



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**
13-14 July 2026
Nagasaki, Japan (Hybrid)

CONSULTATIVE DRAFT
**Draft amendments to the Conservation and Management Measure
for North Pacific Albacore (CMM 2019-03)**

WCPFC-NC22-2026-DP03_Rev02
14 July 2026

Submitted by Canada and Japan

Outstanding issues involved in the following document.

(1) Scope of application

- Area [north of equator, north of 20°N]
- Fishery (Definition of “fishing for”) [bycatch/incidental catch]

(2) Management matrix

- Catch limits for all relevant fisheries vs.
Catch limit for LL/Effort limits for Surface fisheries
- Base line period [2002-2004][2003-2005]



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**Draft amendments to the Conservation and Management Measure
For North Pacific Albacore (CMM 2019-03)**

WCPFC-NC22-2026/DP-03_REV2
July 14, 2026

Revised draft following discussion at NC22

Commented [HW1]: Recognizing comment from Cook Islands for need to complete assessment under CMM 2013-06

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC),

Observing that the best scientific evidence on North Pacific albacore is provided by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), as detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding between the WCPFC and the ISC;

Acknowledging that the WCPFC has adopted CMM 2022-03 on Establishing a Harvest Strategy for Key Fisheries and Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and that the Commission has adopted a Harvest Strategy for the North Pacific Albacore Fishery (HS 2023-01);

Recalling further Article 22(4) of the WCPFC Convention that provides for cooperation with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) regarding fish stocks that occur in the Convention Areas of both organizations; and,

Recognizing that the IATTC adopted Resolution C-23-02, Amendment to Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, at its 101st meeting;

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:

X. This Measure applies to all areas [of high seas and all EEZs] in the Convention Area north of the equator.

XX. The Measure implements components of HS 2023-01.

1. The total level of fishing effort for North Pacific albacore in the Convention Area north of the equator shall not be increased beyond 2002-2004 [insert footnote regarding 2003-2005 baseline agreed to for Vanuatu at NC20] annual average levels, in accordance with HS 2023-01.

2. CCMs shall take necessary measures to ensure that the level of fishing effort by their vessels [targeting] [fishing for] North Pacific albacore, [whether taken as target catch or as bycatch] [incidental catch] [except for fisheries with annual average catch of less than XXX metric tons over the most recent three years] in the Convention Area is not increased beyond 2002-2004 annual average levels.

3. All CCMs shall report annually to the WCPFC all catches of albacore north of the equator [in all fisheries] and all fishing effort north of the equator in fisheries directed at albacore. The reports for both catch and fishing effort shall be made by gear type. Catches shall be reported in terms of weight. Fishing effort shall be reported in terms of the most relevant measures for a given gear type, including at a minimum for all gear types, the number of vessel-days fished, using the template provided in Annex 1.

4. The Northern Committee shall, in coordination with ISC and the WCPFC Scientific Committee, monitor the status of North Pacific albacore and report to the WCPFC on the status of the stock at each annual meeting, and make such recommendations to the WCPFC as may be necessary for their effective conservation.

5. The Commission shall consider future actions with respect to North Pacific albacore based on recommendations of the Northern Committee.

[6. CCMs shall maintain and reduce the level of fishing effort on North Pacific albacore within the Convention Area in accordance with the Harvest Strategy (HS 2023-01).]

[6bis. If female spawning biomass falls below the threshold reference point with a probability greater than 50% and is above the limit reference point with a probability of at least 50%, CCMs shall agree to an allocation scheme to reduce total fishing intensity, taking into account historical fishing activity and the source of increased fishing mortality in reference to 2002-2004 annual average levels, in accordance with the Harvest Strategy.]

[6ter. CCMs shall convert their allocation of fishing intensity into operational catch for longline fleets and effort for surface fleets.]

[6ALT. When the latest stock assessment shows that SSB current/SSB current, $F=0$ is below SSB threshold with a probability greater than 50%, the ISC shall calculate catch limits reflecting the fishing intensity provided by the Harvest Strategy. In the same year of the stock assessment, catch limits are set for CCMs based on the catch records during [2002-2004] in addition to the existing effort control rule.

a. CCMs shall control their fisheries under their respective catch limits. Fisheries with an annual average catch of less than 1000 metric tons over the most recent three years may be

Commented [HW2]: Comment from China: Note links to par. 8

Commented [HW3]: Comment from China: "China seeks clarification on paragraph 6 ter. The draft converts allocations into catch limits for longline fleets, but effort limits for surface fleets. We would like to understand the reason for this difference."

Commented [HW4]: Additional comment from China: "China's albacore longline fishery has traditionally been managed by effort. We therefore propose allowing each CCM to implement its allocation through catch, effort, or a combination of both, according to the characteristics of its fishery, rather than imposing a fixed approach by gear type."

Commented [HW5]: Point of clarification from Canada in response to question from China:

Longline albacore fleets are generally best managed through catch controls because catch exhibits a stronger, more stable, and more direct relationship with fishing intensity or spawning potential ratio (SPR) than effort. Longline effort is highly influenced by targeting behaviour, catchability, spatial distribution, and multispecies interactions, making it an unreliable proxy for stock impact. While some specifically identified albacore targeting longline fleets may exhibit stronger effort/SPR relationships, these remain more uncertain than catch/SPR relationships and have not been fully evaluated through management strategy evaluation. Consequently, catch limits for longline fleets provide the most biologically robust mechanism for implementing NPALB harvest strategy objectives.

Commented [HW6]: Comment from Canada: Catch limits should be derived from CCMs' relative fishing intensity in the base period rather than catch records. Shares should be determined based on fishing intensity and then converted to catch/effort as final step, for a given fishery.

Commented [剛三7]: Japan inserted its proposal, the introduction of catch limit scheme when the stock status is below the SSB threshold with bracket in the entire paragraph, due to the same reason as Canada's proposal.

Commented [剛三8]: Comment from Chinese Taipei

Commented [MT9R8]: Link to footnote added under par. 1?

excluded from the catch limit scheme. CCMs may implement their catch limit through fishing effort controls.

- b. To address fluctuation in annual catch, a triennial catch limit for each CCM shall be applied. Any overharvest by a CCM shall be deducted from its catch limit in the subsequent three-year management period. Underharvest of up to []% of the catch limit may be carried over and added to the catch limit in the following three-year management period.
- c. Each CCM shall develop a plan and submit to the Secretariat, by the end of March every year, a plan describing how it will manage and comply with its catch limit. These plans shall be reviewed by the NC in the same year.”]

[6quincies. If an exceptional circumstance is identified by the ISC and the WCPFC Scientific Committee, the WCPFC shall re-evaluate this CMM at its next Commission meeting, including taking into account any Northern Committee and scientific advice pursuant to its evaluation of the existence of exceptional circumstances as reflected in NC21-WP-06 ISC25/ANNEX 05, and may, as appropriate, recommend further measures.]

[6sexies. Each CCM shall develop a plan and submit to the Secretariat, by the end of March every year, a plan describing how it will manage and comply with its catch limit. These plans shall be reviewed by the NC in the same year.]

7. The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this CMM to the IATTC and request that the two Commissions engage in consultations with a view to reaching agreement on a consistent set of conservation and management measures for North Pacific albacore, and specifically, to propose that both Commissions adopt as soon as practicable uniform conservation and management measures and any reporting or other measures needed to ensure compliance with agreed measures.

8. The provisions of paragraph [2] shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of those small island developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for North Pacific albacore is limited, but that have a real interest in, and history of, fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for North Pacific albacore in the future.

9. The provisions of paragraph [8] shall not provide a basis for an increase in fishing effort by fishing vessels owned or operated by interests outside such small island developing State Members or participating territories, unless such fishing is conducted in support of efforts by such Members and territories to develop their own domestic fisheries.

10. This CMM shall replace the CMM 2019-03.

Commented [剛三10]: Japan believes that the scheme of implementing plan should be applied only for cases which the stock status goes down to below the SSB threshold.

Annex I: Average annual fishing effort for 2002-2004 and annual fishing effort for subsequent years for fisheries directed at North Pacific albacore in the North Pacific Ocean

CCM	Area ¹	Fishery	2002-04 Average		Year		Year		Year		Year		Year		Year	
			No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days

Commented [MT11]: Note: Alternative data reporting template proposed by US (WCPFC-NC22-2026-WP04: https://meetings.wcpfc.int/system/files/2026-07/WCPFC-NC22-2026-WP04%202026%20NC%20Catch%20and%20Effort%20Data%20Template%20-%20USA_0.xlsx)

¹ If collective effort limits across the North Pacific Ocean, report Convention Area and North Pacific Ocean separately.