

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ON THE  
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA  
THIRD SESSION (JWGI03)**

11 – 13 March 2026  
California, USA (Hybrid)

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**Compiled Information on Monitoring, Controlling, and Surveillance Measures  
for Pacific Bluefin Tuna**

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**JWGI03-2026/WP-01**

**Japan**

This document compiles information provided by relevant CCMs/CPCs, in accordance with paragraph 2 of the Conservation and Management Measure for the Monitoring, Controlling, and Surveillance of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (CCM 2024-02) and the Resolution on Monitoring and Control Measures for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the EPO (C-24-03). The information is organized into the following two tables:

- (1) Monitoring and Control Measures for Fisheries
- (2) Monitoring and Control Measures for Farming

**(1) Monitoring and Control Measures for Fisheries**

CCM/CPC Source	Japan <a href="#">IATTC-NC-JWG10-2025/DP-05.1 (Rev.01)</a>	Korea <a href="#">IATTC-NC-JWG10-2025/DP-06.1 (Rev.01)</a>	Mexico (IATTC) <a href="#">INFORME SOBRE LA IMPLEMENTACIÓN DE LAS MEDIDAS DE MONITOREO Y CONTROL DE LA PESQUERÍA DE ATÚN ALETA AZUL EN EL OCEANO PACÍFICO ORIENTAL (OPO)</a> (Machine Translation)	Chinese Taipei <a href="#">IATTC-NC-JWG10-2025/DP-09.1</a>	U.S.A (IATTC) <a href="#">United States Pacific Bluefin Tuna 2025 Monitoring and Control Measures</a>												
<b>a. Registration of Commercial Fishing Vessels</b>	<p>Japanese commercial fishing vessels targeting PBF are required to be authorized and registered under the licensing system by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the prefectural governments, or the approval system by the Regional Fisheries Coordination Commissions.</p> <p>The number of fishing vessels authorized to fish for PBF in 2024 was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- purse seine vessels: 78</li> <li>- drift net vessels: 50</li> <li>- longline vessels: 366</li> <li>- small-scale and artisanal vessels: 16,863</li> </ul> <p>The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) has registered all vessels authorized to fish on the high seas in the Convention Area in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, in accordance with CMM2018-06.</p>	<p>There were 20 Korean purse seine vessels authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna on WCPFC RFV in 2024. Out of the 20 vessels, 19 vessels actually fished in 2024. The registrations were made in accordance with CMM 2018-06 and all the required information was provided, including IMO/LR number.</p>	<p>Authorized vessels for the capture of bluefin tuna are duly registered in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register. The bluefin tuna fishing season is established in accordance with the closure periods and catch limits adopted by the IATTC. Mexico publishes these catch limits in the Official Gazette of the Federation (DOF), ensuring legal certainty and regulatory compliance.</p>	<p>The Fisheries Agency has enacted relevant regulations stipulating that only vessels specifically authorized to fish for PBF may catch PBF. The list of authorized vessels is publicly available on the official website of the Fisheries Agency. Furthermore, for vessels authorized to operate in areas beyond our national jurisdiction, registration with the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) is also required in accordance with CMM 2018-06.</p>	<p>The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region (WCR) implemented these Regional Vessel Register requirements through rulemaking over 20 years ago and regulations at 50 CFR 300.23. These regulations require all commercial fishing vessels fishing for highly migratory species (HMS) to be listed on the Regional Vessel Register.</p>												
<b>b. Registration of Set Nets</b>	<p>Set nets for PBF are required to obtain a license from the prefectural governments. The number of set nets licensed in 2024 was 1,688.</p>	<p>In 2024, none of Korea's set nets were authorized to fish for (target) Pacific bluefin tuna specifically. All Pacific bluefin tuna catches in Korea's set nets are bycatch or incidental catch.</p>	<p>It is important to note that the use of fixed nets is not permitted for bluefin tuna fishing in Mexico. Fishing operations, fishing gear, species, and other provisions consistent with international resource management are regulated by NOM-001-SAG/PESCA-2013 on purse-seine tuna fisheries (DOF 16/01/2014).</p>	<p>All set net fisheries in our jurisdiction are authorized to fish for PBF due to the passive nature of the gear and the relatively low but existent likelihood of PBF bycatch. All set net operations must obtain prior authorization and registration from the competent authorities before commencing any fishing activity. The number of registered set net for 2024 was 65 sets.</p>	<p>N/A, NMFS WCR does not authorize set nets to target Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) in the IATTC Convention Area.</p>												
<b>c. Allocation of Catch Limit</b>	<p>Most of the catch limits for PBF are divided into two sectors; (1) fisheries managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and (2) fisheries managed by the prefectural governments. The rest of the catch limits are held by the Fisheries Agency as reserves.</p> <p>The catch limits are managed under the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) system. The catch limits for the fisheries managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and</p>	<p>In 2024, Korea's catch limit was allocated as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="908 1570 1365 1627"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4" style="text-align: right;">(unit : mt)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Fishery</th> <th>Purse seine</th> <th>Set net</th> <th>others</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Amount</td> <td>479</td> <td>355</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	(unit : mt)				Fishery	Purse seine	Set net	others	Amount	479	355	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the 2025–2026 biennium, the maximum catch limit of 11,127.81 tons for the biennium was published. (DOF: December 19, 2024).</li> <li>• For the 2023–2024 biennium, a maximum catch limit of 7,307 tons was established. (DOF: September 25, 2023).</li> </ul> <p>These provisions reflect Mexico's commitment to the conservation and responsible use of the resource.</p>	<p>Our initial annual catch limit for 2024 was set at 1,965 metric tonnes, with the majority of catch limits allocated to tuna long line fishing vessels and 30 metric tonnes allocated to other directed fisheries and the set net fishery. The remaining portion was retained as a reserve catch limit, which may be released by the competent authority depending on the status of catch limit utilization.</p>	<p>N/A, NMFS WCR does not allocate catch limits by gear type for PBF in the IATTC Convention Area.</p>
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	<p>Fisheries for the 2024 management year were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- purse seine fishery: 4,276.8mt (large fish), 678.5mt (small fish)</li> <li>- drift net fishery: 50.1mt (large fish), 26.1mt (small fish)</li> <li>- longline fishery: 762.9mt (large fish), 9.8mt (small fish)</li> </ul>																																						
<b>d. Reporting Requirement for Catches</b>	<p>All fisheries are required to report their PBF catch to the FAJ, including bycatch and discards. The following table shows the reported catch by fisheries in the 2024 management year:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="433 898 890 1129"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Fishery</th> <th colspan="2">2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>&lt;30 kg</th> <th>≥30 kg</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</td> <td>Purse Seine</td> <td>558</td> <td>4,050</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Longline Dist.&amp;Off.</td> <td>1</td> <td>730</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Other fisheries</td> <td>Longline Coastal</td> <td>80</td> <td>852</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Artisanal fisheries</td> <td>1,052</td> <td>300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Set Net</td> <td>1,189</td> <td>563</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Others</td> <td>229</td> <td>402</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Recreational fishing</td> <td></td> <td>0</td> <td>44</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td></td> <td><b>3,110</b></td> <td><b>6,939</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Fishery	2024		<30 kg	≥30 kg	Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Purse Seine	558	4,050	Longline Dist.&Off.	1	730	Other fisheries	Longline Coastal	80	852	Artisanal fisheries	1,052	300	Set Net	1,189	563		Others	229	402	Recreational fishing		0	44	<b>Total</b>		<b>3,110</b>	<b>6,939</b>	<p>The Ministerial Directive on the Conservation and Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of Korea stipulates that any Pacific bluefin tuna catches, bycatches, releases and discards must be reported to the local government and the National Institute of Fisheries Science (NIFS) within 24 hours. NIFS is required by the same Directive to provide monthly catch report by fishery and by size (≥30Kg and &lt;30Kg) to the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries. NIFS is required to report to the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries immediately if and when the accumulated catch approaches the catch limit.</p>		<p>Captains of fishing vessels and operators of set net fisheries are required to report to the fishery radio station the number, weight, length, and location of each PBF caught. Such reports must be conducted within 24 hours of each catch. For tuna longline fishing vessels, each tag number must also be included in the report. As for incidental catch, in accordance with our domestic regulations, fishing vessels that are not authorized to catch PBF, must discard and report the number, weight, length and location of the discarded PBF catch to the fishery radio station within 24 hours. In addition to that, any discards of PBF must be reported with the same information as required for retained catches.</p>	<p>NMFS WCR implemented these requirements through rulemaking and can be found in U.S. regulations at 50 CFR 660.708. These regulations require commercial fishing vessels targeting HMS to keep accurate and complete records of catch, effort, and other data.</p>
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<b>e. Measures to Monitor Catch</b>	<p>FAJ established a new division in the agency that dedicates itself to the monitoring of catches and landings by fisheries. This division is assigned the task to monitor catch records of and conduct on-site inspections to not only large-scale fisheries managed by the Minster but also small-scal fisheries managed by prefectural governments. A total of 315 vessels were inspected for their landings from May to December 2024. In addition, FAJ conducted as-sea boar ding inspections. Also, fishing vessels authorized to fish in the high seas are subject to the WCPFC Regional Observer Program.</p>	<p>Korean government has been cross-checking the reported Pacific bluefin tuna catches with the sales log sheets maintained at designated consignment markets for the purpose of verification. In addition, NIFS checks and records fish size and weight at the landing site. National Fishery Products Quality Management Service also cross-checks the declared amount of PBF to be exported against the accumulated reported catch and catch limit by fishery.</p>	<p>Monitoring and control of catches are performed through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrival notices and the Onboard Observer Program, with 100% coverage of fishing trips.</li> <li>• Fishing Guides that certify the transport and movement of products for commercialization by any means.</li> <li>• Verification of regulatory compliance carried out by the General Directorate of Inspection and Surveillance of CONAPESCA.</li> <li>• Presence of a Federal Fisheries Officer (OFP) on board each vessel participating in bluefin tuna fishing, ensuring real-time</li> </ul>	<p>In addition to the aforementioned reporting requirements, all tuna longline fishing vessels are required to submit landing declarations after each landing. Additionally, all tuna longline vessels authorized to fish for PBF must apply for and obtain PBF tags prior to operation, and each PBF must be tagged immediately upon capture. For other designated fishing vessels and set net fisheries, in the event of incidental PBF catches, the captain or fishery operator must apply for and obtain the necessary tags prior to landing, and the PBF must be tagged before landing. These tags, which are issued solely by the Fisheries Agency, are serialized and valid</p>	<p>NMFS WCR implemented these requirements through rulemaking and are in regulations 50 CFR 660.719 and 50 CFR 300.25(g). These regulations require permitted vessels targeting HMS to maintain logbooks, to submit landing receipts for PBF, and include information on the observer program.</p>																																		

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	Further, since October 2023, FAJ has been conducting a pilot project for further enhanced monitoring of PBF fisheries, including the tagging to individual fish, installation of monitoring cameras at major landing sites, and random patrolling by a private company entrusted by FAJ for PBF landing activities. FAJ intends to further enhance its management and control measures for the PBF fisheries on the basis of the outcomes of the pilot project.		<p>information exchange.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A “preventive technical halt” when 80% of the catch limit is reached; after this point, fishing is conducted set by set.</li> <li>The Satellite Monitoring System for Fishing Vessels complements this scheme, ensuring real-time tracking and compliance in accordance with NOM-062-SAG/PESC-2014 on the use of satellite location and monitoring systems for fishing vessels.</li> </ul> <p>During transfer operations or the movement of tuna from the purse-seine net to towing pens, video recordings are made, ensuring transparent and verifiable documentation. This practice reinforces the reliability of catch information.</p>	only for the year in which they are issued.	
<b>f. Measures to Monitor Landings</b>	FAJ established a new division in the agency that dedicates itself to the monitoring of catches and landings by fisheries. This division is assigned the task to monitor catch records of and conduct on-site inspections to not only large-scale fisheries managed by the Minister but also small scall fisheries managed by prefectural governors. Further, since October 2023, FAJ has been conducting a pilot project for further enhanced monitoring of PBF fisheries, including the tagging to individual fish, installation of monitoring cameras at major landing sites, and random patrolling by a private company entrusted by FAJ for PBF landing activities. FAJ intends to further enhance its management and control measures for the PBF fisheries on the basis of the outcomes of the pilot project.	NIFS checks fish size and weight at the landing site. East Sea Fisheries Management Service, a subsidiary body of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, is responsible for law enforcement in relation to domestic fisheries. It inspects Korean fishing vessels at port on a random basis, while National Fishery Products Quality Management Service inspects foreign fishing vessels entering Korean ports in accordance with the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA).		All fishing vessels authorized to fish for Pacific Bluefin tuna (PBF) are required to notify the fishery radio station of their scheduled landing date and port at least 24 hours prior to port entry. This notification enables the Fisheries Agency to dispatch staff to verify the catch and related information at domestic fishing ports. PBF catches may only be landed at four designated ports and must be landed with the corresponding tags attached. For several years, on-site staff have been assigned to measure the length and weight of PBF at landing sites in Taiwan, and the majority of PBF landed in Taiwan have been verified by authorized staff.	NMFS WCR implemented requirements to monitor landings through regulations at 50 CFR 300.25(g)(7), which outlines landing receipt submission. With respect to Port State Measures, the U.S. sent a letter to the IATTC in March 2022, noting that the U.S. is designating all of its ports for the purposes of this Resolution, subject to existing requirements under U.S. law regarding entry into and use of U.S. ports.
<b>g. Measures to Monitor Domestic Transactions</b>	On June 19, 2024, the National Diet of Japan adopted proposed amendments to the Fishery Act and the Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals	Korea’s Ministerial Directive on the Conservation and Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna requires that all Pacific bluefin tuna caught by Korean vessels be sold only at designated consignment fish markets in		The Fisheries Agency has implemented a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) to regulate and oversee both domestic transactions and international exports of Pacific Bluefin tuna (PBF). Under this	NMFS WCR implemented this through regulations at 50 CFR 300.25(g)(7), which requires landing receipts for PBF to be submitted electronically within 24 hours to the California Department of Fish and

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	<p>and Plants for the improved management of PBF fisheries. These amendments aim at enhanced and strengthened monitoring and control on catch and distribution (traceability) for large PBF (30kg or larger). The measures to be introduced through these amendments include:</p> <p>(Amendment of Fishery Act)</p> <p>(a) Requirement for fishers to report the number of fish in addition to the weight;</p> <p>(b) Requirement for fishers to maintain the information used for PBF catch reporting (e.g. name of fishing vessel) to enable the tracing and investigation of catch; and</p> <p>(c) Strengthened penalties for violation of catch reporting;</p> <p>(Amendment of Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants for the improvement of PBF fisheries)</p> <p>(a) Requirement for sellers to transfer the catch information the buyers;</p> <p>(b) Requirement for the sellers and the buyers to maintain the catch information; and</p> <p>(c) Requirement for exporters to acquire a legal harvest certificate at the time of export</p>	<p>order to prevent any commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that could undermine the effectiveness of the CMM. Also, the government takes measures including the prohibition of fishing and landing of Pacific bluefin tuna and the closure of designated consignment markets for Pacific bluefin tuna, if and when there is a risk of undermining the effectiveness of the CMM for Pacific bluefin tuna (e.g. overages of Pacific bluefin tuna juvenile catch limits).</p>		<p>scheme, any individual selling PBF is required to retain the Catch Documentation and accompanying transaction records, which must be traceable back to the original fisheries operators.</p>	<p>Wildlife.</p>

## (2) Monitoring and Control Measures for Farming

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<b>a. Registration of Farms</b>	Farming sites of PBF required to obtain a license by the prefectural governments. All farming sites for PBF are registered with the prefectural governments. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has instructed the prefectural governments to separate the licenses of PBF farming from those for other fish species. PBF farming sites are required to report the necessary information to the FAJ, such as the number of cages and the license numbers.	Currently, there are five farms authorized to farm Pacific bluefin tuna and only two of them (24 and 20 cages respectively) have been active in recent years. In general, local governments issue farming licenses for certain areas in consultation with the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries when there are applications. The license specifies duration, location and type of farming, and areas and facilities used for farming, etc.	Mexico has two active farms authorized for the fattening of bluefin tuna. These are subject to the General Law on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (LGPAS) and to specific commercial aquaculture concession titles issued by CONAPESCA.  These concessions establish the guidelines for aquaculture activities, including location, surface area, authorized species, characteristics of cultivation gear, obligations, and prohibitions for operation (among them, the prohibition on transferring concession rights to third parties).  Up to 140 floating cages have been authorized between both companies, covering species such as bluefin tuna ( <i>Thunnus orientalis</i> ), yellowtail ( <i>Seriola spp</i> ), white seabass ( <i>Atractoscion nobilis</i> ), and striped bass ( <i>Morone saxatilis</i> ), of which only 43 are currently in operation.
<b>b. Reporting Requirements for Caging of Fish</b>	PBF farming sites are required to report their farming activities, such as information on number, average weight and source of PBF they caged, and number and average weight of PBF harvested.	Farm owners/operators report caging of fish to the local government in a template specified by the relevant law. In addition, the Fish Farming Development Act requires the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and the local governments to visit the fish farms and check data/information related to the management of the farm, in order to ensure sustainable and efficient use of the farm. The same Act requires farm owners/operators to fully cooperate in relation to the request of Government.	Farms are required to submit harvest, production, and collection notices, as well as annual technical and economic reports.
<b>c. Reporting Requirements for Harvest of Farmed Fish</b>		Farm owners/operators report harvest of farmed fish to the local government in a template specified by the relevant law. In addition, the Fish Farming Development Act requires the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and the local governments to visit the fish farms and check data/information related to the management of the farm, in order to ensure sustainable and efficient use of the farm. The same Act requires farm owners/operators to fully cooperate in relation to the request of Government.	
<b>d. Measures to Monitor Farming Activities</b>	FAJ has instructed purse seine fishing vessels to record their caging activities of PBF by a stereo video camera or by an observer from an independent source.	As explained above, farm owners/operators report caging and harvest of fish to the local governments. Also, government officials and fisheries scientists visit the farming sites from time to time in order to collect necessary data and information in accordance with the Fish Farming Development Act.	Fisheries authorities (CONAPESCA) conduct verification visits for counting activities, which include video recordings and the registration of organism counts, ensuring traceability from capture to stocking.