



**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**

**Electronic Meeting
5 November 2024**

SUMMARY REPORT

Acknowledgements

The financial, logistical and administrative support provided by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Secretariat and all Members of the Northern Committee are gratefully acknowledged. Mr. Masanori Miyahara, who chaired the Resumed Meeting of the Twentieth Regular Session of the Northern Committee, and Mr. Shinji Hiruma, who served as the rapporteur for the meeting, are acknowledged with appreciation.

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Attachment A – List of Participants

Attachment B – Agenda

Attachment C – WCPFC Circular No.:2024/74

Attachment D –Draft Conservation and Management Measure for the Monitoring, Controlling, and
Surveillance of 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
Electronic Meeting
5 November 2024**

SUMMARY REPORT

AGENDA ITEM 1 — OPENING OF MEETING

1. The Resumed Meeting of the Twentieth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (hereafter referred to as NC20/2) took place electronically on 5 November 2024. 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 and observers from Australia, New Zealand, European Union (EU), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Tuvalu, and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The list of meeting participants is in **Attachment A**.

1.1 Opening of meeting

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

1.2 Adoption of agenda

3. The provisional agenda was adopted without modification (**Attachment B**).

1.3 Meeting arrangements

4. Mr. Shinji Hiruma (Japan) was appointed as the rapporteur for the meeting.

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

2.1 Pacific bluefin tuna

5. The NC noted that WCPFC Circular No.:2024/74 (**Attachment C**) included a letter from Mr. Josh Madeira, the new Co-Chair of the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG), informing that 102nd meeting of the IATTC adopted [C-24-03](#) on Monitoring and Control Measures for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries, with additional details and provisions not included in the JWG recommendation adopted in July 2024.

6. Japan presented a proposal to amend the Draft Conservation and Management Measure for Monitoring, Controlling and Surveillance of Pacific Bluefin Tuna, as recommended by NC20 at its July meeting, to incorporate additional details and provisions in C-24-03 for implementing harmonized measures between the two organizations.

7. EU presented its proposal submitted to the annual meeting, noting that EU is not a member of the NC. EU proposal is similar to Japanese proposal, but there are three main differences (1) bycatch reporting requirement, (2) CDS, because EU believed that those elements are already included in the current CMM but it can go along with Japanese proposal on these two elements and (3) regarding the review process. The EU indicated that, to mirror the provisions in IATTC resolution, the review process in the MCS measures should be attributed to TCC.

8. Japan presented amended proposal which considered EU's comment on the involvement of TCC while maintaining consistency with the rules of procedure in relation to the role of the NC.

9. EU appreciated the proposal and provided its comment on the timeline.

10. Cook Islands supported the EU's proposal on the role of the TCC to review the implementation of the CMM including MCS measure of the PBF and suggested to change the order of the TCC and NC in the CMM.

11. US asked questions regarding the order of the meeting of JWG, NC and TCC. NC Chair responded that it is physically impossible to have a perfect order of the meetings, and NC may have additional session after TCC if necessary.

12. China asked to clarify if reporting requirement on by-catches in paragraph 3 does not include zero catch. NC Chair made an affirmative response.

13. EU suggested that not only NC but also TCC should make recommendation to the Commission on possible amendment of the CMM. NC Chair clarified that, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, it is only NC which can make recommendation to amend the CMM to the Commission on the Northern stocks and that, in this context, EU's amendment was not considered in line with the rules of procedure.

14. NZ asked clarification if paragraph 2(1) of Japan's proposal require registration of those NZ fishing vessels operate within its EEZ and are not registered on the WCPFC RFV. Japan responded that the text used "including" and it does include those vessels on WCPFC RFV that operate in the High Seas but does not necessarily include domestic vessels.

15. **The NC recommended that the Commission adopt the Conservation and Management Measure for the Monitoring, Controlling, and Surveillance of Pacific Bluefin Tuna in Attachment D, which replaces the previously adopted CMM in Attachment E of the NC20 Summary Report.**

AGENDA ITEM 3 — OTHER MATTERS

3.1 Other business

16. No other business was discussed.

AGENDA ITEM 4 — ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 20TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE NORTHERN COMMITTEE

17. The NC reviewed and adopted the Summary Report of the resumed Meeting of the 20th Northern Committee (NC20/2) and agreed that its findings would replace the relevant sections in the NC20 Summary Report adopted in July 2024.

AGENDA ITEM 5 — CLOSE OF THE MEETING

18. The meeting was ended at 12:20 am on 5 November 2024 in Pohnpei time.

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

Electronic Meeting

5 November 2024

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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**Commission for the Conservation and Management of
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**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
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Electronic Meeting

5 November 2024

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR NC20/2

AGENDA ITEM 1 — OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 Opening of meeting

The Chair Masanori Miyahara (Japan) will open the resumed meeting of the Twentieth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC20/2) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), which will be held online on 5 November 2024.

1.2 Adoption of agenda

The Chair will introduce the Provisional Agenda, WCPFC-NC20-2024/03-1.

1.3 Meeting arrangements

The Chair will outline the schedule of the meeting and introduce the rapporteur for the meeting.

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

2.1 Pacific bluefin tuna

NC20/2 will discuss technical adjustments to the outcomes of the 20th regular session of the Northern Committee (NC20) held in Kushiro, Japan, on 6-7 July. These adjustments are in response to recent IATTC decisions on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries.

AGENDA ITEM 3 — OTHER MATTERS

3.1 Other business

NC20/2 will discuss any other business raised under Agenda Item 1.2.

AGENDA ITEM 4 — ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE NC20/2

NC20/2 will adopt its Summary Report. It will make every effort to adopt its Summary Report by consensus. If consensus is not reached, the Summary Report will indicate the majority and minority views and may include the differing views of the representatives of the Members on all

or any part of the Summary Report.

AGENDA ITEM 5 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting is scheduled to close at 2 pm on 5 November 2024.

Commission for the Conservation and Management of
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NORTHERN COMMITTEE
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**TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS,
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES AND OBSERVERS**

Circular No.: 2024/74
Date: 17 October 2024
No. pages: 4

NC20 – Another separate NC20 online meeting

Dear All,

As requested, please refer to the attached advance information from the NC Chair on holding another separate NC20 online meeting before the Commission meeting in late November. The JWG Co-Chair's report on the outcomes of the 102nd IATTC meeting on Pacific bluefin tuna is also attached.

Once available, Mr Miyahara's signed letter will be re-posted on the NC20 website. Questions may be directed to the Secretariat's Science Manager, Dr SungKwon Soh, at sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int.

Yours sincerely,



Rhea Moss-Christian
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

17 October 2024

Subject: Introduction of New Co-Chair and Request for Consideration of Technical Amendments to PBF Measures

Dear Northern Committee Members,

Please find attached a letter from the new Co-Chair of the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group reporting the outcomes of the 102nd IATTC meeting on Pacific bluefin tuna. I am pleased to welcome Mr. Josh Madeira, Director of Policy and Stakeholder Engagement at Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey, California, USA, as the Co-Chair of the JWG. We look forward to continuing active collaboration between the IATTC and WCPFC in managing Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in the Pacific Ocean.

In his letter, Co-Chair Madeira highlights the recent adoption of Pacific bluefin tuna-related Resolutions by the IATTC and requests whether WCPFC-NC members would consider any technical amendments to the newly proposed Conservation and Management Measure for Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance of Pacific Bluefin Tuna. These amendments would align with Resolution [C-24-03](#) (Monitoring and Control Measures for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the EPO).

Considering this, I intend to convene a short online NC meeting to discuss adjustments to the outcomes of NC20 (Attachment E, [NC20 Summary Report](#)) from the July meeting in response to the recent IATTC decisions. Once the details of this online meeting are confirmed, I will provide you with further information.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,



Masanori Miyahara
NC Chair

15 October 2024

Mr. Masanori Miyahara
Co-Chair for WCPFC-NC
Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group on the Management of Pacific bluefin tuna

RE: Outcomes of the 102nd IATTC meeting relating to Pacific bluefin tuna

Dear Co-Chair Miyahara,

It is a pleasure to commence working with you in my new role as the IATTC Co-Chair of the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Northern Committee (NC) Working Group on the Management of Pacific bluefin tuna (JWG). I would like to report on the outcomes relating to Pacific bluefin tuna at the recent 102nd meeting of the IATTC hosted by Panama from 02 September to 06 September 2024.

The IATTC:

- Adopted C-24-02, Measures for the Conservation and Management of Pacific bluefin tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. This resolution amended the catch limits and related measures for 2025 – 2026, consistent with the recommendations provided by the JWG in July 2024.
- Adopted C-24-03, On Monitoring and Control Measures for the bluefin tuna fishery in the EPO. This resolution included provisions covering monitoring and control measures for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries, farming operations, review and instructions to establish a catch documentation scheme.

To ensure transparency and understanding by all JWG member nations, I respectfully call your attention to the language in C-24-03 that contains some additional detail and provisions that were not included in the JWG recommendations from July 2024 - please see Annex G of the Chair's Summary of the 9th IATTC and WCPFC NC Joint Working Group on the Management of Pacific bluefin tuna that outlines a new Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of Pacific bluefin tuna in the WCPFC.

Given the intent of the JWG to encourage consistent measures for Pacific bluefin tuna across both RFMOs, it may be advisable for WCPFC-NC members to consider if any technical amendments to their MCS measures (Annex G) are necessary and appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Josh Madeira
Co-Chair for IATTC
Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group on the Management of Pacific bluefin tuna

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

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 29 of CMM 2024-xx.

Review

4. The Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) and the Northern Committee (NC) shall review the implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance measures reported by CCMs in accordance with this CMM by 2026. Based upon the results of such reviews, the NC shall provide recommendations to the Commission including on possible amendments to this CMM and CMM 2024-xx for Pacific Bluefin Tuna taking into account any considerations from the TCC and those from the Joint IATTC-WCPFC-NC Working Group.
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.