



COMMISSION
Twentieth Regular Session
4-8 December 2023
Rarotonga, Cook Islands (Hybrid)

Updated Information on North Pacific Albacore Fishing Effort

WCPFC20-2023-IP19
19 June 2023

Secretariat



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Nineteenth Regular Session

20 – 26 September 2023

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

UPDATED INFORMATION ON NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE FISHING EFFORT

WCPFC-TCC19-2023-IP010¹

19 June 2023

Secretariat

¹ This paper was posted to NC19 as NC19-WP-01



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Fukuoka, Japan
4 – 5 July 2023

Updated information on North Pacific albacore fishing effort
(Reference: Attachment C/Annex A in NC7 Summary Report)

WCPFC-NC19-2023/WP-01

Secretariat

Table 1. Average annual catch of North Pacific albacore (metric tonnes)

CCM	Data pertain to WCPFC Area only or entire N Pacific?	Fisheries with ANY catch of NP albacore	"Fishing for" NP albacore? (Y/N)	2006-2010 average annual catch
Canada	N Pacific	Albacore troll	Y	5,911
Total catches for Canada:				5,911
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				5,911
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				100
China	N. Pacific	Longline	Y	1,967
	N. Pacific	Longline	N	98
Total catches for China:				1,967
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				1,869
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				95
Note: Historically, there are 10 longliners seasonally operating in the high seas of Northern Pacific Ocean targeting albacore, which covered the Convention Areas of WCPFC and IATTC				
Cook Islands	N Pacific total catches	Albacore troll	Y	31
	N Pacific total catches	Longline	Y	8
Total catches for Cook Islands:				39
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				39
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				100
Fiji	N. Pacific	LL	N	1.2
Total catches for Fiji Islands:				1.2
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				0
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				0
Japan	CA only	LL Coast	Y	16,817
		LL DW	Y	4,230
		PL Coast	N	89
		PL DW	Y	24,504
		PS Coast	N	14
		PS DW	N	1,841
		GN	N	430
		Troll	N	505
		Set Net	N	52
		Others	N	36
Total catches for Japan:				48,518
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				45,551
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				94
Korea	CA only	LL DW	Y	18
	CA only	LL DW	N	157
Total catches for Korea:				175
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				18
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				10
NOTE: Three LL DW participated in fishing for NP Albacore in 2007 and 2008, and the catch was 87 tons.				
Philippines	N Pacific	others	N	75

Total catches for Philippines (average for 2009-2011):				75	
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				0	
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				0	
NOTE: Catches are mainly from artisanal Hook-and-Line Gear (non-targeting ALB)					
Chinese Taipei	N Pacific	albacore LL	Y	2,548	
	N Pacific	LL others	N	552	
Total catches for Chinese Taipei:				3,100	
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				2,548	
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				82	
United States	N Pacific	Albacore troll	Y	12,344	
		Longline	N	288	
		Gillnet	N	3	
		Pole and line	N	0	
		Purse seine	N	23	
		Other	N	577	
Total catches for United States:				13,236	
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				12,344	
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				93	
NOTE:					
1) These USA (2006-2010) data may not be confirmed from figures available to the Secretariat.					
2) US response: See all our annual reports under CMM 2005-03, the latest of which is dated 30 April 2012.					
Vanuatu	N Pacific	albacore LL	Y	2,525	
	N Pacific	LL others	N	135	
Total catches for Vanuatu:				2,661	
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				2,525	
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:					
Belize	CA only	LL	Y	95	
	Total catches for Belize:				95
	Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				95
	% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				100
NOTE: catch unsegregated by area					
Federated States of Micronesia	CA only	LL	N	18	
	Total catches for FSM:				18
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				0	
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				0	
NOTE: Commenced fishery in 2009					
Marshall Islands	CA only	LL	N	N/A	
	Total catches for RMI:				
	Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:					
NOTE: Commenced fishery in 2008					

Table 1-1. Average annual catch (metric tonnes) of NP albacore during 2006-2010 (from Table 1)

Country	Target category	CA only	N Pacific
Canada	Target		5,911
	Non-Target		0
China	Target		1,967
	Non-Target		98
Cook Islands	Target		39
	Non-Target		0
Fiji	Target	0	0
	Non-Target	0	1.2
Japan	Target	45,551	
	Non-Target	2,967	
Korea	Target	18	
	Non-Target	157	
Philippines	Target		0
	Non-Target		75
Chinese Taipei	Target		2,548
	Non-Target		552
United States of America	Target		12,344
	Non-Target		892
Vanuatu	Target		2,525
	Non-Target		136
Belize	Target	95	
	Non-Target	0	
FSM	Target	0	
	Non-Target	18	
Total Catch			
		CA only	N Pacific
Total catch	Target	45,664	25,236
	Non-T	3,142	1,754
	Total catch	48,806	26,990
Proportion	Target	94%	94%
	Non-T	6%	6%
		100%	100%

Table 2. Fishing effort fishing for North Pacific albacore

CCM	Area ¹	Fishery ²	2002-04 Average		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
			No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days
Canada ³	N Pacific	ALB troll	215	8,898	213	8,564	174	6,243	207	6,902	137	5,773	138	6,540	161	7,294
	CA ⁴ only	ALB troll	8	256	1	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
China	N Pacific	LL	10	1,250	10	1,230	10	1150	2	260	2	250	2	280	2	240
Cook Islands	N Pacific	ALB troll	4	183	2	240	2	171	1	57	1	0	0	0	0	0
	N Pacific	LL	1	2	1	4	0	0	1	37	1	17	0	0	0	0
Fiji ⁵	N Pacific	LL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Japan ⁶	CA only	LL Coast	296	40,988	289	41,197	287	43,366	273	43,480	276	40,030	280	43,536	286	45,877
		LL DW	633	26,851	591	21,548	538	21,186	494	21,712	480	17,823	361	12,060	342	13,084
		PL DW	141	19,839	134	20,442	125	16,059	106	16,931	104	15,667	104	15,248	101	15,541
Korea ⁷	CA only	LL DW	0 ⁸	0 ⁸	0	0	0	0	3	268	3	107	0	0	0	0
Philippines ⁹	N Pacific	Handline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chinese Taipei ¹⁰	N Pacific	ALB LL	25		23	2,363	24	4,156	21	3,360	18	2,603	13	2,082	20	2,093
USA	N Pacific	ALB troll		13,311		11,552		10,892		11,552		11,138		13,339		13,076
	CA only	ALB troll		789		371		66		42		*		*		*
Vanuatu ¹¹	N Pacific	LL	37	3,407	26	1,983	32	2,868	23	2,133	20	1,883	14	1,248	10	1,053

* Data in the WCPO were confidential

¹ Data pertain to WCPFC Area only or entire N Pacific?

² Fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore

³ NOTE: For Canada no fishing inside the CA since 2005

⁴ Convention Area

⁵ Fiji do not have any vessels targeting North Pacific Albacore in the NP Ocean.

⁶ Japanese albacore data indicates the fisheries in north of the equator within CA.

⁷ Korea's fishing effort "fishing for" NP albacore occurred in 2007 and 2008, and non-target fishing effort occurred every year in the North Pacific.

⁸ Korea does not have any vessels targeting directly North Pacific albacore in the North Pacific Ocean.

⁹ Estimates under study. Refer to Notes in Table 2-1 for further information.

¹⁰ This data just indicates the fishery fishing for NP albacore only

¹¹ Effort baseline for (2002-2004) uses license information for vessels licensed to fish and targeting NP Albacore in these years. Effort in Vessel days uses the 2004 Effort data on vessel days to estimate the average days per vessel and uses this estimate to calculate that for the 2002-2004 vessel days baseline.

Table 2 (continued). Fishing effort fishing for North Pacific albacore

CCM	Area	Fishery	2002-04 Average		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
			No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days
Canada	N Pacific	ALB troll	215	8,898	161	8,556	172	5,974	183	6,465	160	4,747	164	5,197	152	5,359
	CA only	ALB troll	8	256	1	3	2	2	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
China	N Pacific	LL	10	1,250	10	1240	10	1280	10	1220	10	1290	10	900	10	910
Cook Islands	N Pacific	ALB troll	4	183												
	N Pacific	LL	1	2									2	22	1	68
Fiji ¹²	N Pacific	LL	0	0	0	0	9	230	29	920	20	663	10	88	8	170
Japan	CA only	LL Coast	296	40,988	273	42,996	266	38,977	248	37,529	246	35,362	237	37,801	229	37,308
		LL DW	633	26,851	341	12,683	320	13,818	321	13,406	305	13,305	285	11,763	256	10,419
		PL DW	141	19,839	98	13,433	95	14,646	85	12,781	84	12,147	84	12,743	81	13,923
Korea	CA only	LL DW	0	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> 7,407	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> 11,061	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> 1,746	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> 1,184	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> 852	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> 943
Philippines	CA only	Artisanal fishery (non-targeting)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chinese Taipei	N Pacific	ALB LL	25		21	1,839	21	1,423	22	2,108	22	2,348	23	2,401	24	2,259
USA	N Pacific	ALB troll		13,311		13,983		15,218		13,509		12,199		11,506		12,691
	CA only	ALB troll		789		155		*		*		7		8		0
Vanuatu	N Pacific	LL	37	3,407	24	1,248	21	760	27	1,916	25	1,904	22	2,771	18	1,382

Italic = preliminary data

* Data in the WCPO were confidential

¹² Fiji do not have any vessels targeting North Pacific Albacore in the NP Ocean.

Table 2 (continued). Fishing effort fishing for North Pacific albacore

CCM	Area	Fishery	2002-04 Average		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
			No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days
Canada	N Pacific	ALB troll	215	8,898	121	4,978	121	4,196	122	3,882	104	3,301	113 <u>112</u>	3,687 <u>3,660</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>4,073</u>
	CA only	ALB troll	8	256	5	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
China	N Pacific	LL	10	1,250	10	850	10	838	10	1,249	10	1,075	10	295	<u>10</u>	<u>429</u>
Cook Islands	N Pacific	ALB troll	4	183	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	N Pacific	LL	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Fiji ¹³	N Pacific	LL	0	0	4	114	6	180	5	149	4	132	2	43	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Japan	CA only	LL Coast	296	40,988	233	35,566	229	34,725	225	34,231	226	35,573 <u>35,307</u>	230	36,418 <u>26,516</u>	<u>222</u>	<u>29,135</u>
		LL DW	633	26,851	253	10,154	248	10,126	249	9,987	249	10,182 <u>10,278</u>	249	10,308 <u>7,742</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>7,533</u>
		PL DW	141	19,839	82	12,659	80	13,236	76	12,321	75	11,093 <u>11,062</u>	74	10,531 <u>12,538</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>9,487</u>
Korea ¹⁴	CA only	LL DW	0	0	<u>0</u>	0	<u>0</u>	0	<u>0</u>	0	<u>0</u>	0	0	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		PS	0	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	0	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Philippines	N Pacific	HL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Chinese Taipei	N Pacific	ALB LL	25		25	2,567	25	2,943	25	2,338	25	2,079	25	2,070	<u>25</u>	<u>2,283</u>
USA	N Pacific	ALB troll		13,311		12,675		10,959 <u>11,112</u>		10,949 <u>11,078</u>		8,690 <u>8,681</u>		6,731		<u>7,855</u>
	CA only	ALB troll		789		571		<u>121</u> 123		<u>0</u> 4		26		0		<u>0</u>
Vanuatu	N Pacific	LL	37	3,407	23	1,510	27	2,035	26	2,087	32	2,224	29	2,736	<u>26</u>	<u>1,889</u>

¹³ Fiji do not have any vessels targeting North Pacific Albacore in the NP Ocean.

¹⁴ Korea does not have any vessels targeting directly North Pacific albacore in the North Pacific Ocean.

Table 2-1. As requested by the NC12 (Paragraph 57) related to Paragraph 2 in CMM 2005-03, CCMs are requested to report on how to control their fishing effort fishing for North Pacific albacore by indicating, for example, limiting vessels, fishing days, licenses, or some other measures.

CCM	Area	Fishery	Regulation of fishing effort
Canada	N Pacific	ALB troll	<p>Canada issues domestic “CT” fishing licenses for Albacore Tuna. The CT license is intended to act as a management measure to strengthen management of the domestic tuna fishery, and help ensure Canada is meeting international obligations related to effort. As of 2013, commercial license holders wanting to harvest tuna are required to hold a primary license (with Schedule II privileges) and apply for/receive a separate CT (Tuna) license. The CT license authorizes fishing of Pacific Albacore tuna in Canada’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and on the high seas under separate license conditions. The CT license is vessel-based and must be renewed annually.</p> <p>Canadian license holders without a primary license are able to access tuna in international high seas waters through “Section 68 High Seas” licenses. The Section 68 license is intended to act as a management measure to strengthen management of the tuna fishery in the high seas, and help ensure Canada is meeting international obligations related to effort. The Section 68 licence must be renewed annually.</p>
	CA only	ALB troll	<p>Canada issues domestic “CT” fishing licenses for Albacore Tuna. The CT license is intended to act as a management measure to strengthen management of the domestic tuna fishery, and help ensure Canada is meeting international obligations related to effort. As of 2013, commercial license holders wanting to harvest tuna are required to hold a primary license (with Schedule II privileges) and apply for/receive a separate CT (Tuna) license. The CT license authorizes fishing of Pacific Albacore tuna in Canada’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and on the high seas under separate license conditions. The CT license is vessel-based and must be renewed annually.</p> <p>Canadian license holders without a primary license are able to access tuna in international high seas waters through “Section 68 High Seas” licenses. The Section 68 license is intended to act as a management measure to strengthen management of the tuna fishery in the high seas, and help ensure Canada is meeting international obligations related to effort. The Section 68 license must be renewed annually.</p> <p>Canadian licence holders wishing to fish for tuna in the WCPFC Convention Area will need to request amended Conditions of Licence from the Canadian Tuna Resource Manager. These amended Conditions of Licence will be issued once it has been confirmed that the various requirements specific to harvesting in the WCPFC Convention Area have been met.</p>
China	N Pacific	LL	The number of fishing vessels is limited by the license system.
Cook Islands	N Pacific	ALB troll	Not Applicable, CK currently has no troll vessels in the fishery
	N Pacific	LL	Limited by license.
Fiji	N Pacific	LL	Vessel Size class & capacity, Licenses and other measures specified in Offshore Fisheries Management Act 2012 & Offshore Fisheries Management Regulation 2014 and National Strategy for Fiji Fishing Vessels Operating in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.
Japan	CA only	LL Coast	The number of fishing vessels is limited by the license system.
		LL DW	The number of fishing vessels is limited by the license system.
		PL DW	The number of fishing vessels is limited by the license system.

Korea	CA only	LL DW	There has been no Korean flagged fishing vessel targeting for N.ALB. However, all authorized fishing vessels operating in the CA are required to report their catches including non-targeting species daily via the e-reporting system.
Philippines	-	-	Not applicable <i>Notes from 2023 Annual Report Part 1:</i> 359 173 MT(2022 9) - catches for this species are mainly coming from municipal or artisanal gears (e.g. hook-and-line) and this is not a target species for these gear/s. Fishing effort for municipal or artisanal gears (e.g., hook-and-line) are difficult to quantify, as recognized by the Commission there are some fleets such as the Philippines that has some practical difficulties compiling this information. Also, it would be important to note that Philippines do not target albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>), this species is mainly caught as bycatch and seasonal in nature.
Chinese Taipei	N Pacific	ALB LL	1. We have limited the number of our fishing vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore to stay below 25 since CMM 2005-03 was implemented. The vessel number is controlled when we issue the fishing permit every year. 2. For other fishing vessels that are not allowed to fishing for North Pacific albacore, their bycatches of this albacore would be monitored to stay below certain ratio
USA	N Pacific	ALB troll	The United States has a single fleet that fishes for North Pacific albacore in the Convention Area: the albacore troll fleet is based out of the U.S. West Coast. The albacore troll fleet is not currently subject to effort or catch controls, but permitting, VMS, and reporting (through vessel logbooks) requirements enable the United States to monitor the fishery, including levels of participation, fishing effort and catches. The United States will continue to monitor fishing effort and implement any controls needed to comply with paragraph 2 of the CMM, as well as with relevant decisions adopted in other RFMOs (IATTC).
	CA only	ALB troll	The United States has a single fleet that fishes for North Pacific albacore in the Convention Area: the albacore troll fleet is based out of the U.S. West Coast. The albacore troll fleet is not currently subject to effort or catch controls, but permitting, VMS, and reporting (through vessel logbooks) requirements enable the United States to monitor the fishery, including levels of participation, fishing effort and catches. The United States will continue to monitor fishing effort and implement any controls needed to comply with paragraph 2 of the CMM, as well as with relevant decisions adopted in other RFMOs (IATTC).
Vanuatu	N Pacific	ALB LL	Vanuatu has reviewed its baseline to use information on vessels licensing data for the years 2002-2004 for vessel who fished for North Pacific Albacore. Information on Vessel days is estimated using the 2004 vessel days average (2004 as the year with the most data from the 3 baseline years) and this estimate is used to calculate the average Vessel days for the effort baseline. With this revision Vanuatu is in compliant with the measure and will continue to monitor fishing effort and implement any controls needed to comply with paragraph 2 of the CMM.