



**COMMISSION**  
**Twentieth Regular Session**  
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Rarotonga, Cook Islands (Hybrid)

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

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**WCPFC20-2023-IP20**  
**2 July 2023**

Secretariat



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

**Nineteenth Regular Session**

20 – 26 September 2023

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

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

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**WCPFC-TCC19-2023-IP11<sup>1</sup>**

**2 July 2023**

Secretariat

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<sup>1</sup> This paper was posted to NC19 as NC19-WP-02

**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

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

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WCPFC-NC19-2023/WP-02  
(IATTC-NC-JWG08-2023/WP-01)  
[28 June 2023](#)<sup>1</sup>

**Secretariat**

According to Paragraph 8 of the WCPFC CMM 2021-02, 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.

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. 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.*

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

Individual Country Report is available at *Delegation Proposals and Papers* folder at <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/jwg-08>

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<sup>1</sup> China's data added

**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>2</sup>	Baseline fishing effort (Para 2, CMM 2021-02)				Fishing effort (Para 8, CMM 2021-02)		
		2002	2003	2004	2002-2004 Average	2020	2021	<a href="#">2022</a>
<b>Canada</b>								
Not applicable		0	0	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">0</a>
<b>China</b>								
		0	0	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">0</a>
<b>Cook Islands</b>								
Longline		Unknown	Unknown	0		N/A	N/A	<a href="#">0</a>
<b>Fiji</b>								
Longline	No. of vessels	0	0	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">0</a>
<b>Japan</b>								
Purse Seine	No. of vessels	69	60	59	63	45	51	<a href="#">44</a>
Longline Dist. & Off.	No. of vessels	654	632	613	633	437	413	<a href="#">383</a>
Longline Coastal	No. of vessels	399	422	386	402	311	328	<a href="#">303</a>
Artisanal fisheries	No. of vessels	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		18,138	17,412	<a href="#">17,408</a>
Set Net	No. of licenses	1,876	1,956	1,956	1,929	1,784	1,784	<a href="#">1,784</a>
Others	No. of vessels	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown				
<b>Korea</b>								
large-scale purse seiners	No. of vessels	32	29	29	30	18	19	<a href="#">19</a>
<b>Philippines</b>								
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	<a href="#">Not applicable</a>
<b>Chinese Taipei</b>								
Longline	No. of vessels	684	659	632	658	493	497	<a href="#">485</a>
<b>U.S.A.</b>								
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	<a href="#">Not applicable</a>
<b>Vanuatu</b>								
Longline	No. of vessels	0	0	0	0	0	0	<a href="#">0</a>

<sup>2</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 2021-02)								All catches (Para 5, CMM 2021-02)					
	2002		2003		2004		2002-2004 Average		2020		2021		<u>2022</u>	
	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<u>&lt;30kg</u>	<u>≥30kg</u>
<b>Canada</b>														
Troll	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>China</b>														
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Cook Islands</b>														
Longline	0	1,789	0	2,94	0	1,35	0	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Fiji</b>														
Longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Japan<sup>3</sup></b>														
Purse Seine	5,174	3,730	4,995	774	3,466	4,792	4,545	3,099	783	3,165	962	3,230	<u>1,010</u>	<u>3,676</u>
Longline Dist.&Off.	0	52	0	97	0	240	0	130	31	585	80	562	<u>0</u>	<u>723</u>
Longline Coastal	0	794	0	1,152	0	1,616	0	1,187	118	755	<u>101</u> <del>95</del>	<u>912</u> <del>802</del>	<u>98</u>	<u>825</u>
Artisanal fisheries	2,607	0	2,060	0	2,445	0	2,371	0	687	73	<u>557</u> <del>556</del>	96	<u>919</u>	<u>160</u>
Set Net	1,008	92	648	191	660	235	772	173	943	399	1,319	423	<u>1,471</u>	<u>655</u>
Others	422	210	205	241	82	432	236	294	184	288	<u>147</u> <del>151</del>	<u>176</u> <del>251</del>	<u>232</u>	<u>314</u>
<u>Recreational fisheries</u>											<u>0</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>28</u>
<b><u>Total</u></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>2,745</u></b>	<b><u>5,265</u></b>	<b><u>3,165</u></b> <del>3,164</del>	<b><u>5,419</u></b> <del>5,365</del>	<b><u>3,731</u></b>	<b><u>6,381</u></b>

<sup>3</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>4</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		2020		2021		2022	
		<30 kg	≥30 kg	<30 kg	≥30 kg	<30 kg	≥30 kg
Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Purse Seine	783	3,165	962	3,230	<u>1,010</u>	<u>3,676</u>
	Longline Dist.&Off.	31	585	80	562	<u>0</u>	<u>723</u>
Other fisheries	Longline Coastal	118	785	<u>114</u> <del>109</del>	<u>926</u> <del>812</del>	<u>97</u>	<u>833</u>
	Artisanal fisheries	687	86	713	141	<u>887</u>	<u>114</u>
	Set Net	1,307	401	1,312	554	<u>1,401</u>	<u>553</u>
	Others	181	297	<u>174</u> <del>179</del>	<u>172</u> <del>250</del>	<u>233</u>	<u>329</u>
<u>Recreational fishery</u>				<u>0</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>28</u>
<b><u>Total</u></b>		<b><u>3,107</u></b>	<b><u>5,320</u></b>	<b><u>3,355</u></b> <del>3,354</del>	<b><u>5,604</u></b> <del>5,550</del>	<b><u>3,629</u></b>	<b><u>6,257</u></b>
<b><u>Catch limit<sup>5</sup></u></b>		<b><u>4,238</u></b>	<b><u>6,160</u></b>	<b><u>4,238</u></b>	<b><u>6,162</u></b>	<b><u>4,258</u></b>	<b><u>6,789</u></b>

**<sup>4</sup> Management year is as follows.**

- 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.
- 2021 management period: January 2021 - December 2021 for Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, April 2021 - March 2022 for Other fisheries.

**<sup>5</sup> Catch limit is as follows.**

- 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)
- 2021 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) + 829.9 tons (carry over from the previous management year)

Fishery	All catches (Para 5, CMM 2021-02)								All catches (Para 5, CMM 2021-02)					
	2002		2003		2004		2002-2004 Average		2020		2021		<u>2022</u>	
	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<u>&lt;30kg</u>	<u>≥30kg</u>
<b>Korea</b>														
Purse seiner	932		2,601		773		1,435	0	154.1	412.7	365.6	56.6	<u>144.7</u>	<u>509.0</u>
Set net									34.5	0.8	83.1	1.1	<u>214.7</u>	<u>6.7</u>
Others									2.2	0.4	3.1	0.0	<u>6.4</u>	<u>0.0</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>932</u></b>		<b><u>2,601</u></b>		<b><u>773</u></b>		<b><u>1,435</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>190.8</u></b>	<b><u>413.9</u></b>	<b><u>451.8</u></b>	<b><u>57.7</u></b>	<b><u>365.8</u></b>	<b><u>515.7</u></b>
<b>Philippines</b>														
Artisanal Handline or Hook-and- Line fisheries									0	2 pcs (~300 kgs + ~220 kgs)	0	2 pcs (~220 kgs + ~270 kgs)	<u>0</u>	<u>2.392</u> (9 pcs at approx.. 250kgs each)
<b>Chinese Taipei</b>														
Longline	0	1,523	0	1,863	0	1,714	0	1700	0	1,150	0	1,478	<u>0</u>	<u>1,496</u>
Other coastal fisheries	0	4	0	21	0	3	0	9	0	1	0	1	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>1527</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>1884</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>1717</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>1,709</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>1,151</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>1,479</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>1,497</u></b>
<b>U.S.A.<sup>6</sup></b>														
American Samoa LL	0	3	0	0	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	1	0	0	0	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
USA LL	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>4</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>
<b>Vanuatu</b>														
Longline <sup>7</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<u>0.17</u>	<u>0</u>

<sup>6</sup> Pacific bluefin tuna catches are reported on longline logsheets for the American Samoa fishery, however the species may be misidentified.

<sup>7</sup> These small catches are bycatch only. Vanuatu does not target PBF at all.