

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
TENTH SESSION (JWG-10)**

9 – 12 July 2025
Toyama, Japan (Hybrid)

Report on CMM 2024-01 (Pacific bluefin tuna)

IATTC-NC-JWG10-2025/DP-06

KOREA

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<ccmklee@korea.kr>
Subject: Reports on PBF

Dear Dr. Soh,

I write to submit the attached Korea's reports on PBF in accordance with CMM 2024-01 and CMM 2024-02.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ilkang

+++++
[ILKANG NA](#)
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Implementation Report on the Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (CMM 2024-01)

June 13, 2025

Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea

Pursuant to paragraph 15 of the Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (CMM 2024-01), the Republic of Korea hereby reports on its implementation of CMM 2024-01 as follows:

A. Overview

In 2024, Korea's total available catch limit for Pacific Bluefin tuna (hereinafter referred to as "PBF") was 870.06 tons. Korea's annual catch limit for PBF less than 30kg was set at 718 tons—50% of its 2002-2004 annual average (1,435 tons) while that for PBF 30kg or larger was set at 30 ton. The unused amount of 2023 catch limit for PBF less than 30kg was 164.07 tons, 122.06 tons of which was carried forward to 2024.

The catch proportion of set net fishery has been increasing in recent years and the 2024 catch was the record high. The catch of large PBF in 2024 accounted for 54.8% of the total catch. The offshore purse seine fishing vessels operated during February to April in the eastern and southern areas off the coast of Jeju island, and the PBF catch in set net fishery took place throughout the year along the East coast of Korean peninsula.

B. Further Details of implementation

Paragraph 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.

In 2024, nineteen (19) large-scale purse seiners caught PBF so the number of vessels was below the level of 2002-2004 annual average (30 vessels).

< The Number of Vessels Caught PBF from 2002 to 2004 >

Year	No. of Vessels
2002	32
2003	29
2004	29

Paragraph 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.

The Ministerial Directive on the Conservation and Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of Korea requires that any PBF catches/releases/discards must be reported to the National Institute of Fisheries Science (NIFS) within 24 hours of the catch. Since 2005, Korean government has been cross-checking the reported PBF catches by Korean purse seiners and set net fishermen with the sales log sheets maintained at designated consignment markets for the purpose of verification.

Major requirements of the Ministerial Directive also include:

- The efforts for PBF and the catches of juvenile PBF shall stay below the level prescribed by the relevant conservation and management measures of the WCPFC;
- Catches of PBF (e.g. target/non-target, quantities) shall be reported to the government, and be sold only at a designated consignment market; and
- When total PBF catches are deemed to approach or exceed its annual catch limit, the government shall take necessary measures to prevent the total catches from exceeding the catch limit (e.g. prohibition of PBF catches and closure of designated consignment market for PBF).

The aforementioned Directive requires that any catches of PBF 30kg or larger must be reported along with the record of corresponding fishing activities to NIFS within 24 hours of the catch. In addition, all individuals of PBF caught are required to be sold only at designated consignment markets for the purpose of verification and prevention of any illegal trade.

If and when there is a risk of breaching the catch limit stipulated in the CMM, the government takes measures including the prohibition of fishing and landing of PBF, the closure of designated consignment markets for PBF and the suspension of issuing PBF statistical documents.

Paragraph 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.

In 2024, 186.36 tons of catch limit for small PBF was not utilized and 122.06 tons was carried forward to 2025.

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.

< PBF catches (t) in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 by size and fishery >

Year	smaller than 30kg				30kg or larger				Total
	Purse Seiner	set net	others	subtotal	Purse Seiner	set net	others	subtotal	
2021	365.6	83.1	3.1	451.8	56.6	1.1	0.0	57.7	509.5
2022	144.7	214.7	6.4	365.8	509.0	6.7	0.0	515.7	881.5
2023	124.8	201.3	5.2	331.3	323.1	14.0	0.0	337.1	668.4
2024	39.3	285.3	22.5	347.1	399.5	21.5	0.0	421.1	768.2

< Computation details for 2024 >

Initial catch limit (tons)	Large fish(≥30Kg)	Small fish(<30Kg) (a)	Total
	30	718	748
Unused catch limit carried forward from the previous year	Large fish	Small fish	Total
	0	122.06	122.06
Total available catch limit	Large fish (b)	Small fish (c)	Total
	30	840.06	870.06
Catch	Large fish (d)	Small fish (e)	Total
	421.05	347.12	768.17

Application of the conversion factor and Utilization of catch limit (tons)	
1) Maximum amount of small fish catch limit that can be utilized to catch large fish applying the conversion factor = (a) x 0.25	179.5
2) Amount of large fish that corresponds to 1) = 1) ÷ 0.68	263.97
3) Amount of large fish caught utilizing small fish catch limit, without applying the conversion factor = (d) - 2) - (b)	127.08
4) Total amount of small fish catch limit utilized = (e) + 1) + 3)	653.70
5) Total amount of large fish catch limit utilized = (d) - 2) - 3)	30
6) Catch limit not utilized = (c) - 4)	186.36
7) Amount of catch limit carried forward to 2025 (17% of the initial catch limit)	122.06

Paragraph 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.

In the case of Korea, purse seine is the main gear type for pacific bluefin tuna fishing. More than 50% of Korea's total available catch limit is allocated to purse seine fisheries. Since the commercial value of age-0 fish is very low, our purse seine vessels will avoid catching age-0 fish. In any case, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries instructed the relevant regional government and vessel operators not to catch age-0 fish to the extent possible. The other portion of Korea's catch limit is allocated to set net and other fisheries which do not target pacific bluefin tuna and which may catch age-0 fish regardless of their intention.

In 2024, the catch of age-0 fish (less than 2kg) reported through port-sampling and field surveys was 303.6kg.

Paragraph 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.

NIFS has been collecting eggs and larvae of fisheries resources which occur, spawn, and/or transported in the Korean EEZ to study their bioecological characteristics. Due to the recent increase in the import of large PBF into the Korean EEZ since 2019, NIFS has conducted surveys of PBF eggs and larvae, covering the waters from the southern coast of Jeju Island to the northern west area of the East Sea, using its research vessels. PBF eggs and larvae were collected in the East Sea in 2021 and 2022. Widespread presence of PBF eggs and larvae was confirmed in the areas off the southern coast of Jeju and the southern part of the areas off the eastern coast of Korean peninsula in 2023. In 2024, the eggs and larvae were concentrated at depths less than 20m in the waters around Jeju.

Paragraph 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.

Korea's Ministerial Directive on the Conservation and Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna requires that all PBF caught by Korean vessels be sold only at designated consignment fish markets in order to prevent any commercial transaction of PBF and its products that could undermine the effectiveness of the CMM. The international trade of

PBF is also being monitored through statistical documents accompanied by PBF exported to foreign markets, mostly the Japanese market.

Also, the government takes measures including the prohibition of fishing and landing of PBF and the closure of designated consignment markets for PBF and statistical documents, if and when there is a risk of undermining the effectiveness of the CMM for PBF (e.g. overages of PBF juvenile catch limits).

In 2024, there was no PBF import and total 303 tons of PBF (276.3 tons of fresh tuna and 26.7 tons of frozen tuna) was exported to Japan. This is a preliminary figure and may be updated at a later stage.

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;

The government requires designated consignment market representatives and port-samplers to report the records of PBF sales and biological data (e.g. length, weight) to the government, respectively. Since 2015, all fishers have been required to report to the government any catches of PBF within 24 hours of the catch. The National Institute of Fisheries Science takes some of PBF sold at designated consignment markets as a sample to collect and analyze biological data (e.g. weight, length, stomach contents and otolith, etc.)

16. 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.

Korea engages in close consultations and cooperation with the concerned IATTC Contracting Parties through relevant meetings of WCPFC and IATTC as well as bilateral meetings, in order to enhance the effectiveness of this CMM.

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
TENTH SESSION (JWG-10)**

14 – 15 July 2025
Toyama, Japan (Hybrid)

**COMPILED INFORMATION ON PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
(FISHING EFFORT AND CATCH IN THE WCPO)**

**IATTC-NC-JWG10-2025/WP-01
(WCPFC-NC21-2025/WP-02)**

Secretariat

According to Paragraph 9 of the WCPFC CMM 2024-01, fishing efforts and the catch of Pacific bluefin tuna are compiled based on WCPFC Members' reports, which are annexed in Tables 1 and 2.

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.*

The information in the Tables below will be modified subject to any further updates from Members.

Individual Country Report is available at the *Delegation Proposals and Papers* folder at [Tenth Joint IATTC-NC Working Group Meeting on PBF Management | WCPFC Meetings](#)

**Compiled Information on Pacific Bluefin Tuna
(Fishing Effort and Catch)**

Table 1. Fishing effort by vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna *in the area north of 20° N in the Convention Area*

Fishery	Unit of fishing effort ¹	Baseline fishing effort (Para 2, CMM 2024-01)				Fishing effort (Para 9, CMM 2024-01)		
		2002	2003	2004	2002-2004 Average	2022	2023	2024
Canada								
Not applicable		0	0	0	0	0	0	
China								
		0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cook Islands								
Longline		Unknown	Unknown	0		0	0	
Fiji								
Longline	No. of vessels	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Japan								
Purse Seine	No. of vessels	69	60	59	63	44	42	
Longline Dist. & Off.	No. of vessels	654	632	613	633	383	378	
Longline Coastal	No. of vessels	399	422	386	402	303	298	
Artisanal fisheries	No. of vessels	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		17,408	16,878	
Set Net	No. of licenses	1,876	1,956	1,956	1,929	1,784	1,688	
Korea								
large-scale purse seiners	No. of vessels	32	29	29	30	19	19	19
Philippines								
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	
Chinese Taipei								
Longline	No. of vessels	684	659	632	658	485	486	
U.S.A.								
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	
Vanuatu								
Longline	No. of vessels	0	0	0	0	0	0	

¹ e.g., sets, fishing days, vessels

Table 2. Catches (mt), including discards, of Pacific bluefin tuna *in the Convention Area* (include all the fisheries in the previous table, plus all other fisheries that catch any Pacific bluefin tuna)

Fishery	All catches (Para 3, CMM 2024-01)								All catches (Para 9, CMM 2024-01)					
	2002		2003		2004		2002-2004 Average		2022		2023		2024	
	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg
Australia²														
Longline	-	6	0	12	-	10	-	9	-	9	-	27		
Canada														
Troll	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
China														
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Cook Islands														
Longline	0	1,789	0	2,94	0	1,35	0	2	0	0	0	0		
Fiji														
Longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Japan³														
Purse Seine	5,174	3,730	4,995	774	3,466	4,792	4,545	3,099	1,010	3,676	757	3,779		
Longline Dist.&Off.	0	52	0	97	0	240	0	130	0	723	0	745		
Longline Coastal	0	794	0	1,152	0	1,616	0	1,187	98	825	98	749		
Artisanal fisheries	2,607	0	2,060	0	2,445	0	2,371	0	919	160	974	186		
Set Net	1,008	92	648	191	660	235	772	173	1,471	655	1,339	549		
Others	521	210	249	241	214	432	328	294	232	314	258	311		
Recreational fisheries									0	28	0	46		
Total	<u>9,310</u>	<u>4,878</u>	<u>7,952</u>	<u>2,455</u>	<u>6,785</u>	<u>7,315</u>	<u>8,016</u>	<u>4,883</u>	<u>3,731</u>	<u>6,381</u>	<u>3,426</u>	<u>6,366</u>		

² Australia catches 2002-04 are based on logbooks and 2021-23 are based on landings data

³ Catches (mt) in calendar year basis, including discards, of Pacific bluefin tuna *in the Convention Area* (include all the fisheries in the previous table, plus all other fisheries that catch any Pacific bluefin tuna)

(Japan continued)

Catches (mt) in management year⁴ basis, including discards, of Pacific bluefin tuna *in the Convention Area* (include all the fisheries in the previous table, plus all other fisheries that catch any Pacific bluefin tuna)

Fishery		2022		2023		2024	
		<30 kg	≥30 kg	<30 kg	≥30 kg	<30 kg	≥30 kg
Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Purse Seine	1,010	3,676	757	3,779		
	Longline Dist.&Off.	0	723	0	745		
Other fisheries	Longline Coastal	97	833	93	719		
	Artisanal fisheries	887	114	1,043	205		
	Set Net	1,401	553	1,156	481		
	Others	233	329	268	321		
Recreational fishery		0	28	0	46		
<u>Total</u>		<u>3,629</u>	<u>6,257</u>	<u>3,317</u>	<u>6,296</u>		
<u>Catch limit⁵</u>		<u>4,258</u>	<u>6,789</u>	<u>4,258</u>	<u>6,789</u>		

⁴ Management year is as follows.

- 5th management period: January 2019 - December 2019 for Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, April 2019 - March 2020 for Other fisheries.
- 6th management period: January 2020 - December 2020 for Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, April 2020 - March 2021 for Other fisheries.
- 2021 management period: January 2021 - December 2021 for Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, April 2021 - March 2022 for Other fisheries.

⁵ Catch limit is as follows.

- 2019 small fish: 4,007 tons - 250 tons (transfer from small fish to large fish) / large fish: 4,882 tons + 250 tons (transfer from small fish to large fish)
- 2020 small fish: 4,007 tons - 450 tons (transfer from small fish to large fish) + 681.1 tons (carry over from the previous management year)
large fish: 4,882 tons + 450 tons (transfer from small fish to large fish) + 527.5 tons (carry over from the previous management year) + 300 tons (transfer from Chinese Taipei)
- 2021 small fish: 4,007 tons - 450 tons (transfer from small fish to large fish) + 681.1 tons (carry over from the previous management year)
large fish: 4,882 tons + 450 tons (transfer from small fish to large fish) + 829.9 tons (carry over from the previous management year)

Fishery	All catches (Para 2, CMM 2023-02)								All catches (Para 9, CMM 2024-01)					
	2002		2003		2004		2002-2004 Average		2022		2023		2024	
	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg
Korea														
Purse seiner	932		2,601		773		1,435	0	144.7	509.0	124.8	323.1	39.3	399.5
Set net									214.7	6.7	201.3	14.0	285.3	21.5
Others									6.4	0.0	5.2	0.0	22.5	0.0
Total	932		2,601		773		1,435	0	365.8	515.7	331.3	337.1	347.1	421
New Zealand														
Longline	0	56.86	0	40.77	0	43.6	0	47.08	0	34.27	0	104.58		
Handline	0	0	0	0	0	22.2	0	7.40	0	0	0	0		
Troll	0	0	0	0	0	1.6	0	0.53	0	0	0	0		
Total	0	57	0	41	0	67	0	55	0	34	0	105		
Philippines														
Artisanal Handline or Hook-and-Line fisheries									0	2.392 (9 pcs at approx.. 250kgs each)	0	4.436 (9 pcs at approx.. 149-455 kgs each)		
Chinese Taipei														
Longline	0	1,523	0	1,863	0	1,714	0	1700	0	1,496	0	2,117		
Other coastal fisheries	0	4	0	21	0	3	0	9	0	2	0	5		
Total	0	1527	0	1884	0	1717	0	1,709	0	1,498	0	2,122		
U.S.A.⁶														
American Samoa LL	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0		
USA LL	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1		
Total	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1		
Vanuatu														
Longline ⁷	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.17	0	0	0		

⁶ Pacific bluefin tuna catches are reported on longline logsheets for the American Samoa fishery, however the species may be misidentified.

⁷ These small catches are bycatch only. Vanuatu does not target PBF at all.

