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**SUMMARY OF COLLABORATIVE HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTION (HSBI) AND
AERIAL SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY CANADA DURING “OPERATION NORTH
PACIFIC GUARD” IN 2024**

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Submitted by Canada



Summary of Collaborative High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) and Aerial Surveillance Activities Conducted by Canada During “Operation NORTH PACIFIC GUARD” in 2024

Technical and Compliance Committee - TCC21

Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia

Submitted by:

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Directorate of Conservation and Protection

Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO) – Government of Canada

Overview of Canada's High Seas Inspection and Surveillance Activities in the North Pacific

Canada's contributions to safeguarding marine ecosystems and fisheries resources on the high seas of the North Pacific are delivered through our collaborative participation in Operation NORTH PACIFIC GUARD, an annual multi-national fisheries surveillance and inspection campaign conducted with partner nations in the region. Between May and October 2024, Canada carried out both aerial fisheries surveillance and High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) activities within the high seas waters of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Convention Area. These fisheries monitoring operations were supported by space-based maritime surveillance coverage of the North Pacific, delivered through Canada's Dark Vessel Detection platform.

Canada led its high seas fisheries monitoring and surveillance efforts with the support and collaboration of key partners, including Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States. Canada's activities, directed at combatting illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the North Pacific and verifying compliance amongst both North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) and WCPFC high seas fishing fleets, resulted in the boarding and inspection of a combined total of 15 high seas fishing vessels, including 6 WCPFC registered vessels, and the aerial observation of over 400 fishing vessels (including both NPFC/WCPFC registered vessels) present within the high seas of the WCPFC convention area.

Op NORTH PACIFIC GUARD Inspection and Surveillance Results

Canada's HSBI activities in 2024 delivered the following results:

- 11 potential contraventions of WCPFC conservation and management measures (CMMs) were raised with flagged CCMs arising from 6 WCPFC HSBI events conducted between September and October 2024.
- Over 8,500 nautical miles of high seas waters in the WCPFC Convention Area were monitored by DFO's fisheries patrol vessel.
- 13 potential contraventions of WCPFC CCMs were observed arising from 34 fisheries aerial surveillance missions conducted within the WCPFC Convention Area between May and July 2024.
- All vessels encountered targeting highly migratory fish stocks in the WCPFC Convention Area were duly-authorized within the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels.

Potential WCPFC Contraventions Detected

Canada's HSBI and aerial inspection activities in 2024 resulted in observations of potential contraventions associated with multiple WCPFC CMMs. The following describes the WCPFC CMMs and obligations believed to be potentially contravened at the time of boarding and aerial observation during the Operation:

CMM 2022-04 – Sharks

Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) fisheries inspectors documented multiple instances of potential shark obligation contraventions associated with at least 7 suspected non-compliant vessels. Inspectors documented shark finning practices and the possession of significant quantities of shark fins not naturally attached to the carcasses, and without conforming with the alternative measures requirements.

CMM 2011-03 – Cetaceans

Evidence was collected by Canadian inspectors regarding the intentional killing of cetaceans by 2 separate WCPFC-authorized vessels engaged in fishing activities. These activities fell outside the purview of this specific CMM at the time observed, prior to the Commission's adoption of the strengthened cetacean measure.

CMM 2004-03 – Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels

Aerial surveillance and HSBI activities led to the detection of 12 vessels potentially contravening the Commission's vessel marking requirements. The most common infractions noted were the failure to display deck or rooftop WIN numbers, or having WIN numbers obstructed by fishing gear.

CMM 2017-04 – Marine Pollution

Evidence was collected during the course of the HSBI activities indicating potential contraventions of the marine pollution measure for the discard of any plastics.

CMM 2014-02 – Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

Inspectors flagged 3 vessels for verification of potential contravention of the Commission's VMS transmission requirements.

Canada wishes to extend its sincerest appreciation to the Secretariat and to those CCMs who have cooperated with and facilitated the delivery of Canada's inspection activities during OP NORTH PACIFIC GUARD 2024.