

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
ELEVENTH SESSION (JWG-11)**

8 – 11 July 2026
Nagasaki, Japan (Hybrid)

**JAPAN'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENT ON THE PREVENTION
OF INCREASE OF AGE-0 FISH CATCH**

IATTC-NC-JWG11-2026-DP15

3 July 2026

JAPAN

At the JWG09 meeting held in Kushiro, Japan in July 2024, Japan made its commitment to prevent increases in catches of age-0 fish (less than 2kg) in conjunction with paragraph 10 of CMM 2024-01 (Paragraph 47 of the Chair's Summary of the JWG09 meeting), as set out in Annex D of the Summary.

Annex D of the Chair's Summary of the JWG09 meeting

In seeking understanding from the JWG Members on an increase for the small fish catch limit in the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures for Pacific bluefin tuna, Japan makes its commitment to preventing its catch of age-0 fish (less than 2kg) from increasing beyond 50% of 2002-2004 level, even after the catch limit increase is adopted and implemented. Japan's efforts for this commitment include, but not limited to:

- The Fisheries Agency will give instructions to its authorized purse seine fishing vessels not to land age-0 fish (less than 2kg), except in case of bycatch.
- The Fisheries Agency will consult with relevant prefectural governments to seek their efforts to prevent increases of age-0 fish (less than 2kg) catch.
- The Fisheries Agency will give due consideration so that the increase of the small fish catch limit will not lead to increases of age-0 fish (less than 2kg) catch.

1. Actions taken by the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ)

- FAJ has instructed its-licensed purse seine vessels not to land age-0 fish (less than 2kg), except for bycatch.
- FAJ has also instructed these purse seine vessels to avoid catching age-0 fish, which includes moving to other fishing grounds when many age-0 fish are expected to be caught, including bycatch.
- FAJ has consulted with prefectural governments with significant catches of age-0 fish to implement measures to prevent increases in age-0 fish catches.

2. Actions taken by prefectural governments
 - 11 prefectural governments have incorporated relevant provisions in their Prefectural Fishery Resource Management Policies to prevent increases in age-0 fish catches.
 - 16 prefectural governments have implemented measures, including voluntary measures, to prevent increases in age-0 fish catches. These actions include:
 - voluntary prohibition on landing age-0 fish at local ports;
 - agreements among local fishers to release all age-0 fish;
 - instructions to local fishers to release age-0 fish; and
 - releasing age-0 fish when catches of small fish reach a certain threshold.
3. Japan will continue to implement these efforts to further prevent an increase in its age-0 fish catch beyond 50% of the 2002-2004 level.