



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
FOURTH REGULAR SESSION**

**Tokyo, Japan
9-11 September 2008**

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR
NORTHERN PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

**WCPFC-2008-NC4/DP-01
4 September 2008**

Proposed by Japan

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC),

Recalling that the Northern Committee at its Third Regular Session agreed to consider conservation and management measures for northern Pacific bluefin tuna at its Fourth Regular Session in 2008, based on results of stock assessment conducted in 2008,

Recognizing that members of the Northern Committee have made effort, on a voluntary basis, not to increase the fishing mortality rate of northern Pacific bluefin tuna,

Taking account of the Conservation Advice from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) meeting in 2008 on this stock which highlighted that increase in fishing mortality (F) of northern Pacific bluefin tuna may result in recruitment levels which are insufficient to sustain the current productivity of the stock and that it is important that the current level of F is not increased,

Also recognizing that the trend of Spawning Stock Biomass has been influenced substantially by the annual level of recruitment and that to collect fisheries data in an accurate and timely manner is critically important for the proper management of this stock, and

Further recalling that paragraph (4), Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention which requires cooperation between the Commission and the IATTC for the management of fish stocks such as northern Pacific bluefin tuna that occur in the Convention Areas of both organizations,

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:

1. The total level of fishing effort for northern Pacific bluefin tuna in the Convention Area north of the 20 degrees North (hereinafter referred to as “the Area”) shall not be increased from the current level;

2. The Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating Territories (hereinafter referred to as CCMs) shall take measures necessary to ensure that total fishing effort by their vessels fishing for northern Pacific bluefin tuna in the Area shall not be increased in 2009 and thereafter;
3. CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen data collecting system for the northern Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in the Area in order to improve the data quality and shorten time to report;
4. CCMs shall report to the Northern Committee by 30 April 2009 measures they implement paragraphs 2 and 3 above;
5. The Northern Committee at its Fifth Regular session in 2009 shall review reports CCMs submit pursuant to paragraph 4 above and consider, if necessary and appropriate, further measures;
6. The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this Conservation Management Measure to the IATTC Secretariat and its contracting parties whose fishing vessels engage in fishing for northern Pacific bluefin tuna and request them to take similar measures in conformity with paragraphs 2 and 3 above; and
7. To enhance effectiveness of this resolution, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and, if appropriate, work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties bilaterally.
8. The provisions of paragraph 2 shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of those small island developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for northern Pacific bluefin tuna is limited, but that have a real interest in fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for northern Pacific bluefin tuna in the future.
9. The provisions of paragraph 9 shall not provide a basis for an increase in fishing effort by fishing vessels owned or operated by interests outside such small island developing State Members or participating territories, unless such fishing is conducted in support of efforts by such Members and territories to develop their own domestic fisheries.