



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE  
TWENTIETH REGULAR SESSION**

Kushida, Hokkaido, Japan  
15 - 16 July 2024

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**Updated information on North Pacific swordfish catch and fishing effort**

(Reference: Annex I, CMM 2023-03)

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**WCPFC-NC20-2024/WP-03**

**WCPFC Secretariat**

According to Paragraphs 2 – 4 of the WCPFC CMM 2023-03 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 levels<sup>1</sup>;*

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.*

NC20 will consider the template and information provided below for any further updates.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 (2021-2023).**

CCM	Area <sup>3</sup>	Fishery (gear type)	2008-2010 Average			2021			2022			2023		
			Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days <sup>4</sup>	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	293	54	897(*)	400	54	917(*)	486(*)	49	832(*)
		Longline	2,825	390	39,189	1,901	217	23,934	1,597	225	24,560	1,952(*)	205	25,407
		Others (**)	545		-	535			601	-	-	604(*)	-	-
		<b>Total</b>	<b>3,978</b>			<b>2,729</b>			<b>2,598</b>					
Korea	North Pacific Ocean	Longline	0.8	0	0	0			0					
		<b>Total</b>	<b>0.8<sup>5</sup></b>			<b>0</b>			<b>0</b>			<b>0</b>		
Chinese Taipei (***)	CA north of 20°N (The area)	Setnet	31			3								
		Gillnet (not specified)	6			<0.5								
		Harpoon	37			0								
		Coastal artisanal longline	610	673		264	442		279	227		489	383	
		Longline	611	633	30,031	438	214	9,290	403	190	10,522	636	231	14,279
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,295</b>			<b>705</b>			<b>682</b>					
	North Pacific Ocean	Setnet												
		Gillnet (not specified)												
		Harpoon												
		Coastal artisanal longline				264	442		279	227		489	383	
		Longline				803	404	36,841	829	421	37,639	1,082	411	39,632
<b>Total</b>														
USA	Convention Area	Handline	4			1			1			1		
		American Samoa Longline	10			39			26			15		
		US Longline	1,182	164 <sup>6</sup>		528	137		735	142		748	145	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,196</b>			<b>568</b>			<b>762</b>			<b>764</b>		
	Pacific	Gillnet				14	6		29	7		37	5	
		Handline				1			1			1		
		Harpoon				7	11		32	17		36	17	

<sup>3</sup> If collective effort limits across the North Pacific Ocean, report the Area and North Pacific Ocean separately.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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

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

		Hook and Line				2	7		2	11		1	9		
		American Samoa Longline				39			26			15			
		US Longline				645	146		902	147		841	150		
		Other				54	26		26	22		31	21		
		<b>Total</b>				<b>762</b>			<b>1,018</b>			<b>962</b>			
Vanuatu	North Pacific Ocean	Setnet													
		Drift gillnet													
		Longline	23.373	15	1417	127.556	29	2676	79.449	26	1889	<b>56.937</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1324</b>	
		Others													
		Not specified													
		<b>Total</b>	<b>23.373</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1417</b>	<b>127.556</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2676</b>	<b>79.449</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1889</b>	<b>56.937</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1324</b>	
<b>GRAND Total</b>															

(\*) 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 for [2023](#) are still preliminary.