

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
NINTH SESSION (JWG-09)**

Kushiro, Japan
10 – 13 July 2024

Mexico statement on PBF catches and regulations

IATTC-NC-JWG09-2024/DP-07

MEXICO

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Appreciated Co-Chairs.

As you are well aware, México has annually participated in the NC-IATTC-WG and is voluntarily providing the following information in order to contribute, share and give an account-related with the 2023 fishing year catch of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) in the EPO region.

Previously and for many years, we have in these meetings as well, presented orally the same type of information with the main objective and provide ample cooperation for a complete view of current fishing activities related with the PBF and also in this way, to ensure the best management for that tuna species across the entire Pacific Ocean.

It is also important to highlight that Mexico does not fish and has never fished for PBF in the area managed by the WCPFC. All the catch of PBF by Mexican vessels has been caught within the IATTC area and mostly within-Mexico's own Economic Exclusive Zona.

In accordance with IATTC Resolution C-21-05 "Measures for the conservation and management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean from 2021 to 2024", under the catch limit established for Mexico, its purse seine vessels captured 3027 tons and 3194 tons of PBF in 2021 and 2022, well below the 6556 tons set as a biannual limit. In 2023 the catch was 3407 below the 4068 maximum catch allow for one year. The 2023-2024 catch limit for Mexico is 6973 tons. All the purse seine Mexican vessels that participated in this fishery had a scientific observer on board during the entire time of all the fishing operations. All the catch referred was caught alive and transfer to feeding pens located in the Baja California Peninsula. Starting in 2023, the Mexican government allowed the participation of small vessels in this fishery. Until now, very few permits have been given.

It is important to highlight that given the above explanations; México is in full compliance with the obligations of the IATTC.

In the following table, the amount of catch as well as the number of vessels participating in the mexican fishery from 2010 to 2023 is presented. The 2023 data include 8 tons caught by the artisanal fishery with 3 vessels participating.

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Catch	7631	2736	6653	3154	4934	3084	2904	3643	2840	2250.02	3285	3027	3194	3407
Vessels	21	6	19	5	7	5	3	4	5	4	6	5	6	9

And in relation to PBF exports from Mexico in 2023, 3013.8 tons where exported to USA, 1373.7 tons to Japan, 34.8 tons to Canada and 4.8 tons to South Korea.