of North Pacific swordfish are compiled using the template provided in Annex 1 for the previous 3-years. Catch and effort data were extracted from [WCPFC-NC18-2022/IP-05](#).

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 levels¹;*

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.*

NC19 will consider the template and information provided below for any further updates.

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.

Annex 1. Average annual fishing effort for 2008-2010 and annual fishing effort for subsequent years for fisheries taking North Pacific swordfish [for the previous 3-years.](#)

CCM	Area ³	Fishery (gear type)	2008-2010 Average			2020			2021			2022		
			Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days ⁴	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days
Japan	North Pacific Ocean	Drift gillnet	608	139	3,593	290			293			400(*)		
		Longline	2,825	390	39,189	2,993			1,896			1,415(*)		
		Others (**)	545		-	499			535			601(*)		
		Total	3,978			3,782			2,724			2,416(*)		
Korea	North Pacific Ocean	Longline	0.8	0	0	0			0			0		
		Total	0.8⁵			0			0			0		
Mexico	North Pacific Ocean	Others	286			N/A			N/A					
		Total	286			N/A			N/A					
Chinese Taipei (***)	CA north of 20°N (The area)	Setnet	31			3			3					
		Gillnet (not specified)	6			<0.5			<0.5					
		Harpoon	37			0			0					
		Costal artisanal longline	610	673		434	250		264	442		279	227	
		Longline	611	633	30,031	988	347	17,441	438	214	9,290	403	190	10,522
		Total	1,295			1,425			705			682		
USA	Convention Area	Handline	4			2			1			1		
		American Samoa Longline	10			40			39			26		
		US Longline	1,182	164 ⁶		266	135		528	137		735	142	
		Total	1,196			308			568			762		
GRAND Total			6,756			5,515			3,997			3,860		

(*) Provisional

(**) Others include set-net, troll, pole and line and other artisanal fisheries etc., mostly operating within territorial water of Japan.

(***) All swordfish were bycatch. Data of 2022 are still preliminary.

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). CCMs can consider the plural effort metrics in Annex 1 to this CMM in their entirety and in the case of fisheries that take NPS as bycatch, the metric of “fishing days” may not be appropriate for assessing the compliance with the effort control provision.

⁵ Korea caught 2.3 tons of North Pacific swordfish as bycatch in 2008. No catches since then.

⁶ The maximum level of limited entry permits available during 2008-2010 was 164.