



**Commission for the Conservation and Management of  
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee  
3<sup>rd</sup> Resumed Meeting of the Twentieth Regular Session (NC20/3)**

**Suva, Fiji  
2 December 2024**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

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- Attachment A – Draft Conservation and Management Measure for the Monitoring, Controlling, and Surveillance of Pacific Bluefin Tuna
- Attachment B – Draft Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of  
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee  
Resumed Meeting of the Twentieth Regular Session**

Suva, Fiji

2 December 2024

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

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**AGENDA ITEM 1 — OPENING OF MEETING**

The Resumed Meeting of the Twentieth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (hereafter referred to as NC20/3) took place in Suva, Fiji, on 2 December 2024, on the margin of the 21st annual meeting of WCPFC (WCPFC21), to discuss specifically the amendment to the Draft Conservation and Management Measure for Monitoring, Controlling and Surveillance of Pacific Bluefin Tuna. The meeting was attended by Northern Committee (NC) members from Canada, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Japan, Republic of Korea (ROK), Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States of America (USA), and Vanuatu.

**1.1 Opening of meeting**

1. Mr. Masanori Miyahara, Chair of the NC, opened the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 2 — CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE NORTHERN STOCKS**

**2.1 Pacific bluefin tuna**

2. The NC Chair presented a proposal to amend the Draft Conservation and Management Measure for Monitoring, Controlling and Surveillance of Pacific Bluefin Tuna recommended by NC20/2 at its November meeting, to reflect the result of consultations with interested CCMs attending the WCPFC21.

**3. The NC recommends that the Commission adopt the Conservation and Management Measure for the Monitoring, Controlling, and Surveillance of Pacific Bluefin Tuna in Attachment A.**

4. The NC agreed to amend the CMM2013-06 assessment and audit point checklist attached to its recommended Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna, as in Attachment B.

**AGENDA ITEM 3 — ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 20TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE NORTHERN COMMITTEE**

5. The NC reviewed and adopted the Summary Report of the NC20/3.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 — CLOSE OF THE MEETING**

6. The meeting was closed on 2 December 2024 in Fiji time.

**Attachment A**

**Commission for the Conservation and Management of  
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**NORTHERN COMMITTEE  
RESUMED MEETING OF THE TWENTIETH REGULAR SESSION**

Suva, Fiji  
2 December 2024

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**Draft Conservation and Management Measure for the  
Monitoring, Controlling, and Surveillance of Pacific Bluefin Tuna**

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CMM 2024-XX

*The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):*

*Noting that, Conservation and Management Measure CMM2023-02 establishes annual catch limit of Pacific bluefin tuna for the management of the species,*

*Also noting that, Conservation and Management Measure CMM2023-02 paragraph 11 requires CCMs, to the extent possible, take measures necessary to prevent commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna that undermine the effectiveness of the CMM,*

*Further noting that, Conservation and Management Measure CMM2023-02 paragraph 13 requires CCMs to take measures necessary to strengthen monitoring and data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and farming,*

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

**Objectives**

1. The purpose of this Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) is to establish a regime for the monitoring and control of the conservation and management of the Pacific bluefin tuna fishery in the WCPO set out in CMM 2024-xx.
2. Each CCM that has Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming shall report to the Executive Director by 15 June each year on the implementation of its monitoring and control measures it has taken in the previous calendar year to ensure its compliance with CMM2024-xx that include the following components:
  - (1) Monitoring and control measures for fisheries
    - a. Registration of commercial fishing vessels that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including the WCPFC RFV in accordance with CMM 2018-06 on WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorization to Fish)
    - b. Registration of set nets that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered set nets)
    - c. Allocation of catch limits by fishery within the CCMs, where such allocation exist

- d. Reporting requirements for catches for fisheries (targeted, incidental, and discards)
  - e. Measures to monitor catch (e.g. landing receipts, landing inspection, observer program, etc.)
  - f. Measures to monitor landings (including CMM2017-02 on Minimum Standards for Port State Measures)
  - g. Measures to monitor domestic transactions
- (2) Monitoring and control measures for farming
- a. Registration of farms that are authorized to farm Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered farms, number of registered 'holding pens' or 'cages')
  - b. Reporting requirements for caging of fish
  - c. Reporting requirements for harvest of farmed fish
  - d. Measures to monitor farming activities (including Rules, standards, and procedures to monitor transfer and caging activities)
3. CCMs that do not have Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming, shall report to the WCPFC Secretariat annually any by-catches of Pacific bluefin tuna under paragraph 9 of CMM 2024-xx.

**Review**

4. The Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) and the Northern Committee (NC) shall separately review the implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance measures reported by CCMs in accordance with this CMM by 2026 and based upon the results of such review, provide recommendations to the Commission.
5. CCMs shall coordinate with the IATTC through the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group and discuss any additional MCS measures, as appropriate, at their upcoming meetings.

**Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)**

6. WCPFC shall consider the establishment of a catch documentation scheme (CDS) for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in the WCPO compatible with other CDSs for Pacific bluefin tuna by 31 December 2026. This CDS should build, inter alia, on the outcomes of the Joint IATTC-WCPFC Northern Committee Working Group.

**CMM2013-06 assessment and audit point checklist for PBF MCS measure  
recommended by NC**

**CMM2013-06 Criteria**

In accordance with CMM2013-06 (Conservation and management measure on the criteria for the consideration of conservation and management proposals), the following assessment has been undertaken.

a. Who is required to implement the proposal?

CCMs that have Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries are required to implement the obligations, although currently there is no Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in SIDS.

Paragraph 3 (reporting requirement of by-catches) applies to CCMs that do not have Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries, but this requirement is already existent in CMM2023-02, so there is no new requirement for those CCMs.

b. Which CCMs would this proposal impact and in what way(s) and what proportion?

This proposal will have an impact on CCMs fishing Pacific bluefin tuna. However, as described above, currently there is no Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in SIDS.

c. Are there linkages with other proposals or instruments in other regional fisheries management organizations or international organizations that reduce the burden of implementation?

No.

d. Does the proposal affect development opportunities for SIDS?

No.

e. Does the proposal affect SIDS domestic access to resources and development aspirations?

No.

f. What resources, including financial and human capacity, are needed by SIDS to implement the proposal?

No additional resources are required for SIDS to implement this proposal.

g. What mitigation measures are included in the proposal?

No mitigation measures are included since this proposal does not impact fisheries by SIDS.

h. What assistance mechanisms and associated timeframe, including training and financial support, are included in the proposal to avoid a disproportionate burden on SIDS?

No assistance mechanisms are included since this proposal does not impose any disproportionate burden on SIDS.

Audit Points Checklist for Proposed New or Amended Obligations (“Audit Points Checklist”)

*(To be completed by proponents of new and amended measures. This checklist should not be confused with the “2013-06 Checklist”, which is specific to impacts of new or amended proposals on SIDS.)*

1. To whom does the obligation apply? Set out any proposed exceptions or exclusions.

■ All CCMs □ Flag CCMs □ Some CCMs - if so, which CCMs?

2. What is the scope of the new obligations (i.e., does it apply to a particular geographical area, fishery, stock, species of special interest?)

Pacific bluefin tuna

3. Are there existing obligations that should be assessed in combination with any of the proposed new obligations? If so, name the CMM and paragraph(s), or other Commission obligation.

CMM2023-02 (NC20 recommended amendment on this CMM).

4. Which proposed new obligations will require submission of Reports (R) or Implementation Statements (I), impose Limits (L), or have Deadlines (D)? Please fill out the relevant section(s) for each of the proposed new obligations.

I. Deadline

Specify what is required and by what deadline.

Following reporting obligations are included in this proposal.

2. Each CCM that has Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming shall report to the Executive Director by 15 June each year on the implementation of its monitoring and control measures it has taken in the previous calendar year to ensure its compliance with CMM2024-xx that include the following components:

(1) Monitoring and control measures for fisheries

- a. Registration of commercial fishing vessels that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including the WCPFC RFV in accordance with CMM 2018-06 on WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorization to Fish)
- b. Registration of set nets that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered set nets)
- c. Allocation of catch limits by fishery within the CCMs, where such allocation exists
- d. Reporting requirements for catches for fisheries (targeted, incidental, and discards).
- e. Measures to monitor catch (e.g. landing receipts, landing inspection, observer program, etc.)
- f. Measures to monitor landings (including CMM2017-02 on Minimum Standards for Port State Measures)
- g. Measures to monitor domestic transactions

(2) Monitoring and control measures for farming

- a. Registration of farms that are authorized to farm Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered farms, number of registered 'holding pens' or 'cages')
- b. Reporting requirements for caging of fish
- c. Reporting requirements for harvest of farmed fish
- d. Measures to monitor farming activities (including Rules, standards, and procedures to monitor transfer and caging activities)

3. CCMs that do not have Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming, shall report to the WCPFC Secretariat annually any by-catches of Pacific bluefin tuna under paragraph 9 of CMM 2024-xx.

## II. Report

Specify the type of information that is required, including any specific formats or templates to be used, and whether the information must be complete (100%) or a sub-set of information is sufficient to meet the proposed objective.

The required information is stipulated above.

The current CMM has similar reporting obligations, and they are reported through the Annual report and meeting documents for the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group. CCMs may report the required information through meeting document of the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group.

Is this information already provided wholly or in part through any other data submission requirement, i.e. operational level catch and effort data?

As explained above, the current CMM has similar reporting obligations. The obligations are reported through the Annual report and meeting documents for the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group. CCMs may report the required information through meeting document of the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group.

If no, specify the proposed reporting mechanism to be used for submission of new required information (i.e., Annual Report Part 1, Annual Report Part 2, direct to WCPFC Secretariat, other)

N/A

Can the information provided be verified through another source? If yes, specify what other data or information source should be used.

Annual Report Part 2 can be used for verification.

## III. Implementation

In addition to the required Implementation Statements, list any additional information required to demonstrate CCM's implementation with the proposed new requirement.

Describe any data or other information that can be reviewed by the WCPFC Secretariat to confirm or verify implementation.

## IV. Quantitative Limit



Specify the proposed CCM-level or Collective limit.

Specify what verifiable data shall be provided by CCM to confirm its adherence to the limit.

Specify what data sources are available to the WCPFC Secretariat to review and confirm CCM's reported limit.

V. Other

If none of the other categories are appropriate:

Specify the nature of the obligation.

Specify how compliance is to be assessed.

Process for considering proposed audit points alongside new proposals

The purpose of the checklist is for proponents of new obligations to identify what they see as being the appropriate criteria or performance standard by which compliance should be assessed against new or amended obligations. This process will assist in identifying data gaps, potential duplication of reporting, and existing measures that might be linked to new or amended obligations.

The process for considering proposed audit points for proposed new obligations is as follows:

Step 1: Proponent of the proposed new or amended obligation(s) submits a completed AP Checklist at the same time as the proposed new or amended obligation(s) is submitted.

Step 2: Where proposed new or amended obligation(s) undergoes further discussion and negotiation, the AP Checklist remains attached to the proposal and is also considered throughout the iterative process.

Step 3: If proposed new or amended obligation(s) reaches the stage of finalization for adoption, the lead CCM on finalizing the proposed new or amended obligation(s) also updates the AP Checklist to reflect the final proposed new or amended obligation(s).

Step 4: The proposed audit points for the proposed new or amended obligation(s) are adopted as part of the final proposed new or amended obligation(s) and attached to the final CMM, or in the case of a Commission decision that is not reflected in a CMM, the proposed audit points are posted on the appropriate section of the WCPFC website associated with the decision or outcome.

Proposed audit points for the new proposal

Paragraph	Obligation	Draft Audit Point
2. Each CCM that has Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming shall report to the Executive Secretary by 15 June each year on the implementation of its monitoring and control measures it has taken in the previous calendar year to ensure its compliance with	Report	The Secretariat confirms receipt of a report by the CCM on implementation of its monitoring and control measures including subparagraph (1) and/or (2) of the CMM.

<p>CMM2024-xx that include the following components:</p> <p>(1) Monitoring and control measures for fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Registration of commercial fishing vessels that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including the WCPFC RFV in accordance with CMM 2018-06 on WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorization to Fish)</li> <li>b. Registration of set nets that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered set nets)</li> <li>c. Allocation of catch limits by fishery within the CCMs, where such allocation exists</li> <li>d. Reporting requirements for catches for fisheries (targeted, incidental, and discards).</li> <li>e. Measures to monitor catch (e.g. landing receipts, landing inspection, observer program, etc.)</li> <li>f. Measures to monitor landings (including CMM2017-02 on Minimum Standards for Port State Measures)</li> <li>g. Measures to monitor domestic transactions)</li> </ul> <p>(2) Monitoring and control measures for farming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Registration of farms that are authorized to farm Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered farms, number of registered 'holding pens' or 'cages')</li> <li>b. Reporting requirements for caging of fish</li> <li>c. Reporting requirements for harvest of farmed fish</li> </ul>		
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d. Measures to monitor farming activities (including Rules, standards, and procedures to monitor transfer and caging activities)		
3. CPCs that do not have Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming, shall report to the WCPFC Secretariat annually any by-catches of Pacific bluefin tuna under paragraph 9 of CMM 2024-XX.	Report	The Secretariat confirms receipt of a report by the CCM on bycatch.
5. CCMs shall coordinate with the IATTC through the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group and discuss any additional MCS measures, as appropriate, at their upcoming meetings	N/A (non-binding since a qualification is included)	
6. WCPFC shall consider the establishment of a catch documentation scheme (CDS) for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in the WCPO compatible with other CDSs for Pacific bluefin tuna by 31 December 2026. This CDS should build, inter alia, on the outcomes of the Joint IATTC-WCPFC Northern Committee Working Group.	N/A (task to the WCPFC itself)	

**Commission for the Conservation and Management of  
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**NORTHERN COMMITTEE  
TWENTIETH REGULAR SESSION**

Kushiro, Japan (Hybrid)  
15 – 16 July 2024

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**Draft Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna**

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CMM 2024-XX

*The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):*

*Recognizing that WCPFC6 adopted Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM 2009-07) and the measure was revised twelve times since then (CMM 2010-04, CMM 2012-06, CMM 2013-09, CMM 2014-04, CMM 2015-04, CMM 2016-04, CMM2017-08, CMM 2018-02, CMM 2019-02, CMM 2020-02, CMM 2021-02 and CMM 2023-02) based on the conservation advice from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) on this stock;*

*Noting the latest stock assessment provided by ISC in 2024, indicating the following:*

- Spawning stock biomass (SSB) has increased substantially in the last 12 years, and achieved its second rebuilding target ( $20\%SSBF_{=0}$ ) in 2021;
- A substantial decrease in estimated F has been observed in ages 0-2 in 2020-2022 relative to 2002-2004 and 2012-2014;
- Since the early 1990s, the WCPO purse seine fisheries, in particular those targeting small fish (age 0-1) have had an increasing impact on the spawning stock biomass, but its impact has reduced in recent years;
- Harvesting small fish has a greater impact on future spawning stock biomass than harvesting large fish of the same amount;
- The projection results indicate that increases of catch limits are possible while maintaining SSB greater than  $20\%SSBF_{=0}$  with a 60% probability under several scenarios requested by JWG8, and while allowing SSB to steadily increase above the second rebuilding target under additionally requested certain scenarios ; and
- The projection results also indicate that the maximum allowable transfer from small fish catch limits to large fish catch limits utilizing the conversion factor has a positive effect on future SSB.

*Noting the conservation advice from the ISC that research on a recruitment index for the stock assessment should be pursued, and maintenance of a reliable adult abundance index should be ensured;*

*Recalling that paragraph (4) of the Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention, which requires cooperation between the Commission and the IATTC to reach agreement to harmonize CMMs for fish stocks such as Pacific bluefin tuna that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;*

*Also recalling Article 10 (1) (a) of the WCPF Convention, which provides that the Commission may*

determine the total allowable catch or total level of fishing effort within the Convention Area for such highly migratory fish stocks and decide and adopt such other conservation and management measures and recommendations as may be necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of such stocks without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing highly migratory fish stocks within areas under national jurisdiction;

*Conscious of the need to identify, analyze and respond to the impacts of climate change on the tuna and tuna-like species in the North Pacific Ocean in a timely manner to enhance the effectiveness of the conservation and management for the species;*

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

**General Provision**

1. This conservation and management measure has been prepared to implement the Harvest Strategy for Pacific Bluefin Tuna Fisheries (Harvest Strategy 2023-02), and the Northern Committee shall periodically review and recommend revisions to this measure as needed to implement the Harvest Strategy.

**Management measures**

2. CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that total fishing effort by their vessel fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of the 20° N shall stay below the 2002–2004 annual average levels.
3. Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei shall, respectively, take measures necessary to ensure that its catches of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg and Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger shall not exceed the annual catch limits in the tables below, without prejudice to future agreement on allocation of TAC.

*Pacific Bluefin tuna less than 30kg*

	2002-2004 average annual level	Annual initial catch limit
Japan	8,015 metric tons	4,407 metric tons
Korea	1,435 metric tons	718 metric tons

*Pacific Bluefin tuna 30kg or larger*

	2002-2004 average annual level	Annual initial catch limit
Japan	4,882 metric tons	8,421 metric tons
Korea	0 metric tons	501 metric tons
Chinese Taipei	1,709 metric tons	2,947 metric tons

4. CCMs with a base line catch (2002-2004 average annual level) of 10 tons or less of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger may increase their catch as long as it does not exceed 10 metric tons per year. The catch limit of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger for New Zealand shall be 200 metric

tonnes per year and for Australia 40 metric tonnes per year, taking into account their nature as bycatch fisheries conducted in their waters in the Southern hemisphere.<sup>1</sup>

5. Any overage or underage of the catch limit shall be deducted from or may be added to the catch limit for the following year. The maximum underage that a CCM may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 17% of its annual initial catch limit.
6. CCMs described in paragraph 3 may use part of the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg stipulated in paragraph 3 above to catch Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger in the same year. In this case, the amount of catch 30kg or larger shall be counted against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg.<sup>2</sup> CCMs shall not use the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger to catch Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg.
7. CCMs are encouraged to conduct research activities to collect reliable indices of recruitment stock and adult spawning stock. Notwithstanding paragraph 3 and 4, setting a catch limit dedicated for research activities to develop and maintain indices may be considered by WCPFC through the Northern Committee based on research plans reviewed and supported by the ISC.
8. All CCMs except Japan shall implement the limits in paragraph 3 on a calendar-year basis. Japan shall implement the limits using a management year other than the calendar year for some of its fisheries and have its implementation assessed with respect to its management year. To facilitate the assessment, Japan shall:
  - a. Use the following management years:
    1. For its fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, use the calendar year as the management year.
    2. For its other fisheries, use 1 April – 31 March as the management year.<sup>3</sup>
  - b. In its annual reports for PBF, for each category described in a.1 and a.2 above, complete the required reporting template for both the management year and calendar year clearly identifying fisheries for each management year.
9. CCMs shall report to the Executive Director by 15 June each year their fishing effort and <30 kg and >=30 kg catch levels, by fishery, for the previous 3 years, accounting for all catches, including discards. CCMs shall report their annual catch limits and their annual catches of PBF, with adequate computation details, to present their implementation for paragraph 5 and 6, if the measures and arrangements in the said paragraphs and relevant footnotes applied. The Executive Director will compile this information each year into an appropriate format for the use of the Northern Committee.
10. CCMs shall intensify cooperation for effective implementation of this CMM, including juvenile catch reduction. For this purpose, CCMs will make every effort to prevent their catch of age-0 fish (less than 2kg) from increasing beyond their 50% of 2002-2004 levels.
11. CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year.
12. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, and in accordance with domestic laws and regulations, CCMs shall, to the extent possible, take measures necessary to

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<sup>1</sup> New Zealand and Australia may carry forward up to 35 tonnes per year and 10 tonnes per year, respectively, from 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 to 2023 and 2024. This special arrangement does not create any precedent in future management.

<sup>2</sup> A CCM may count the amount of catch 30kg or larger adjusted with the conversion factor 0.68 (catch 30kg or larger multiplied by 0.68) against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg.

<sup>3</sup> For the category described a.2 of paragraph 7, the TCC shall assess in year 20XX its implementation during the management year that starts 1 April 20XX-1 (e.g., in the 2020 compliance review, the TCC will assess Japan's implementation for its fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries during calendar-year 2019 and for its other fisheries during 1 April 2019 through 31 March 2020).

prevent commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of this CMM, especially measures prescribed in the paragraph 3 above. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.

13. CCMs shall cooperate to establish a catch documentation scheme (CDS) to be applied to Pacific bluefin tuna in accordance with the **Attachment** of this CMM.
14. CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen monitoring and data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and farming in order to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting.
15. CCMs shall report to Executive Director by 15 June annually measures they used to implement paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 17 of this CMM. CCMs shall also monitor the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna and report the results to Executive Director by 15 June annually. The Northern Committee shall annually review those reports CCMs submit pursuant to this paragraph and if necessary, advise a CCM to take an action for enhancing its compliance with this CMM.
16. The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this CMM to the IATTC Secretariat and its contracting parties whose fishing vessels engage in fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in EPO and request them to take equivalent measures in conformity with this CMM.
17. To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties through the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna or bilaterally.
18. The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 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 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 Pacific bluefin tuna in the future.
19. The provisions of paragraph 18 shall not provide a basis for an increase in fishing effort by fishing vessels owned or operated by interests outside such developing coastal State, particularly 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.
20. This CMM replaces CMM 2023-02. On the basis of a new stock assessment conducted by ISC, the harvest strategy based on the management strategy evaluation expected to be completed in 2025, fair and equitable balance of fishing opportunities between the WCPO and the EPO as well as among Members, and other pertinent information such as the impact of climate change, as appropriate, this CMM shall be reviewed and may be amended as appropriate in 2026.

## Development of a Catch Document Scheme for Pacific Bluefin Tuna

### Background

At the 1st joint working group meeting between NC and IATTC, held in Fukuoka, Japan from August 29 to September 1, 2016, participants supported to advance the work on the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) in the next joint working group meeting, in line with the development of overarching CDS framework by WCPFC and taking into account of the existing CDS by other RFMOs.

### 1. Objective of the Catch Document Scheme

The objective of CDS is to combat IUU fishing for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) by providing a means of preventing PBF and its products identified as caught by or originating from IUU fishing activities from moving through the commodity chain and ultimately entering markets.

### 2. Use of electronic scheme

Whether CDS will be a paper based scheme, an electronic scheme or a gradual transition from a paper based one to an electronic one should be first decided since the requirement of each scheme would be quite different.

### 3. Basic elements to be included in the draft conservation and management measure (CMM)

It is considered that at least the following elements should be considered in drafting CMM.

- (1) Objective
- (2) General provision
- (3) Definition of terms
- (4) Validation authorities and validating process of catch documents and re-export certificates
- (5) Verification authorities and verifying process for import and re-import
- (6) How to handle PBF caught by artisanal fisheries
- (7) How to handle PBF caught by recreational or sport fisheries
- (8) Use of tagging as a condition for exemption of validation
- (9) Communication between exporting members and importing members
- (10) Communication between members and the Secretariat
- (11) Role of the Secretariat
- (12) Relationship with non-members
- (13) Relationship with other CDSs and similar programs
- (14) Consideration to developing members
- (15) Schedule for introduction
- (16) Attachment
  - (i) Catch document forms
  - (ii) Re-export certificate forms
  - (iii) Instruction sheets for how to fill out forms
  - (iv) List of data to be extracted and compiled by the Secretariat



#### **4. Work plan**

The following schedule may need to be modified, depending on the progress on the WCPFC CDS for tropical tunas.

- 2017 The joint working group will submit this concept paper to the NC and IATTC for endorsement. NC will send the WCPFC annual meeting the recommendation to endorse the paper.
- 2018 The joint working group will hold a technical meeting, preferably around its meeting, to materialize the concept paper into a draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.
- 2019 The joint working group will hold a second technical meeting to improve the draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.
- 20XX The joint working group will hold a third technical meeting to finalize the draft CMM. Once it is finalized, the joint working group will submit it to the NC and the IATTC for adoption. The NC will send the WCPFC the recommendation to adopt it.

**CMM2013-06 assessment and audit point checklist for PBF conservation and management  
measure recommended by NC**

CMM2013-06 Criteria

In accordance with CMM2013-06 (Conservation and management measure on the criteria for the consideration of conservation and management proposals), the following assessment has been undertaken.

a. Who is required to implement the proposal?

All CCMs are required to implement the current CMM(CMM-2023-02), although Pacific bluefin tuna catches reported by SIDS CCMs are very small according to the report by Secretariat (WCPFC20-2023-IP20).

For possible extension of fisheries for SIDS in the future, the current CMM state in its paragraph 17, “The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 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 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 Pacific bluefin tuna in the future.”

NC recommended amendment does not change the above-mentioned nature of the current CMM, as is provided in the paragraph 17 of the proposal.

b. Which CCMs would this proposal impact and in what way(s) and what proportion?

NC recommended amendment will have an impact on all CCMs fishing Pacific bluefin tuna. However, as described above, this proposal does not impact fisheries by SIDS.

c. Are there linkages with other proposals or instruments in other regional fisheries management organizations or international organizations that reduce the burden of implementation?

No.

d. Does the proposal affect development opportunities for SIDS?

No.

(Comment from FFA members)

Without a TRP for PBF, which is expected to set the stock at a level that benefits all CCM's, SIDS will continue to be deprived of development opportunities to explore this stock. With the current proposal to increase catches of PBF, it will benefit only those who are already fishing for this stock, delaying genuine efforts to build the PBF stock to levels that support development opportunities for SIDS.

e. Does the proposal affect SIDS domestic access to resources and development aspirations?

No.

(Comment from FFA members)

Yes, see notes above on d.

f. What resources, including financial and human capacity, are needed by SIDS to implement the proposal?  
No additional resources are required for SIDS to implement this proposal.

g. What mitigation measures are included in the proposal?  
No mitigation measures are included since this proposal does not impact fisheries by SIDS.

h. What assistance mechanisms and associated timeframe, including training and financial support, are included in the proposal to avoid a disproportionate burden on SIDS?  
No assistance mechanisms is included since this proposal does not impose any disproportionate burden on SIDS.

Audit Points Checklist for Proposed New or Amended Obligations (“Audit Points Checklist”)

*(To be completed by proponents of new and amended measures. This checklist should not be confused with the “2013-06 Checklist”, which is specific to impacts of new or amended proposals on SIDS.)*

1. To whom does the obligation apply? Set out any proposed exceptions or exclusions.

■ All CCMs □ Flag CCMs □ Some CCMs - if so, which CCMs?

2. What is the scope of the new obligations (i.e., does it apply to a particular geographical area, fishery, stock, species of special interest?)

Pacific bluefin tuna

3. Are there existing obligations that should be assessed in combination with any of the proposed new obligations? If so, name the CMM and paragraph(s), or other Commission obligation.

No.

4. Which proposed new obligations will require submission of Reports (R) or Implementation Statements (I), impose Limits (L), or have Deadlines (D)? Please fill out the relevant section(s) for each of the proposed new obligations.

II. Deadline

Specify what is required and by what deadline.

Following reporting obligations are included in this proposal. However, current CMM has same obligations.

Paragraph 9,

CCMs shall report to the Executive Director by 15 June each year their fishing effort and <30 kg and >=30 kg catch levels, by fishery, for the previous 3 year, accounting for all catches, including discards. CCMs shall report their annual catch limits and their annual catches of PBF, with adequate computation details, to present their implementation for paragraph 5 and 6, if the measures and arrangements in the said paragraphs and relevant footnotes applied. The Executive Director will compile this information each year into an appropriate format for the use of the Northern Committee.

Paragraph 15,

CCMs shall report to Executive Director by 15 June annually measures they used to implement paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 17 of this CMM. CCMs shall also monitor the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna and report the results to Executive Director by 15 June annually. The Northern Committee shall annually review those reports CCMs submit pursuant to this paragraph and

if necessary, advise a CCM to take an action for enhancing its compliance with this CMM.

### III. Report

Specify the type of information that is required, including any specific formats or templates to be used, and whether the information must be complete (100%) or a sub-set of information is sufficient to meet the proposed objective.

The required information is stipulated above.

The current CMM has same reporting obligations, and they are reported through the Annual report and meeting documents for the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group.

Is this information already provided wholly or in part through any other data submission requirement, i.e. operational level catch and effort data?

As explained above, the current CMM has same reporting obligations. The obligations are reported through the Annual report and meeting documents for the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group.

If no, specify the proposed reporting mechanism to be used for submission of new required information (i.e., Annual Report Part 1, Annual Report Part 2, direct to WCPFC Secretariat, other)

N/A

Can the information provided be verified through another source? If yes, specify what other data or information source should be used.

ISC's fisheries statistics can be used for verification.

### IV. Implementation

In addition to the required Implementation Statements, list any additional information required to demonstrate CCM's implementation with the proposed new requirement.

Describe any data or other information that can be reviewed by the WCPFC Secretariat to confirm or verify implementation.

### V. Quantitative Limit

Specify the proposed CCM-level or Collective limit.

Proposed catch limits are indicated in paragraph 3 and 4 of this proposal.

Specify what verifiable data shall be provided by CCM to confirm its adherence to the limit.

Annual report and meeting documents for the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group

Specify what data sources are available to the WCPFC Secretariat to review and confirm CCM's reported limit.

ISC's fisheries statistics can be used for verification.

VI. Other

If none of the other categories are appropriate:

Specify the nature of the obligation.

Specify how compliance is to be assessed.

Process for considering proposed audit points alongside new proposals

The purpose of the checklist is for proponents of new obligations to identify what they see as being the appropriate criteria or performance standard by which compliance should be assessed against new or amended obligations. This process will assist in identifying data gaps, potential duplication of reporting, and existing measures that might be linked to new or amended obligations.

The process for considering proposed audit points for proposed new obligations is as follows:

Step 1: Proponent of the proposed new or amended obligation(s) submits a completed AP Checklist at the same time as the proposed new or amended obligation(s) is submitted.

Step 2: Where proposed new or amended obligation(s) undergoes further discussion and negotiation, the AP Checklist remains attached to the proposal and is also considered throughout the iterative process.

Step 3: If proposed new or amended obligation(s) reaches the stage of finalization for adoption, the lead CCM on finalizing the proposed new or amended obligation(s) also updates the AP Checklist to reflect the final proposed new or amended obligation(s).

Step 4: The proposed audit points for the proposed new or amended obligation(s) are adopted as part of the final proposed new or amended obligation(s) and attached to the final CMM, or in the case of a Commission decision that is not reflected in a CMM, the proposed audit points are posted on the appropriate section of the WCPFC website associated with the decision or outcome.

Proposed audit points for proposed amendments to CMM2023-02

Note: All draft audit points are copies of already agreed audit points.

<b>Paragraph</b>	<b>Obligation</b>	<b>Draft Audit Point</b>
2.CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that total fishing effort by their vessel fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of the 20° N shall stay below the 2002–2004 annual average levels.	Quantitative Limits	CCM reported its total level of fishing effort by CCM's flagged vessels fishing for PBF north of 20N in its report to the Secretariat as required by paragraph 9 of the CMM, and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported total fishing effort and confirm that the CCM's allowable limit was not exceeded.

<p>3. Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei shall, respectively, take measures necessary to ensure that its catches of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg and Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger shall not exceed the annual catch limits in the tables below</p>	<p>Quantitative Limits</p>	<p>CCM reported its total catches of PBF less than 30kg and 30kg or larger and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported total catches and confirm that the total catch level does not exceed the CCM's allowable annual limit.</p>
<p>4. CCMs with a base line catch (2002-2004 average annual level) of 10 tons or less of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger may increase their catch as long as it does not exceed 10 metric tons per year. The catch limit of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger for New Zealand shall be 200 metric tonnes per year and for Australia 40 metric tonnes per year, taking into account their nature as bycatch fisheries conducted in their waters in the Southern hemisphere</p>	<p>Quantitative Limits</p>	<p>CCM reported its total catches of PBF 30kg or larger and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported total catches and confirm that the CCM's catch of PBF 30kg or larger is within the CCM's applicable baseline catch limit.</p>
<p>9. CCMs shall report to the Executive Director by 15 June each year their fishing effort and &lt;30 kg and &gt;=30 kg catch levels, by fishery, for the previous 3 year, accounting for all catches, including discards. CCMs shall report their annual catch limits and their annual catches of PBF, with adequate computation details, to present their implementation for paragraph 5 and 6, if the measures and arrangements in the said paragraphs and relevant footnotes applied. The Executive Director will compile this information each year into an appropriate format for the use of the Northern Committee.</p>	<p>Report</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms CCM submitted a complete report to the Secretariat on total fishing effort and catch levels of PBT by fishery for the previous three years and catch information includes discards.</p>

<p>11. CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year</p>	<p>Report</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms receipt of a statement in AR Pt2 that confirms what measures the CCM took to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna each year.</p>
<p>12 . Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, and in accordance with domestic laws and regulations, CCMs shall, to the extent possible, take measures necessary to prevent commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of this CMM, especially measures prescribed in the paragraph 3 above. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.</p>	<p>Report</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms receipt of a statement in AR Pt2 that confirms what measures the CCM took, to the extent possible, necessary to prevent commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of this CMM</p>
<p>14 . CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen monitoring and data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and farming in order to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting.</p>	<p>Report</p>	<p>Secretariat confirms that CCMs submitted a statement in AR Pt2 that provides information on the measures it has taken to strengthen monitoring and data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and farming in order to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting</p>



<p>15. CCMs shall report to Executive Director by 15 June annually measures they used to implement paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 17 of this CMM. CCMs shall also monitor the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna and report the results to Executive Director by 15 June annually. The Northern Committee shall annually review those reports CCMs submit pursuant to this paragraph and if necessary, advise a CCM to take an action for enhancing its compliance with this CMM.</p>	<p>Report</p>	<p>The Secretariat confirms receipt of a complete report by the CCM on national binding measures adopted to implement paragraphs 2, 3, 4, , 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 17 of the CMM, and that the report includes results of the CCM's monitoring of international trade of products derived from PBF.</p>
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