



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
SIXTH REGULAR SESSION**
7-10 September 2010
Fukuoka, Japan

CCM REPORTS ON CMM2009-07

WCPFC-NC6/WP-03

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. In accordance with paragraph 2 and 3 of CMM 2009-07, CCMs are required to report to the Secretariat by 31 July 2010 on the measures they implement necessary to ensure that total fishing effort by their vessels fishing for northern pacific bluefin tuna shall not be increased from the 2002-2004 level for 2010 and measures necessary to strengthen data collecting system for the fisheries. Four CCMs provided reports to the Secretariat in relation to the reporting requirements in paragraphs 2 and 3 of CMM 2009-07.
2. Reports submitted by Japan, Korea, Chinese-Taipei and the USA are attached.

Japan's report on measures it implemented for Pacific bluefin tuna.

In accordance with Paragraph 4, CMM 2009-07, Japan submits a report on measures it has implemented for the Pacific bluefin tuna (PBFT) management during the last one year.

Control of the number of vessels for PBFT under licensing system

Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) controls the number of purse seine vessels by licenses to fish for PBFT: 40 in the Northern Kyusyu area and 26 in the Sea of Japan area*, and the number of long line vessels over 10 GT by licenses: 398 in the Pacific. *note: 13 vessels among 40 and 26 can operate in both areas

Administrative Instructions to Industries and Local Governments

The FAJ instructed the fishing industries and prefectural governments to constrain its total fishing effort for PBFT to the 2002-2004 level as follows:

1. To Purse Seine Industry

- a. FAJ instructed purse seine vessels not to catch or land small PBFT less than 2kg.
- b. FAJ is monitoring landing of all the PBFT by purse seine vessels so as to ensure that total catch in Northern Kyusyu area, where around 90% of juvenile are harvested, will not exceed the average catch of 2000-2004.

2. To Local Governments (Set Net Fisheries)

Since set net fisheries are licensed and controlled by prefectural governments in accordance with the guidance by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), following instructions are issued to respective local governments:

- a. Not to increase the number of Bluefin Tuna Set Net License
- b. To pay due consideration not to increase the catch of bluefin tuna in licensing set nets other than Bluefin Tuna Set Nets.

Policy Announcement by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) on Actions toward Effective Conservation and Management for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (May 11, 2010)

On May 11, 2010, the MAFF established and published the management directions for Pacific bluefin tuna under which Japan will take (**Attachment**). In accordance with this announcement, Japan is in preparation for introducing further effective management measures not to increase and, as necessary, reduce juvenile mortality as follows:

MAFF will establish "the Resource Recovery Plan for Pacific bluefin tuna" by the end this fiscal year for (a) and (b) below, so as to implement it from fiscal year 2011. Also, MAFF will consider the introduction of the Income Assurance System in the fishery sector, to promote the smooth implementation of the Resource Recovery Plan.

(a) Offshore fisheries

For large and medium scale purse seine fisheries, proper management measures in light of the nature of the actual fishing operations. MAFF will consider a closure period, a catch size limit, an individual quota system, and combination of such measures for this purpose.

(b) Coastal fisheries

For small scale coastal fisheries such as trolling, a vessel registration system, with a mandatory catch reporting requirement, will be introduced. This can be a basis for future introduction of a limited entry system.

(c) Aquaculture

For aquaculture, a new category, “bluefin tuna aquaculture” will be established in the aquaculture licensing system, and registration of bluefin tuna aquaculture sites will be required to local governments, with a mandatory reporting requirement from aquaculture farmers in order to obtain accurate information on such aquaculture activities.

(Preliminary translation)

Announcement
by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)
on
Actions toward effective conservation and management for Pacific bluefin tuna
(May 11, 2010)

I. Background

- (1) In recent years, increasing international attention has been paid to the conservation and management of fishery resources, in particular bluefin tuna. At the 15th Conference of the Parties of CITES (COP15) last March, a proposal to ban the international trade in Atlantic bluefin tuna was presented from the perspective that ICCAT had been failing to ensure effective conservation and management measures for this species.

This proposal was rejected by a vote at COP15. A major reason for this result is that Japan successfully convinced other countries that ICCAT is the appropriate body for conserving and managing Atlantic bluefin tuna. At the ICCAT annual meeting last year, Japan took the leadership in working out the stringent conservation and management measures for rebuilding of Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks. Such Japanese leadership and positive attitude toward conservation of resources made the Japanese effort significantly more convincing and persuasive in the Doha CITES Conference.

On the other hand, there are still prevailing concerns in the international community that the conservation and management measures by RFMOs are not effective enough. It is likely that RFMOs will be required to further strengthen their conservation and management measures, not only for Atlantic bluefin tuna, but also for other species.

- (2) With respect to Pacific bluefin tuna, Japan is the largest fishing nation as well as the almost exclusive consuming nation of this species, as shown below. Japan, therefore, has a special responsibility for the sustainable use of this species.
- (a) Over 70% of the total Pacific bluefin tuna catches are harvested by Japan;
 - (b) Major Pacific bluefin tuna spawning grounds are around Japan; and
 - (c) Most of the Pacific bluefin tuna harvested by other countries, such as Mexico and Korea, are exported to Japan.

A concern has been reported over the possible stock decline of Pacific bluefin tuna due to increasing fishing pressure on juvenile fish. Addressing such a concern, the WCPFC, at its annual meeting last year, adopted a conservation and management measure for 2010 designed to freeze the total fishing effort and to reduce the fishing mortality of juvenile fish. This is a first step, and Japan will continue to take the leadership to promote the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna. For these reasons, it is necessary for Japan to start domestic fishery management and strengthen research for this species even before other members of WCPFC take such actions so that the international conservation program can follow such Japanese initiative.

II. Direction and Actions to be taken

1. Direction

MAFF will promote conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna by “reducing the juvenile catch” for future catch of bigger fish. MAFF will also take necessary measures to ensure that the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) of Pacific bluefin tuna, which fluctuates significantly, will be maintained within the appropriate range in the mid and long term (5-10 years), and to prevent the SSB from dropping from a level lower than the historically lowest level observed.

2. Actions

To realize the above direction, MAFF will implement the following measures regarding (1) domestic fisheries management, (2) international actions, and (3) research activities, starting this fiscal year:

(1) Domestic fisheries management

MAFF will consider introducing the following conservation and management measures. As a part of this effort, MAFF will establish “the Resource Recovery Plan for Pacific bluefin tuna” by the end of this fiscal year for (a) and (b) below, so as to implement it from fiscal year 2011. Also, MAFF will consider the introduction of the Income Assurance System in the fishery sector, to promote the smooth implementation of the Resource Recovery Plan.

(a) Offshore fisheries

For large and medium scale purse seine fisheries, proper management measures will be introduced in light of the nature of the actual fishing operations. MAFF will consider a closure period, a catch size limit, an individual quota system, and combination of such measures for this purpose.

(b) Coastal fisheries

For small scale coastal fisheries such as trolling, a vessel registration system, with a mandatory catch reporting requirement, will be introduced. This can be a basis for future introduction of a limited entry system.

(c) Aquaculture

For aquaculture, a new category, “bluefin tuna aquaculture” will be established in the aquaculture licensing system, and registration of bluefin tuna aquaculture sites will be required to local governments, with a mandatory reporting requirement from aquaculture farmers in order to obtain accurate information on such aquaculture activities.

(2) International actions

Japan will work with relevant countries at WCPFC to realize the following;

(a) Strengthening of the conservation and management measures

Japan will work to improve the WCPFC conservation and management measure adopted last year, to reflect “Direction” in (1), and to expand the application of the measure to all the relevant areas.

(b) Cooperation with IATTC

Japan will, in close cooperation with IATTC, call on Mexico, which harvests bluefin tuna in the eastern Pacific and is a cooperating non-member to WCPFC, to ensure cooperation to effectively implement WCPFC conservation and management measures.

(3) Research activities

The following scientific research activities will be expanded and strengthened, with a view to scientifically verifying and assisting “Direction” in (1) and “Actions” in (2) (a) and (b) and to reflecting the collected data on conservation and management measures expeditiously. These efforts will be organized by the newly established “Pacific Bluefin Research Division” of the Fisheries Research Agency, in cooperation and collaboration with related universities and prefectural governments:

(a) Acceleration of information collection

- A network will be established among relevant national and foreign scientists to assist scientific research.
- A system will be established for assessing a level of new recruitment of juvenile fish in a timely and accurate manner.

(b) Expansion of research on spawning grounds

- Research will be strengthened on spawning grounds and seasons.

(c) Technology Development

- To realize the complete culturing techniques and the stock enhancement methods, technology will be developed on seed production, expansion of seed production level, and enhancement of seed.

(4) Public relations

MAFF will continue sharing information on the sustainable use of Pacific bluefin tuna, not only with the fishing industry, but also with the general public, so that the situation will be broadly recognized and understood.



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5 August 2010

Dr. Sungkwon Soh
Interim Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

RE: Korea's Report on Measures it has Implemented for Pacific Bluefin Tuna

In accordance with Paragraph 4, CMM 2009-07, Korea submits a report on measures it has undertaken for the Pacific bluefin Tuna management during the last one year pursuant to Paragraph 2 and 3 of the CMM.

Enhancing the Awareness and Understanding on the CMMs for Pacific Bluefin Tuna

The Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (the MIFAFF) held three rounds of meetings in January, April and July with the relevant departments and divisions in referring to CMM 2009-07 (conservation and management measures for Pacific bluefin tuna).

The MIFAFF provided the relevant industry and officials with information on international and domestic obligations of implementing conservation and management measures for Pacific bluefin tuna and collected their views and opinion on the issue.

The Current Status of Pacific Bluefin Tuna Fisheries in Korea

Along the Korean waters, most of Pacific bluefin tuna have been caught by large scale purse seine vessels targeting mackerels.

Small scale purse seiners, set-nets, small scale compound fisheries and other forms of artisanal fisheries also catch Pacific bluefin tuna.

As of 2010, Korea's fishing effort (number of vessels) for Pacific bluefin tuna is slightly lower than the 2002-2004 level. For reference, 27 large scale purse seine vessels are in operation and 25 fishing gears, including small scale purse seiners, are being used.

Korea's Endeavors in Research and Statistics

Research on Pacific bluefin tuna had not been robustly conducted up until 1999 due to lack of interest of fishers in Pacific bluefin tuna.

Since 2000, the interest of fishers in Pacific bluefin tuna has greatly increased as statistically meaningful amounts of the species are being caught.

However, the statistics below indicate that the amount of catch highly fluctuates year by year and thus Pacific bluefin tuna has yet to be considered as one of the important targeted species in Korea's offshore and coastal fisheries.

<Statistics for Yearly Catch of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (unit: mt)>

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1,976	968	767	2,141	636	1,085	949	1,054	1,536	794

Meanwhile, fishers operating in Korea's offshore and coastal areas have high expectations about the potential opportunity for bluefin tuna fisheries. Therefore, the Korean government instructed the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute to conduct more systemic research on Pacific bluefin tuna. It is anticipated that more Pacific bluefin tuna will migrate through Korea's EEZ. Therefore, most Korean fishers have intentions to catch the species when the abundance increases.

The Korean government will establish the conservation and management measures for Pacific bluefin tuna in line with the process and the outcome of the above-mentioned research. The possible conservation and management measures include the Total Allowable Catch scheme, regulation on fishing effort, limiting the length of catch, designating closed periods and closed areas and the like.

The research will be carried out over five years and the process and the result of the research will be submitted to the ISC, the SC, and the NC of the WCPFC.

The attached is Korea's national report which includes the scientific information on Pacific bluefin tuna caught in the Korean waters.

H. Kwon

Hyun-Wook Kwon

Deputy Director for Multilateral Cooperation of International Cooperation Office



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July 29, 2010

Dr.SungKwon Soh,
Acting Executive director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
PO Box 2356, Kolonia Phonpei,
Federated States of Micronesia, 96940

Dear Dr. Soh,

In accordance with paragraph 4 of Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna, the following measures have been implemented by this Agency to strengthen data collecting system for the Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and to ensure our fishing effort for Pacific bluefin tuna would not be increased from the 2002-2004 level, including but not limited to :

1. While we made the entry limit for our fishing fleets, we also revised our domestic regulation in March, 2010 to further set the number of our vessels fishing for north Pacific bluefin tuna to 660 at most. In 2010, 562 of our vessels in total have been authorized by this Agency to fish for this species.
2. In accordance with the said revised regulation, we have introduced Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) throughout the island. When Pacific bluefin tuna is caught on the sea, it shall be tied with tag and such catch information shall be reported by the captain to fishery radio stations. In addition, the captain shall submit relevant documents regarding CDS before his catch is allowed to be landed and sold.
3. As most of our vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna land and sold their catch at



行政院農業委員會漁業署

FISHERIES AGENCY

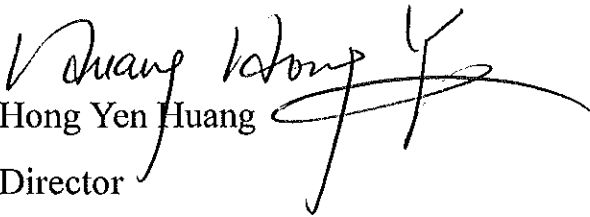
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home ports in recent years, the officers of this Agency have been deployed at landing sites in Taiwan to verify the catch and related documents. Furthermore, we sent more personnel to measure the size and weight at landing sites for the past two years to strengthen data collecting system. Since the sampling rate at landing sites in Taiwan is 100 percent in 2010, we think the data collection of this species and the qualities of such data have been greatly improved.

Kind regards,


Hong Yen Huang

Director

Deep Sea Fisheries Division

Fisheries Agency

Supplemental information on Chinese Taipei report on measures it has implemented for the Pacific bluefin tuna (PBFT) management

Chinese Taipei concerns the Pacific bluefin tuna (PBFT) resource very much, so this year we implemented strict measures to management the fishery. I would like to take this opportunity to brief the measures we implemented.

First, controlling fishing effort:

To be in line with the CMM 09-07 which requires control of total effort for bluefin tuna not more than 2002-04 level, Chinese Taipei set the number of vessels allowing to fish for bluefin tuna in the north Pacific Ocean at 660. In 2010, 562 of our vessels have been authorized by this Agency and around 350 (preliminary) active vessels have conducted fishing PBFT, much less than the limit, so the fishing effort has been reduced.

Second, implementing Catch Document Scheme

Although there involved a lot of administrative burdens and having received complains from fishermen, Chinese Taipei still implemented the CDS on our bluefin tuna fishery because we consider this resource is very valuable and, under such bad stock status, is worthwhile for such efforts.

We request our fishermen (1) attach special-designed tags which are similar to CCSBT tags, to each of the bluefin catch, (2) report catch date, location, and body length and weight of each fish through radio and record them on logbooks, (3) apply for CDS while entering port for landing.

For this regulation, we used every means to promote and communicate with fishermen. We received huge complains from fishermen, but considering the continuous and substantial decline of catch, they agreed to cooperate and urged all the countries utilizing the same resource can adopt the same measure to protect the fish stock.

Third, monitoring fishing location and catch information

For monitoring purpose, all the vessels allowed to fish for bluefin tuna have to install with

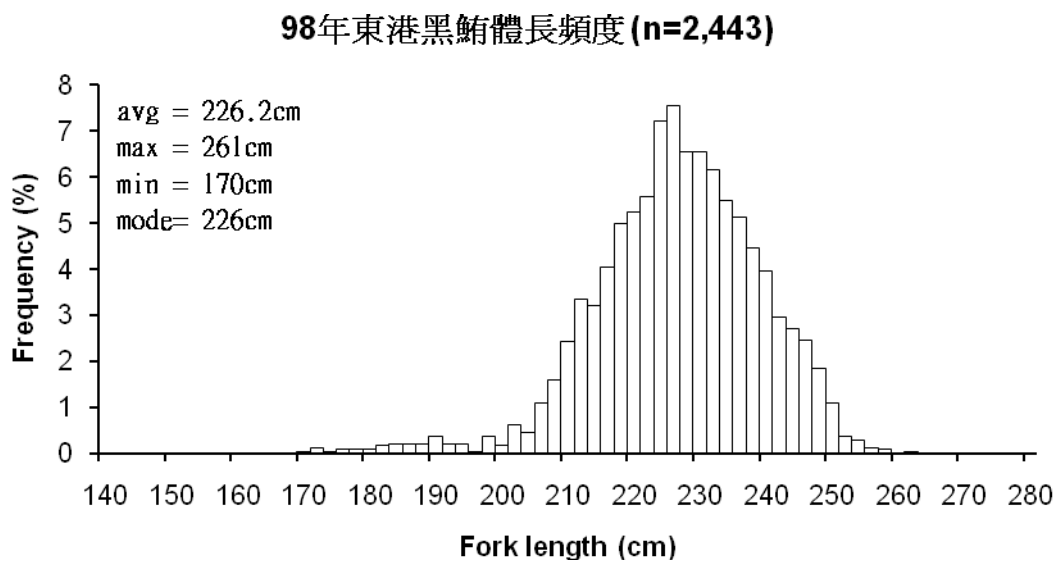
VMS. We have also increased our manpower to each landing ports to check if all the bluefin tuna has attached with tag and come with CDS, and to crosscheck the information on CDS and tag with the radio-reported.

Fourth, improving quality of catch statistics

VMS, CDS and crosschecked logbooks have served this purpose. We also measured every fish landed in the market. Since last year, we have collected a 100% coverage of data on catching date, location and fishing effort, and fish information both in weight and length for each fish, for scientific research purpose.

Our hope

We hope our measures taken can help to manage the stock at sustainable way and sincerely hope all the fishing countries which share the concerns of the stock, can adopt similar level of management measures to their local fisheries.



The length composition from one of sampling markets in 2009.

One of the campaigns of publicity for the new PBFT regulations



Dispatch tags
Tags on a PBFT



CDS inspection in port market



Advertising posters



抓到黑魷串(黑魷) 綁標籤、作紀錄、報電台

◎出港前

1. 確認 VMS 正常回報。
2. 船上備妥標籤(20 個)。
3. 船上備妥太平洋黑魷漁獲通報表、太平洋水域漁獲報告表。

◎出港後

1. 抓到黑魷串時，綁上標籤、寫紀錄表(上述二種報表)。
2. 報電台(當天通報電台每尾黑魷串的標籤號碼、地點及每尾重量)。

◎返港後

1. 卸魚拍賣前，確認每尾黑魷已綁上標籤、備妥黑魷漁業證明書。
2. 就近領取下次使用的標籤，建議補齊至 20 個。

黑魷漁獲標籤建議綁法分



1. 將標籤穿過吻突。
(台灣：三角仔)
2. 選擇合適的孔穿過。
3. 加上扣子。
4. 完成。

以上有任何需要協助或詢問事宜，請與志社洽詢以下單位：
宜蘭地區請洽(0995)8181地點：蘇澳區漁會2樓)
屏東地區請洽(0883)3848420-23(屏東縣政府漁業發展中心，農漁會大樓對面)
台東地區請洽(0898)1153地點：成功區漁會)
其他地區請自行洽詢所進人員聯繫，或洽後援會(07)8219833、8219878

collected a 100% coverage of data in our markets







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July 27, 2010

Dr. SungKwon Soh
Interim Executive Director
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Pohnpei, FM 96941

Dear Dr. Soh:

To fulfill the reporting requirements of WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2009-07 (Pacific Bluefin Tuna) is the following information. There is zero fishing effort to report by the United States.

If you have any questions please contact Tom Graham at +1 808-944-2219 or Tom.Graham@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Karnella".

Charles Karnella, Ph.D.
International Fisheries Administrator

Cc: William Gibbons-Fly, U.S. Department of State

