

**NORTHERN COMMITTEE**

**TWENTIETH REGULAR SESSION**

Kushida, Hokkaido, Japan

15 - 16 July 2024

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

(Reference: Annex I, CMM 2023-03)

**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](https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/17490).

*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[[1]](#footnote-1)[[2]](#footnote-2);*

*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.

**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[[3]](#footnote-3) | Fishery(gear type) | 2008-2010Average | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| Catch (t) | No. of vessels | Fishing days[[4]](#footnote-4) | 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(\*) | - | - |
| ***Total*** | ***3,978*** |  |  | ***2,729*** |  |  | ***2,598*** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Korea | North Pacific Ocean | Longline | 0.8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Total*** | ***0.8[[5]](#footnote-5)*** |  |  | ***0*** |  |  | ***0*** |  |  | 0 |  |  |
| 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 |
| ***Total*** | ***1,295*** |  |  | ***705*** |  |  | ***682*** |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |
| ***Total*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| USA | Convention Area | Handline | 4 |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  |  |
| American Samoa Longline | 10 |  |  | 39 |  |  | 26 |  |  | 15 |  |  |
| US Longline | 1,182 | 164[[6]](#footnote-6) |  | 528 | 137 |  | 735 | 142 |  | 748 | 145 |  |
| ***Total*** | ***1,196*** |  |  | ***568*** |  |  | ***762*** |  |  | ***764*** |  |  |
| Pacific | Gillnet |  |  |  | 14 | 6 |  | 29 | 7 |  | 37 | 5 |  |
| Handline |  |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  |  |
| Harpoon |  |  |  | 7 | 11 |  | 32 | 17 |  | 36 | 17 |  |
| 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 |  |
|  |  | ***Total*** |  |  |  | ***762*** |  |  | ***1,018*** |  |  | ***962*** |  |  |
| Vanuatu | North Pacific Ocean | Setnet |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Drift gillnet |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Longline | 23.373 | 15 | 1417 | 127.556 | 29 | 2676 | 79.449 | 26 | 1889 | ***56.937*** | ***17*** | *1324* |
| Others |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Not specified |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** | **23.373** | **15** | **1417** | **127.556** | **29** | **2676** | **79.449** | **26** | **1889** | ***56.937*** | ***17*** | *1324* |
| **GRAND Total** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

(\*) 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.

1. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. If collective effort limits across the North Pacific Ocean, report the Area and North Pacific Ocean separately. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Korea caught 2.3 tons of North Pacific swordfish as bycatch in 2008. No catches since then. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The maximum level of limited entry permits available during 2008-2010 was 164. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)