THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN

NORTHERN COMMITTEE
RESUMED MEETING OF THE TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION (NC22-2)

Online
11 November 2026

SUMMARY REPORT

Acknowledgements

The financial, logistical and administrative support provided by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Secretariat and all Members of the Northern Committee are gratefully acknowledged. Mr. Masanori Miyahara, who chaired the Resumed Meeting of the Twenty-Second Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC22-2), and Mr. Samuel Coyle, who served as the rapporteur for the meeting, are acknowledged with appreciation.

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SUMMARY REPORT

AGENDA ITEM 1 — OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The Resumed Meeting of the Twenty-Second Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC22-2) took place online on 11 November 2026, starting at 10:00 (Pohnpei Time). The list of meeting participants is in **Attachment 1**.

1.1 Opening of the meeting

2. Mr. Masanori Miyahara, Chair of the NC, opened the meeting.

1.2 Adoption of agenda

3. The provisional agenda (WCPFC-NC22(2)-2026-03) was adopted without modification (**Attachment 2**). The Chair informed the NC that two items would be taken under Agenda Item 3 (Other Business): a request from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) to Members for collection of data related to conversion factors, to be presented by Dr. S. Nakatsuka, and inputs to the ISC on North Pacific swordfish, prepared by the USA (V. Post).

1.3 Meeting arrangements

4. The Chair outlined the meeting schedule. Mr. Samuel Coyle (Japan) was appointed as rapporteur for the meeting.

1.4 Report from JWG and the ISC

1.4.1 Report from JWG and IATTC

5. Mr. Josh Madeira, Co-Chair of the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG) on behalf of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), reported on the outcomes of the second session of the 11th JWG (JWG11-2), held virtually on 18 August 2026, as outlined in the Chairs' Summary (**Attachment 3**). He explained that JWG11-2 had agreed on the long-term harvest strategy for Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) (IATTC-NC-JWG11(2)-2026-WP01), based on the Newport Beach management procedure (MP) reference points (target reference point F27.5%SPR, 1st Control Point 20%SSB F=0, 2nd Control Point 7.7%SSB F=0), and on harvest control rule (HCR) 17, with the West:East fishery impact shifting gradually from 80:20 (2027 to 2028) to 79:21 (2029 to 2030) and 78:22 (2031 to 2032). He noted that the agreed implementation arrangements covered biennial

measures, overage and carry forward provisions, small fish and age-0 conservation measures, and conversion factors for the first management period, and that in the IATTC the Eastern Pacific Ocean commercial limit would equal the catch limit prescribed by the MP minus 1,139 mt for the sport fishery.

6. Mr. Madeira presented the interim MP, which incorporated the elements of compromise reached in the JWG, provided for review in 2032 and three 2-year cycles for setting total allowable catches, and specified the roles of the ISC, the JWG and the Commissions. He also reported that the Co-Chairs had provided a draft WCPFC CMM with a new reporting template and a draft IATTC Resolution, with allocation to be determined by the NC and the IATTC, respectively.

7. Mr. Madeira also reported on the outcomes of the 104th Meeting of the IATTC, held in Lisbon, Portugal, from 31 August to 4 September 2026. The IATTC adopted the PBF MP without amendment (Resolution C-26-01) and the PBF implementing resolution with allocation for 2027 to 2028 (Resolution C-26-02).

1.4.2 Report from ISC

8. Dr. D. Tommasi, on behalf of the Pacific Bluefin Tuna Working Group (PBFWG) of the ISC, presented the results of the PBF management strategy evaluation (MSE) testing of HCRs 17 and 18. Dr. Tommasi explained that, at the NC's request in summer 2026, the PBFWG had evaluated the HCR adopted by the JWG in August 2026 with a 25% cap on changes in total allowable catch (TAC) between management periods, under Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) to Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) fishery impacts of 80:20 (HCR 17) and 70:30 (HCR 18).

9. The PBFWG reported that both HCRs met all management objectives and performed comparably. SSB remained above the 2nd Control Point with a probability well above the 90% requirement, and fishing mortality remained at or below the target with a probability of about 82% (HCR 17) and 81% (HCR 18), against a 50% requirement. Median total annual catch stabilized at around 35,000 mt (HCR 17) and 33,000 mt (HCR 18), above current catch limits. The HCRs differed mainly in sector-specific catches, with WCPO catches higher under HCR 17 and EPO catches higher under HCR 18. In a robustness test simulating a 10-year, approximately 40% recruitment drop, both HCRs had difficulty because the drop was not detected in a timely manner, and the ISC recommended monitoring longline CPUE and recruitment indices as part of the exceptional circumstances protocol. The PBFWG expected results under the agreed interim MP (gradual shift to 78:22 by 2032 and a temporary 35% TAC change cap for 2027 to 2028) to fall between the tested endpoints and remain closely aligned with HCR 17.

10. Australia thanked the ISC for the presentation and for sharing the work transparently, and noted that the results would be considered further by the Special Session of the Scientific Committee (SSSC) to be held in conjunction with WCPFC23. Australia stated that it was keen to see progress on this issue and that the FFA members had specifically requested discussion of the MSE testing at the special session of the SC. It suggested that, subject to that final review step, the work could proceed to the Commission, so that the review would not be a barrier to progress. Australia added that it had some technical questions for clarification, which it would raise on the margins of the SSSC.

AGENDA ITEM 2 — CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

11. NC22 had been unable to finalize its recommendations on PBF. NC22-2 considered the draft interim PBF MP and the draft CMM for PBF produced at JWG11-2, with a view to resolving outstanding issues, including allocation, so that the NC could recommend the adoption of the interim MP and the

CMM by the Commission at WCPFC23. The Chair noted that the NC had two matters to consider: the interim MP and the draft CMM.

12. The Chair noted that the interim PBF MP was contained in Attachment D to the Chairs' Summary Report of JWG11-2 and had already been adopted by the IATTC. The Chair invited comments or questions on the interim MP. No comments or questions were raised. **The NC agreed to recommend that WCPFC23 adopt the interim PBF Management Procedure.**

13. Turning to the draft CMM, Japan introduced its proposal (WCPFC-NC22(2)-2026-DP01), based on the JWG11-2 draft CMM with changes highlighted. Japan explained that it had replaced "climate change" with "environmental dynamics" in the preamble in response to the USA, and that paragraph 2 set the WCPO TAC at 30,232 mt for large fish and 9,646 mt for small fish, based on the MP output. Japan proposed pro-rata catch limits for Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei in paragraph 3, noting the sacrifices made by Members with large catches when the stock was depleted and that the stock had since recovered. Japan stated that its New Zealand and Australia figures in paragraph 4 (400 mt and 80 mt, biennial) were tentative. Japan also noted that it had moved the ISC conversion factor review language to footnote 3, added parallel 2026 carryover language, added an annual-basis table to Attachment 1 to the draft CMM at the request of the USA, and provided in paragraph 20 that the CMM would be reviewed and replaced in 2028.

14. Korea introduced its proposal (WCPFC-NC22(2)-2026-DP02), noting that two issues remained open: how the increase in the WCPO TAC agreed at JWG11-2 would be shared among Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei, and how the bycatch limits of Australia and New Zealand would be addressed. Korea explained that its proposal added a reference to changes in stock distribution in the preamble, a new paragraph 2bis setting overall WCPO limits, placeholder bycatch limits in paragraph 4, and a review of allocation no later than 2028. Korea argued that a pro-rata approach would give Korea about 3% of the annual increase and grow its total limit by 6.8%, compared with 14.4% for Japan and 25.0% for Chinese Taipei. Korea therefore proposed in paragraph 3 that the 2,967 mt annual increase in the WCPO large fish limit be shared 50:50, with half divided equally among the three Members and half distributed pro-rata to existing large fish limits. Korea stated that it was open to discussing the balance between the equal and proportional elements and ready to work with all Members toward adoption at WCPFC23.

15. Australia presented its proposal (WCPFC-NC22(2)-2026-DP03), noting that its catch of PBF, which it did not target, had risen from 0 to 5 mt to 44 mt in 2025, with about 72 mt projected for 2026. Australia explained that its review of effort and catch rates found no change in targeting behavior, and attributed the increase to greater availability of fish in its waters as the stock rebuilt. Australia proposed that its bycatch limit be set at 200 mt per year, consistent with New Zealand, given the similarity of the two fleets. Australia added that it had introduced mandatory release of live fish once its limit was reached, which had increased live release, but that it was concerned about increased discarding of dead fish.

16. The Chair noted that the main differences between Japan's proposal and Korea's proposal were the allocation of the increase in the large fish catch limit and the additional language on future negotiations by 2028. Chinese Taipei stated that all relevant factors, including past actions and adjusted catch, should be taken into account, and that it wished to maintain the existing ratios for the time being. Japan stated that allocation should be based on objective facts and data, such as fishing effort and capacity, migratory patterns and EEZs, that the sacrifices made through the 50% reduction in small fish limits should be recognized, and that it was ready to discuss allocation among the three Members. Korea responded that there were no agreed allocation criteria beyond the "without prejudice" provision, that

fleet size and EEZ were already reflected in baselines, and that it could not accept Japan's proposal as it stood. Japan clarified that its proposal provided Korea with a 25% increase in its large fish limit, as for all CCMs.

17. On Australia's proposal, Korea asked the ISC whether a bycatch of 50 to 100 mt per year would affect the MP. The ISC explained that the MSE robustness test, which doubled the assumed discards, showed that the MP remained robust, and that several dozen mt was minimal. In response to Japan, Australia stated that its 2026 catch to date was just under 74 mt. Japan noted that New Zealand's highest catch in recent years had been around 100 mt and sought further information. New Zealand stated that its 200 mt limit remained appropriate given its increased bycatch rates. The USA stated that the draft CMM should show a total TAC covering all expected mortality, including bycatch limits, and that any increase for Australia would have to come from existing allocations. Australia acknowledged that it had considered its limit in isolation and welcomed guidance from the NC. The Chair noted that including bycatch in the total catch limit would be considered in future.

18. Returning to allocation, Japan suggested that part of Korea's unused small fish catch limit from 2025 and 2026 be carried over to the new management period under the carryover provision. The USA expressed concern about double counting and about potential mortality exceeding the level expected under the MP, and Korea stated that the suggestion did not address its concern on allocation. Korea stated that it was ready to share its catch limits with Australia if the other two Members did likewise, and that negotiations would be difficult if Japan had no flexibility. Japan responded that it had already compromised by proposing pro-rata shares and agreeing to the conversion factor arrangements, and Korea responded that both Members benefited from the conversion factor. The USA stated that it had little room for further increases, and The Pew Charitable Trusts urged Members to continue discussions to avoid a mismatch with the IATTC measure.

19. **The NC was unable to reach consensus on the allocation of the large fish catch limit or on Australia's proposed bycatch limit, and agreed to keep the item open for the time being. The NC encouraged Japan, Korea, and Chinese Taipei to continue consultations in the interim, and agreed to reconvene next week, ahead of WCPFC23, with a view to finalizing agreement on the outstanding issues.**

AGENDA ITEM 3 — OTHER BUSINESS

20. The ISC noted that the JWG had requested the ISC to review the conversion factor by 2028, and requested that Members provide the following information to support the analysis: information on quota transfers, including the source fleet, receiving fleet, quantity transferred (t), and corresponding size composition. **The NC requested Members to provide this information to the ISC.**

21. The USA presented WCPFC-NC22(2)-2026-DP04 **(Attachment 4)**, *Candidate Inputs to Inform a Management Strategy Evaluation for North Pacific Swordfish*, noting that comments from Japan and the Ocean Foundation had been incorporated and that later comments from Canada could be addressed in future, as the ISC would provide initial outputs next year. The Chair noted that NC22 had agreed to produce this input before WCPFC23.

AGENDA ITEM 4 — ADOPTION OF REPORT

22. The Chair stated that the draft report would be shared with participants as soon as possible, that a further session of NC22 would be held the following week, and that an additional part of the report summarizing the outcomes of that session would then be prepared and the report finalized.

AGENDA ITEM 5 — CLOSE OF MEETING

23. The meeting was brought to a close at 12:40 (Pohnpei Time) on 11 November 2026.

Attachment 1

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NORTHERN COMMITTEE
RESUMED MEETING OF THE TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION (NC22-2)
Online
11 November 2026

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Attachment 2

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AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 Opening of the meeting

1.2 Adoption of agenda

1.3 Meeting arrangements

1.4 Report from JWG and the ISC

1.4.1 Report from JWG and IATTC

1.4.2 Report from ISC

AGENDA ITEM 2 CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

AGENDA ITEM 3 OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM 4 ADOPTION OF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM 5 CLOSE OF MEETING

Attachment 3

THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN
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CHAIRS' SUMMARY OF THE 11TH JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA (SECOND SESSION)

AGENDA ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The resumed 11th Session of the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG-11) was held virtually on 18 August 2026 Tokyo Standard Time. The meeting was opened by co-chairs Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan, Northern Committee Chair) and Mr. Josh Madeira (USA, IATTC). Co-Chair Miyahara welcomed delegates.

2. A list of participants to JWG-11(2) is included in **Attachment A**.

AGENDA ITEM 2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND MEETING PROCEDURES

3. Co-Chair Miyahara outlined the meeting procedures and presented the provisional agenda for adoption.

4. The provisional agenda was adopted (**Attachment B**).

5. Ms. Amanda Munro (USA) was appointed as rapporteur for the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3 LONG-TERM HARVEST STRATEGY

AGENDA ITEM 3.1 UPDATE ON CONSULTATIONS SINCE JWG-11

10. Co-chair Madeira thanked the JWG members for their extraordinary effort to continue dialogue and work toward an agreement on the Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) long-term harvest strategy. He highlighted the extensive work of JWG members, the ISC, observers and stakeholders to provide strong scientific and stakeholder support to allow the JWG to seek a final consensus on the Management Procedure (MP). Further, he noted the progress made in recent weeks to resolve the key outstanding issues from JWG-11 in Nagasaki until the start of the Second Session.

AGENDA ITEM 3.2 RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LONG-TERM HARVEST STRATEGY.

11. Co-chair Miyahara presented the Co-Chairs' summary of the outcomes of consultations (WP-01) and progress toward a draft agreement on the long-term harvest strategy (**Attachment C**).

12. Co-chair Madeira outlined the latest draft of the Co-chairs interim PBF management procedure (WP-02). He summarized the document, including key changes and technical edits, that were incorporated to align the MP text with the outcomes noted in the Co-Chairs summary (WP-01).

13. New Zealand commented that discussions were concurrently underway at the WCPFC Scientific Committee, and that some CMMs including the FFA needed more time to digest and consider the MP proposal. New Zealand reaffirmed its commitment to consider and engage in the meeting.

14. Co-chair Madeira brought up the bracketed text in paragraph one regarding whether to use the terminology "Limit Reference Point" or "Second Control Point." The United States stated its preference to use the term "Second Control Point" throughout the document, as this was more aligned with the meaning in the MP. Japan commented that if the document uses "Second Control Point," then its preference was to use "First Control Point" in place of "Threshold Reference Point" for consistency. These changes were agreed to and the co-chair assured members that the change in terminology would be reflected throughout the document.

15. On paragraph 10, the United States requested a footnote explaining the origins of the 1,288 mt number for recreational catch in the EPO. It was the understanding of the United States that this number was generated through the MSE process. After consultation with scientists and considering recent EPO sport fish catch figures, the United States suggested modification of the EPO sport fish assumption to 1,139 mt, which is the average EPO sport catch over the last eight years (2018 -2025). Mexico supported this change to the EPO sport fish assumption and the clear justification. The Co-Chairs confirmed the revised EPO sport fish assumption (1,139 mt) via correspondence with JWG Members.

16. The Pew Charitable Trusts commended the JWG for making progress on the long-term harvest strategy, noting the significant work and scientific rigor that has gone into MP development. Pew encouraged both Commissions to adopt the MP this year. When discussing Annex 1, Pew commented on Footnote 4 describing the temporary stability cap increase in 2027-2028. Pew urged members not to allow for ad hoc changes in MP elements in the future. Pew also commented that if TAC decreases are called for in the MP output in the future, those must be adhered to.

17. Co-Chair Madeira presented the rest of the interim MP and there were no comments or concerns by any Members. **The JWG recommended adoption of the PBF Interim Management Procedure (Attachment D).**

AGENDA ITEM 4 REVIEW OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

WCPFC CMM

18. Co-chair Miyahara presented the Co-Chairs' draft WCPFC CMM text (WP-03) that incorporated the key agreements from the Co-Chairs' Summary (WP-01) and the PBF Interim MP (Attachment D). He noted that the draft CMM text does not specify quotas or allocation as those issues must be addressed within the WCPFC Northern Committee (NC). He indicated that NC-22 would likely reconvene in the Fall to agree on the interim MP and conclude allocation discussions among WCPFC NC Members.

19. The United States commented that the TACs generated by the management procedure must account for total removals. In the IATTC measure, this has meant setting an overall TAC for the EPO as prescribed by the MP and a statement that this TAC will not be exceeded. The United States emphasized that the WCPFC must have a similar provision and requested that all countries with catches above 10mt be included in the allocation table.

20. Co-chair Miyahara noted the suggestions from the United States and committed to addressing these issues at the NC22 resumed session.

21. The United States accepted that bycatch could be separate but re-emphasized the point that in the IATTC the catch was reduced to account for total removals, and the WCPFC should account for total removals in the same way.

22. Australia noted the previous comments, and that they had observed increased catch of Pacific bluefin in their waters. Although it is not a target, it is a large bycatch species, and Australia has seen an increase in take due to increased availability. Australia stated it looks forward to discussing allocation as the process moves ahead in the WCPFC.

23. New Zealand echoed the comments from Australia and emphasized it would not be optimal for a bycatch limit to constrain its target catch. New Zealand advocated for the previously agreed limits.

24. The United States appreciated the comments from NZ and AUS and clarified it was not suggesting a change to the previously agreed limits. The US quoted the paragraph in the IATTC which states "In the IATTC Convention Area in 2027-2028, combined total catches of Pacific bluefin tuna by all CPCs shall not exceed the EPO total allowable biennial catch limit of [XX,XXX] metric tons," and insisted on similar language in WCPFC so that the understanding is the CCMs will stay within overall catch limits established in the MP.

25. Co-chair Miyahara noted this request and his intention to draft language to capture this comment. He also requested that any CCM with significant bycatch should request their preferred (bycatch) catch limit with written justification. These requests should be submitted to the NC Chair in advance of the NC-22 resumed meeting.

26. New Zealand expressed that it would be happy to make that request, and asked a clarifying question about the NC22 resumed session dates. Co-chair Miyahara reiterated that the NC must hold a resumed session, likely an online meeting, this year because the IATTC is adopting these measures in September. The NC needs to recommend the PBF interim MP and a new CMM for adoption at WCPFC23.

27. **The JWG recommended that the WCPFC CMM text (Attachment E) be forwarded to the Northern Committee to resolve the outstanding allocation issues and finalize the CMM, consistent with the interim MP.**

28. Co-chair MIyahara noted two items discussed in the co-chair summary that are not included in the WCPFC CMM or the interim MP: potential future mitigation of small fish catch reductions, and the ISC reports on age-0 catch. Co-chair Miyahara confirmed that these items would be discussed at the NC-22 (resumed) meeting and would be included in the NC report.

<u>IATTC Resolution</u>

28. Co-chair Madeira presented the Co-Chairs' draft IATTC Resolution that incorporated the key agreements from the Co-Chairs' Summary (WP-01) and the PBF interim MP (Attachment D). He noted that the draft text does not specify quotas or allocation as those issues must be addressed within the IATTC. Further, he recognized the upcoming dates of the 104th annual meeting of the IATTC and requested the support of CPCs to work with him to incorporate JWG recommendations into relevant proposals that have already been submitted for consideration.

29. The United States noted support for paragraph three which outlines the overall TAC prescribed by the MP. The United States recommended that a similar paragraph should be included in the WCPFC CMM for consistency.

29. The United States indicated its intention to meet with Mexico in the coming days to finalize allocation discussions for the EPO.

30. **The JWG recommended that the IATTC Resolution text (Attachment F) be forwarded to the IATTC to resolve the outstanding allocation issues and finalize the Resolution, consistent with the interim MP.**

AGENDA ITEM 5 ADOPTION OF REPORT

31. Co-chair Madeira stated that the co-chairs would work with the rapporteur to submit a meeting report to the JWG-11(2) website as soon as possible. He noted that JWG Members will have approximately one day to review the document from the time of posting on the meeting website and instructed all JWG Members to provide comments to the Co-Chairs as soon as possible. The Co-Chairs will incorporate comments and post the final JWG-11(2) meeting report on August 18 (Tokyo Standard Time).

AGENDA ITEM 6 CLOSE OF MEETING

32. Co-Chair Madeira thanked JWG Members and closed the meeting.

JWG-11(2) LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: List of Participants

Attachment B: Agenda

Attachment C: Co-Chairs' Summary of Agenda 5 (Long-term Harvest Strategy) and Related Implementation Issues (WP-01)

Attachment D: Interim PBF Management Procedure

Attachment E: WCPFC CMM

Attachment F: IATTC Resolution

Attachment A

JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
ELEVENTH SESSION (JWG11) – SECOND SESSION

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Attachment B

JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
ELEVENTH SESSION (JWG11) – SECOND SESSION

AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

AGENDA ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND MEETING PROCEDURES

AGENDA ITEM 3. LONG-TERM HARVEST STRATEGY

- **3.1 Update on consultations since JWG-11**
- **3.2 Recommendations on the long-term harvest strategy**

AGENDA ITEM 4. REVIEW OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

AGENDA ITEM 5. ADOPTION OF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM 6. CLOSE OF MEETING

Attachment C

JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
ELEVENTH SESSION (JWG11) – SECOND SESSION

CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY OF AGENDA 5 (LONG-TERM HARVEST STRATEGY) AND RELATED IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

IATTC-NC-JWG11(2)-2026-WP01
15 August 2026

PBFJWG Co-Chairs

Fishery impact

1. JWG recommends a stepwise approach to adjust the West – East fishery impact as follows:
   - 2027 – 2028 use 80:20 (W:E) fishery impact as specified in HCR 17[1]
   - 2029 – 2030 use 79:21 fishery impact[2]
   - 2031 – 2032 use 78:22 fishery impact[2]

2. JWG recommends that it consider mitigation of any additional reduction in WCPO small fish catch limit resulting from stepwise adjustment of fishery impact based upon ISC advice in 2028.

Conversion factor

3. JWG recommends use of a conversion factor for the first management period (2027 – 2028) as follows:
   - Japan and Korea may convert up to 20% and 35% of their small fish quota to large fish using conversion factor 6.37, respectively.
   - Use of this conversion factor will be reviewed in 2028.

[1] 35% stability cap will be used instead of 25% for the 2027 – 2028 management period. This results in an additional 1,187 mt of WCPO large fish. 40mt of WCPO large fish will be allocated to the United States annually in 2027 and 2028 in the WCPFC CMM. The remaining 1,147 mt of WCPO large fish TAC shall be transferred to EPO, resulting in an additional 757 mt per year (757 mt was calculated through the use of conversion factor (0.66)).

[2] 40mt of WCPO large fish will be allocated annually to the United States in the WCPFC CMM for both 2029-2030 and 2031-2032 management periods.

4. JWG requests that ISC analyze the use of this conversion factor by 2028. To facilitate the review of this conversion factor, the ISC PBFWG shall identify the data requirements as soon as possible for the analysis, and Japan and Korea shall provide the data identified by the PBFWG in 2027 and 2028.

5. JWG recommends that any use of conversion factors beyond this 20% and 35% specified above for 2027-2028 must utilize the previous conversion factor of 1.47.

6. JWG recommends that conversion of large fish quota to small fish quota shall not be permitted in any management period.

Biennial measures / Carryover

7. JWG recommends both Commissions utilize biennial measures to implement the MP.

8. JWG recommends both Commissions may utilize up to 17% carryover of the initial quota within the biennium to be used in the next biennium management period.

9. Within the two-year biennium, the JWG recommends a maximum of 125% of the biennial limit may be caught in a single year.

EPO sport fishery

10. JWG recommends the EPO sport fishery be managed in a manner consistent with EPO commercial fisheries, while remaining separate from the catch limit applicable to EPO commercial fisheries.
    For the implementation of the MP, catches of the EPO sport fishery are assumed at 1,288mt. Accordingly, the EPO commercial limit is calculated using the following formula:

    [EPO Commercial limit] = [EPO catch limit prescribed by the MP] – 1,288mt

    If the total actual catch in the EPO (commercial and sport fisheries combined) exceeds the EPO catch limit prescribed by the MP for consecutive years, the ISC will consider whether such an overage constitutes an “exceptional circumstance”.

Age-0 Fish

11. JWG recommends that WCPO age-0 (smaller than 2kg) catch should not increase beyond 50% of 2002-2004 levels.

Scope of MP

12. JWG recommends that the MP applies to the WCPFC Convention Area and IATTC Convention Area.

Reporting

13. JWG recommends that reporting of the catch limits detail any modifications from the initial annual limit (adjustments between the biennium, carryover, overage, conversion factors), and recommend the use of a uniform format to be agreed by the IATTC and the WCPFC, respectively.

14. JWG recommends that the ISC provide its estimation of age-0 (smaller than 2kg) catch on a regular basis.

Attachment D

JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
ELEVENTH SESSION (JWG11) – SECOND SESSION

INTERIM PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

(CMM 2026-XX/RESOLUTION C-26-XX)

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, the following Conservation and Management Measure.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) adopts, in accordance with Article VII, paragraph 1(c) of the Antigua Convention, the following Resolution.

Objective and Implementation of the Interim Management Procedure (MP)

1. The objective of the MP for Pacific bluefin tuna is to ensure that:
    a. fishing mortality (F) is maintained at or below F_{TARGET} with a probability of at least 50 percent;
    b. spawning stock biomass (SSB) is maintained above the 2nd Control Point with a probability of at least 90%;
    c. an equitable balance in proportional fishery impact between the Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) is being achieved gradually; and
    d. average annual catch across the WCPO and EPO is increased; and changes in overall catch limits between management periods are limited in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Annex 1 of this CMM.

2. The IATTC-WCPFC Northern Committee Joint Working Group on the Management of Pacific bluefin tuna (JWG) is held annually to provide recommendations on catch limits and other relevant measures to the WCPFC-NC and IATTC, respectively, to implement a CMM/ Resolution for each two-year period in the schedule as described in paragraph 7 below. Catch limits and other relevant measures may be adjusted for each two-year period and shall be consistent with the MP output and the objectives of this CMM/ Resolution.

Reference Points

3. The reference points are:
    a. Target reference point (TRP): F27.5%SPR, which is the fishing intensity (F) level that results in the stock producing 27.5% of spawning potential ratio (SPR).
    b. 1st Control Point ($SSB_{threshold}$): $20\%SSB_{F=0}$, which is 20% of the unfished SSB at equilibrium condition.
    c. 2nd Control Point: $7.7\%SSB_{F=0}$, which is 7.7% of the unfished SSB at equilibrium condition.

Scope and design of the MP

4. The MP applies to the WCPFC Convention area and the IATTC Convention area. The MP (and this

CMM/ Resolution) determines the total annual catches of large Pacific bluefin tuna (30 kg or larger in body weight), and small Pacific bluefin tuna (less than 30kg in body weight) to be taken within the WCPFC Convention Area, as well as the total annual catch of Pacific bluefin tuna to be taken within the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), assuming the relative fishing mortality among fishery segments and selectivity at age in 2015-2022. The 2-year implementation CMM/ Resolution will establish the management arrangements for achieving this.

5. The MP applies a stepwise approach to the fishery impact between the WCPO and EPO using the following parameters to produce the overall catch levels:
    a. For 2027-2028, a multiplier that achieves the impact ratio between WCPO and EPO of 80:20 as defined in the PBFMSE is applied
    b. For 2029-2030, a multiplier that achieves the impact ratio between WCPO and EPO of 79:21 as defined in the PBFMSE is applied
    c. For 2031-2032, a multiplier that achieves the impact ratio between WCPO and EPO of 78:22 as defined in the PBFMSE is applied.

Elements of the MP

6. The MP includes:
    a. The Harvest Control Rule set out in Annex I;
    b. The Estimation Model using the settings set out in Annex II; and
    c. The exceptional circumstances set out in Annex III.

Schedule and Roles of the JWG, the Commissions, the Subsidiary Bodies and the ISC

7. The ISC shall run the MP, perform stock assessments, and support the JWG and relevant bodies of the WCPFC and the IATTC in monitoring, analysis and review of performance of the MP.

8. The JWG shall review the Pacific Bluefin Tuna implementing measures and make recommendations to the WCPFC Northern Committee and the IATTC for their consideration in a repeating 2-year schedule as follows:

Year	ISC	JWG	WCPFC Northern Committee (NC)	WCPFC and IATTC Commissions
2026	Calculate the TAC based on MP run in 2025 for application to the period 2027-2028. Provide advice to the JWG and WCPFC/ IATTC subsidiary	Provide recommendations to the WCPFC NC and the IATTC on the MP and implementing measures for 2027-2028.	Consider JWG recommendations and provide recommendations to the WCPFC on the MP and the implementing CMM for 2027-2028.	Review and adopt the MP and implementing measures for 2027-2028.

	bodies[1] on the MP and implementing measures.			
2027	Perform stock health check using updated data and the 2024 stock assessment model. Evaluate the performance of the adopted MP through the formal MSE simulation. Examine Exceptional Circumstances.	Review outputs of the health check and other relevant ISC information and provide recommendations as needed.	Consider JWG recommendations and provide recommendations to WCPFC as necessary.	Apply the implementing measures.
2028	Run the MP for application to the period 2029-2030. Examine Exceptional Circumstances. Provide advice to the JWG and WCPFC/ IATTC subsidiary bodies on the MP outputs for application to the period 2029-2030.	Review MP performance and implementation measures. Provide recommendations to the WCPFC NC and the IATTC on revised implementing measures, taking into account the output of the MP for application to the period 2029-2030.	Consider JWG recommendations and provide recommendations to the WCPFC on a revised implementing CMM, taking into account the output of the MP for application to the period 2029-2030.	Adopt revised implementing measures for 2029-2030.
2029	Examine Exceptional Circumstances.	Review implementation measures and other relevant ISC information. Provide	Consider any JWG recommendations as necessary.	Continue to apply the implementing measures.

[1] WCPFC and IATTC subsidiary bodies, including WCPFC SC and IATTC SAC, may provide input to the JWG and/or the WCPFC and IATTC, respectively, through existing consultation processes.

		recommendations to the WCPFC NC and the IATTC as needed.		
2030	Perform benchmark stock assessment. Run the MP for application to the period 2031-2032. Examine Exceptional Circumstances. Provide advice to the JWG and WCPFC/ IATTC subsidiary bodies on the MP outputs for application to the period 2031-2032.	Review MP performance and implementation measures. Provide recommendations to the WCPFC NC and the IATTC, taking into account the output of the MP for application to the period 2031-2032.	Consider JWG recommendations and provide recommendations to the WCPFC, taking into account the output of the MP for application to the period 2031 – 2032.	Adopt the revision of the implementing measures for 2031-2032.
2031	Develop operating models for MP simulation based on the 2030 stock assessment. Examine Exceptional Circumstances.	Review implementation measures and other relevant ISC information and provide recommendations to the WCPFC NC and the IATTC as needed.	Consider any JWG recommendations as necessary.	Continue to apply the implementing measures.
2032	Run MP simulation based on the 2030 stock assessment. Run the MP for application to the period 2033-2034. Examine Exceptional Circumstances.	Review outputs of the MP simulation. Review the PBF MP, and consider if changes are necessary. Provide recommendations to the WCPFC NC and the IATTC, taking into account the output of the MP for application to the period 2033-2034.	Consider JWG recommendation. Provide recommendations to the WCPFC NC and the IATTC, taking into account the output of the MP for application to the period 2033-2034.	Review the PBF MP, and consider amending it if necessary. Adopt the revision of implementing measures for 2033-2034.

Implementation of MP

9. Biennial management/Carry-over: The WCPFC and the IATTC Commissions shall utilize biennial measures to implement the MP. CCMs and CPCs may utilize up to 17% carry-over of the initial catch limit[2] within the biennium to be used in the next biennium management period. Within the two-year biennium, a maximum of 62.5%[3] of the biennial catch limit may be utilized in a single year.

10. Over-harvest: Over-harvest of catch limits established in implementing measures on conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna shall be deducted from the applicable catch limits for the following management biennium. In years when a CMM or Resolution establishing catch limits expires, the over-harvest shall be deducted from catch limits established in the next implementing measure.

11. EPO Sport Fishery: The EPO sport fishery shall be managed in a manner consistent with EPO commercial fisheries, while remaining separate from the catch limit applicable to EPO commercial fisheries. For the implementation of the MP, catches of the EPO sport fishery are assumed at 1,139mt. Accordingly, the EPO commercial limit is calculated using the following formula:

[EPO Commercial limit] = [EPO catch limit prescribed by the MP] – 1,139mt[4]

If the total actual catch in the EPO (commercial and sport fisheries combined) exceeds the EPO catch limit prescribed by the MP for consecutive years, the ISC will consider whether such an overage constitutes an "exceptional circumstance".

Management Strategy Evaluation

12. The MP is established with reference to candidate MPs that have been simulation tested to determine their likely performance against a range of plausible scenarios. These scenarios and the details of the testing procedure are provided in IATTC-NC-JWGI03-2026/IP-01. The results of the evaluations are outlined in the same document and are available online at: https://connect.fisheries.noaa.gov/ISCPBF-MSE-tool/.

Allocation

[2] The "initial catch limit" refers to the catch limit established in the text of the implementing measure for the biennium.

[3] Calculated as [(biennial limit / 2)*125%]

[4] 1,139 mt is the average EPO sport catch over the last eight years (2018 – 2025).

13. Allocation is not included in or affected by the MP.

Review and Final Provisions

14. The WCPFC and IATTC Commissions shall review this MP in 2032, taking into account updates of stock assessments and SSB projections conducted by ISC, to ensure that the various provisions are having the intended effect. The Commissions may amend the MP based on the results of this review.

15. This measure replaces WCPFC HS 2023-03 and IATTC Resolution C-23-01. This measure shall come into effect on 1 January 2027.

ANNEX 1: HARVEST CONTROL RULE

1. The harvest control rule (HCR) as outlined in Figure 1 is defined by parameters related to stock status (the ratio of $SSB_{current}$ to $SSB_{F=0}$) and fishing intensity (SPR), as provided in Table 1, $SSB_{current}$ and $SSB_{F=0}$ refer to spawning stock biomass in the terminal year and unfished spawning stock biomass at equilibrium condition, respectively, both estimated by the estimation model. The output from the harvest control rule is an F%SPR that is used to calculate future TAC along with the age structures of PBF, the relative fishing mortality across fleets and fleet selectivity at age. Features of HCR include:

   a. If $SSB_{current}/SSB_{F=0}$ is above or equal to the 1st control point, fishing intensity shall be maintained at the F target.

   b. If $SSB_{current}/SSB_{F=0}$ is below the 1st control point, , and is above the 2nd control point, fishing intensity shall be reduced to a level in accordance with following formula:

$$F = \frac{F_{target} - F_{min}}{1st\ control\ point - 2nd\ control\ point} \times \left(\frac{SSB_{current}}{SSB_{F=0}} - 2nd\ control\ point\right) + F_{min}$$

   c. If $SSB_{current}/SSB_{F=0}$ is at or below the 2nd control point, fishing intensity shall be set at F_{min}.

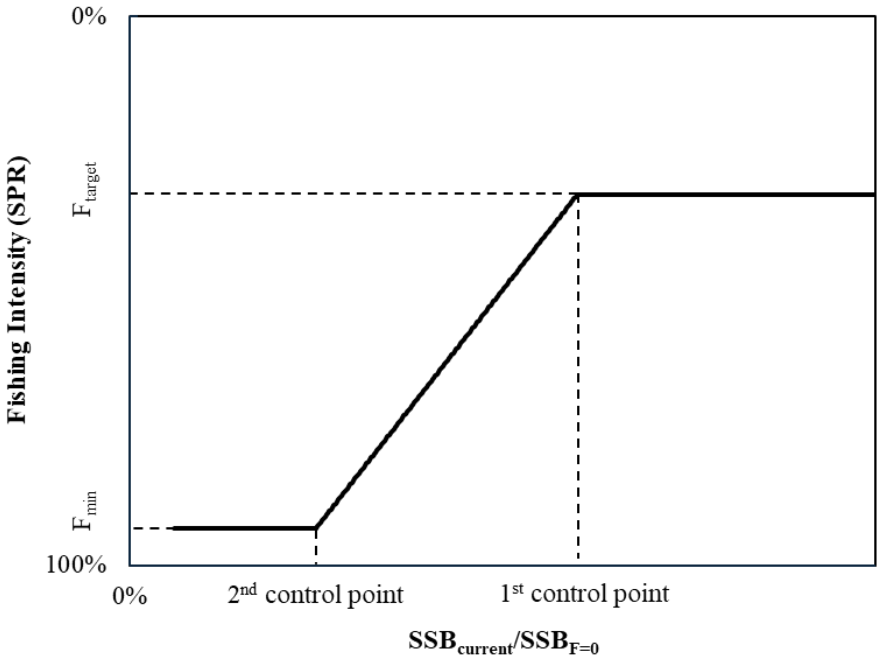


Figure 1: Illustration of the harvest control rule with target reference point (F_{target}), 1st control point and 2nd control point, and the minimum allowed fishing intensity (F_{min}).

Table 1. Management Procedure parameters

Parameter	TRP	1st Control Point	2nd Control Point	Fmin
	F27.5%SPR	20%SSBF=0	7.7%SSBF=0	F70% SPR

2. The maximum changes in catch limits for each fishery segment indicated by the HCR between any 2-year management period shall be 25%[5] relative to the catch limits specified by the MP for the previous 2-year period unless $SSB_{current}/SSB_{F=0}$ is below the 2nd Control Point.

ANNEX 2: ESTIMATION MODEL

1. Stock status ($SSB_{current}$ /$SSB_{F=0}$), age structure of PBF in the terminal year, and relative fishing mortality by fleet and fleet selectivity at age are estimated within the MP using a stock synthesis (SS3; Methot and Wetzel 2013) based quasi age-structured-production-model. The model takes into account annual recruitment variation and size selectivity of the key fleets (ASPM-R+; ISC 2025).

2. The ASPM-R+ estimation model adopts the same demographic assumptions as the 2024 PBF stock assessment base-case model. Input data include updated longline CPUE-based abundance indices, updated catch time series for all fleets, and size-composition data for fleets associated with the longline indices. The model estimates population scale, initial conditions, annual recruitment deviations, and longline fleet selectivity. Estimates of $SSB_{current}/SSB_{F=0}$, terminal-year age structure, and relative fishing mortality by fleet, and fleet selectivity at age for 2015–2022 are derived from the model outputs.

3. The ASPM-R+ estimation model first estimates the average fishing mortality over 2015–2022 and then the corresponding multiplier required to achieve the F%SPR specified by the HCR. In addition, in the MP iteration in 2028, a multiplier that achieves the impact ratio between WCPO and EPO of 79:21 as defined in the PBFMSE is applied and in the MP iteration in 2030 a multiplier that achieves the impact ratio of 78:22 is applied. Using these estimates, together with terminal-year numbers at age, natural mortality, and weight at age derived from the estimation model, the future TAC for each fishery segment is then calculated.

ANNEX 3: CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Exceptional circumstances are defined as the occurrence of events that are outside the range of scenarios considered for testing the MP. In the case of such events, it may be necessary to re-evaluate the MP or, in severe cases where there is considered to be a risk to the stock, take

[5] For the 2027-2028 management period, the maximum change in catch limits is set at 35%, instead of 25%.

remedial action. Exceptional circumstances are not a mechanism for making regular, small adjustments to the MP, but rather should be invoked where, through an agreed process, the operation of the MP has been demonstrated to be highly risky or inappropriate. This Annex provides guidance on the process for determining whether exceptional circumstances exist and the necessary actions but does not provide firm definitions of all possible exceptional circumstances.

Process to determine if exceptional circumstances exist:

2. The ISC will update CPUE every year, continue to update the estimation model for the scheduled MP run, and conduct stock assessments for the stock with updated data sources. The ISC will also conduct research to examine new evidence about the current stock status and environmental conditions.

3. Examples of what might constitute exceptional circumstances for PBF include, but are not limited to:
    a. Stock and Fleet Dynamics: Evidence from stock assessment estimates that the stock is in a state not previously simulated in the MSE (e.g., current SSB estimates are outside the range of uncertainty, or new evidence about the biology of the stock is presented). In addition, consider evidence that the fleet structure or fishing operations have changed substantially.
    b. Application: Data collection required to produce the stock assessment is no longer available and/or appropriate to apply the adopted MP.
    c. Implementation: The implementation of the management action is substantially different from what is prescribed by the MPs. For example, the total removals by the fishery differ substantially from what is prescribed by the implementing measures. TAC overage is not included here, as it is controllable through management actions.

4. Based on the general elements above, indicators are summarized in Table 1.

Process for action in the event of exceptional circumstances:

5. Having determined that there is evidence for exceptional circumstances, the ISC shall provide advice to the JWG, WCPFC NC and IATTC including, but not limited to:
    a. The nature, severity and potential impacts of the exceptional circumstances;
    b. Potential impacts on the performance of the MP;
    c. Potential actions to address the exceptional circumstances, such as a change in the MP, additional research, updates to the MSE framework for PBF or other recommendations as appropriate.

Table 1: Elements, indicators, and defined reference ranges used to evaluate whether the stock is experiencing exceptional circumstances beyond those considered in the Pacific bluefin tuna management strategy evaluation.

Element	Indicator	Range	Evaluation Schedule
Stock and Fleet Dynamics	Depletion of stock biomass	In any year estimates fall outside the range of uncertainty simulated by the operating models (OMs) used in the MSE.	EM update or stock assessment
	Fishing intensity ($F_{\%SPR}$) where SPR is the spawning potential ratio		
	Longline CPUE	In any year estimates fall outside the range of uncertainty simulated by the MSE.	Every year when CPUE is updated.
	Changes in fleet dynamics or selectivity	Any substantial differences from the structure and parameterization used in the OMs of the most recent MSE	As new evidence and research is presented and accepted by the PBFWG
	Biological parameters		
	Recruitment drop	Recruitment index shows a low trend.	Every year when CPUE is updated.
Application	EM or Stock assessment	EM or Stock assessment is not producible or estimates are unreliable.	EM update or stock assessment
	Realized catch or effort	If there is evidence that catch or effort outside of management, such as discard mortality or by new fleets, is greater than assumed in the MSE.	As new evidence and research is presented and accepted by the PBFWG

Attachment E

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

Conservation and Management Measure 2026-xx

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Recognizing that WCPFC6 adopted Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM 2009-07) and the measure was revised thirteen times since then (CMM 2010-04, CMM 2012-06, CMM 2013-09, CMM 2014-04, CMM 2015-04, CMM 2016-04, CMM2017-08, CMM 2018-02, CMM 2019-02, CMM 2020-02, CMM 2021-02 CMM 2023-02 and CMM 2024-01) based on the conservation advice from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) on this stock;

Noting the latest stock assessment provided by ISC in 2024, indicating the following:

- Spawning stock biomass (SSB) has increased substantially in the last 12 years, and achieved its second rebuilding target ($20\%SSBF_{=0}$) in 2021;
- A substantial decrease in estimated F has been observed in ages 0-2 in 2020-2022 relative to 2002-2004 and 2012-2014;
- Since the early 1990s, the WCPO purse seine fisheries, in particular those targeting small fish (age 0-1) have had an increasing impact on the spawning stock biomass, but its impact has reduced in recent years;
- Harvesting small fish has a greater impact on future spawning stock biomass than harvesting large fish of the same amount;
- The projection results indicate that increases of catch limits are possible while maintaining SSB greater than 20%SSBF=0 with a 60% probability under several scenarios requested by JWG8, and while allowing SSB to steadily increase above the second rebuilding target under additionally requested certain scenarios; and
- The projection results also indicate that the maximum allowable transfer from small fish catch limits to large fish catch limits utilizing the conversion factor has a positive effect on future SSB.

Recognizing that the Management Procedure for Pacific bluefin tuna, developed as the Conservation and Management Measures (CMM 2026-XX), provides the basis for determining total allowable catches for the WCPO small fish, WCPO large fish, and EPO;

Noting the conversion factors calculated by the ISC in 2025 to facilitate the transfer of catch among different fishing sectors while maintaining the overall spawning potential ratio (SPR);

Further Noting the conservation advice from the ISC that research on a recruitment index for the

stock assessment should be pursued, and maintenance of a reliable adult abundance index should be ensured;

Recalling that paragraph (4) of the Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention, which requires cooperation between the Commission and the IATTC to reach agreement to harmonize CMMs for fish stocks such as Pacific bluefin tuna that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Also recalling Article 10 (1) (a) of the WCPF Convention, which provides that the Commission may determine the total allowable catch or total level of fishing effort within the Convention Area for such highly migratory fish stocks and decide and adopt such other conservation and management measures and recommendations as may be necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of such stocks without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing highly migratory fish stocks within areas under national jurisdiction;

Conscious of the need to identify, analyze and respond to the impacts of climate change on the tuna and tuna-like species in the North Pacific Ocean in a timely manner to enhance the effectiveness of the conservation and management for the species;

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

General Provision

1. This conservation and management measure has been prepared to implement the Management Procedure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna Fisheries (CMM 2026-xx).

Management measures

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.
3. During 2027-2028, 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 biennial catch limits in the tables below, without prejudice to future agreement on allocation of TAC. Within the biennium, Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei also shall not exceed the one-year maximum catch limits in the tables below.

Pacific Bluefin tuna less than 30kg

	2002-2004 average annual level	Initial biennium catch limit in 2027-2028	One-year maximum in 2027-2028
Japan	8,015 metric tons	[ ] metric tons	[ ] metric tons
Korea	1,435 metric tons	[ ] metric tons	[ ] metric tons

Pacific Bluefin tuna 30kg or larger

	2002-2004 average annual level	Initial biennium catch limit in 2027-2028	One-year maximum in 2027-2028

Japan	4,882 metric tons	[ ] metric tons	[ ] metric tons
Korea	0 metric tons	[ ] metric tons	[ ] metric tons
Chinese Taipei	1,709 metric tons	[ ] metric tons	[ ] metric tons

4. CCMs with a base line catch (2002-2004 average annual level) of 10 tons or less of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger may increase their catch as long as it does not exceed 10 metric tons per year. During 2027-2028, the biennial catch limit of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger for New Zealand shall be [ ] metric tonnes, for Australia [ ] metric tonnes, and for the United States [ ] metric tonnes, taking into account their nature as bycatch fisheries conducted in their waters.
5. Any overage or underage of the biennium catch limit shall be deducted from or may be added to the catch limit for the following biennium. The maximum underage that a CCM may carry over in any given biennium shall not exceed 17% of its biennial initial catch limit.[1]
6. Japan and Korea may use part of the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg stipulated in paragraph 3 above to catch Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger in the same year. In this case, the amount of catch 30kg or larger shall be counted against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg.[2] CCMs shall not use the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger to catch Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg. ISC shall review the use of the conversion factor by 2028. To facilitate the review of this conversion factor, the ISC Pacific Bluefin Tuna Working Group (PBFWG) shall identify the data requirements for the analysis, and Japan and Korea shall provide the data identified by the PBFWG in 2027 and 2028.
7. CCMs are encouraged to conduct research activities to collect reliable indices of recruitment stock and adult spawning stock. Notwithstanding paragraph 3 and 4, setting a catch limit dedicated for research activities to develop and maintain indices may be considered by WCPFC through the Northern Committee based on research plans reviewed and supported by the ISC.
8. All CCMs except Japan shall implement the limits in paragraph 3 on a calendar-year basis. Japan shall implement the limits using a management year other than the calendar year for some of its fisheries and have its implementation assessed with respect to its management year. To facilitate the assessment, Japan shall:
    a. Use the following management years:
        1. For its fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, use the calendar year as the management year.

[1] Notwithstanding paragraph 5, a CCM may carry over up to 17% of its initial catch limits in 2026, which remain uncaught, to 2027.

[2] During 2027-2028, Japan and Korea may count the amount of catch 30kg or larger adjusted with the conversion factor 6.37 (catch 30kg or larger multiplied by1/6.37) against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg up to 20% and 35% of its initial biennium catch limit, respectively. Beyond the 20% and 35%, such CCMs may count the amount of catch 30kg or larger adjusted with the conversion factor 1.47 against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg.

2. For its other fisheries, use 1 April – 31 March as the management year.[3]

b. In its annual reports for PBF, for each category described in a.1 and a.2 above, complete the required reporting template for both the management year and calendar year clearly identifying fisheries for each management year.

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 catch limits and their 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. For this purpose, CCMs are encouraged to use the catch limit implementation table as shown in **Attachment 1**. The Executive Director will compile this information each year into an appropriate format for the use of the Northern Committee.

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.

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.

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.

13. CCMs shall cooperate to establish a catch documentation scheme (CDS) to be applied to Pacific bluefin tuna in accordance with the **Attachment** 2 of this CMM.

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.

15. CCMs shall report to the Executive Director by 15 June annually measures they used to implement paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 17 of this CMM. CCMs shall also monitor the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna and report the results to the Executive Director by 15 June annually. The Northern Committee shall annually review those reports CCMs submit pursuant to this paragraph and if necessary, advise a CCM to take an action for enhancing its compliance with this CMM.

16. The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this CMM to the IATTC Secretariat and its contracting parties whose fishing vessels engage in fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in EPO and request them to take equivalent measures in conformity with this CMM.

[3] For the category described a.2 of paragraph 8, the TCC shall assess in year 20XX its implementation during the management year that starts 1 April 20XX-1 (e.g., in the 2020 compliance review, the TCC will assess Japan's implementation for its fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries during calendar-year 2019 and for its other fisheries during 1 April 2019 through 31 March 2020.

17. 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.
18. The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 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 Pacific bluefin tuna is limited, but that have a real interest in fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for Pacific bluefin tuna in the future.
19. The provisions of paragraph 18 shall not provide a basis for an increase in fishing effort by fishing vessels owned or operated by interests outside such developing coastal State, particularly 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.
20. This CMM replaces CMM 2024-01.

Attachment 1

Catch limit implementation table for Pacific bluefin tuna

Small fish catch limit (<30kg)

Year		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
(a)	**Initial biennial catch limit**							
(b)	**Overage of the previous biennial catch limit**							
	Underage of the previous biennial catch limit(1)							
(c)	**Portion transferred to large fish catch limit with the conversion factor 6.37**							
(d)	**Portion transferred to large fish catch limit with the conversion factor 1.47**							
(e)	**Adjusted biennial catch limit (= (a) ± (b) - (c) - (d))**							
(f)	**Actual biennial catch**							
(g)	**Overage/Underage (= (e) - (f))**							

(1) The maximum underage that a CCM may carry over in any given biennium shall not exceed 17% of its biennial initial catch limit ((a)).

Large fish catch limit (≧30kg)

Year		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
(A)	Initial biennial catch limit							
(B)	Overage of the previous biennial catch limit							
	Underage of the previous biennial catch limit(2)							
(C)	Catch limit transferred from large fish catch limit with the conversion factor 6.37							
(D)	Catch limit transferred from large fish catch limit with the conversion factor 1.47							
(E)	Adjusted biennial catch limit (= (A) ± (B) + (C) + (D))							
(F)	Actual biennial catch							
(G)	Overage/Underage (= (E) - (F))							

(2) The maximum underage that a CCM may carry over in any given biennium shall not exceed 17% of its biennial initial catch limit ((A)).

Attachment 2

Development of a Catch Document Scheme for Pacific Bluefin Tuna

Background

At the 1st joint working group meeting between NC and IATTC, held in Fukuoka, Japan from August 29 to September 1, 2016, participants supported to advance the work on the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) in the next joint working group meeting, in line with the development of overarching CDS framework by WCPFC and taking into account of the existing CDS by other RFMOs.

1. Objective of the Catch Document Scheme

The objective of CDS is to combat IUU fishing for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) by providing a means of preventing PBF and its products identified as caught by or originating from IUU fishing activities from moving through the commodity chain and ultimately entering markets.

2. Use of electronic scheme

Whether CDS will be a paper based scheme, an electronic scheme or a gradual transition from a paper based one to an electronic one should be first decided since the requirement of each scheme would be quite different.

3. Basic elements to be included in the draft conservation and management measure (CMM)

It is considered that at least the following elements should be considered in drafting CMM.

(1) Objective
(2) General provision
(3) Definition of terms
(4) Validation authorities and validating process of catch documents and re-export certificates
(5) Verification authorities and verifying process for import and re-import
(6) How to handle PBF caught by artisanal fisheries
(7) How to handle PBF caught by recreational or sport fisheries
(8) Use of tagging as a condition for exemption of validation
(9) Communication between exporting members and importing members
(10) Communication between members and the Secretariat
(11) Role of the Secretariat
(12) Relationship with non-members
(13) Relationship with other CDSs and similar programs
(14) Consideration to developing members
(15) Schedule for introduction
(16) Attachment
(i) Catch document forms
(ii) Re-export certificate forms
(iii) Instruction sheets for how to fill out forms
(iv) List of data to be extracted and compiled by the Secretariat

4. Work plan

2027 The joint working group will hold a technical meeting to finalize the draft CDS CMM.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

104th MEETING

Lisbon, Portugal

RESOLUTION C-26-XX

MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered, on the occasion of its 104th Meeting:

[Chapeau text to be updated at 104th meeting of the IATTC]

Resolves as follows:

The following paragraphs apply to 2027-2028:

1. The Commission shall implement this Resolution in accordance with the long-term management procedure of Pacific bluefin tuna in Resolution C-26-XX.

2. Each CPC shall report its sport fishery catches annually by June 30. Each CPC shall ensure that catches of Pacific bluefin tuna by sportfishing vessels operating under its jurisdiction are managed in a manner consistent with commercial fisheries.

3. In the IATTC Convention Area in 2027-2028, combined total catches of Pacific bluefin tuna by all CPCs shall not exceed the EPO total allowable biennial catch limit of [XX,XXX] metric tons.[11]

4. In 2027 – 2028, in the IATTC Convention Area, combined total commercial catches of Pacific bluefin tuna by all CPCs shall not exceed the biennial catch limit of [XX,XXX] metric tons. The biennial catch limits for each CPC are specified below in paragraph 5[12]. Within each biennium, CPCs also shall not exceed a one-year maximum catch limit, as specified below in paragraph 5.

[11] In 2027-2028, the use of the 35% stability cap in the management procedure instead of 25% results in an additional 1,187 mt of WCPO large fish in each year. 1,147 mt shall be transferred to the EPO annually in 2027-2028, resulting in an additional 757 mt per year (757 mt calculated through the use of the conversion factor 0.66).

[12] Notwithstanding paragraph 4, CPCs not referenced in paragraph 5 may catch Pacific bluefin tuna so long as their catch does not exceed 10 metric tons per year.

5.

	Mexico	United States
Biennial limit 2027 - 2028	~~10, 763~~ [X,XXX t]	~~1,822~~ [X,XXX t]
One-year máximum for 2027-2028	~~6,296~~ [X,XXX t]	~~1,285~~ [X,XXX t]

a. During 2027 - 2028, the United States may catch up to [XXXX] metric tons for both years combined (biennial limit), and up to [XXXX] metric tons in either year (one-year maximum). The catch limits for the United States will be subtracted and reserved from the total catch limits in paragraph 4 for the exclusive use of the United States.

b. [During 2027 - 2028, Mexico may catch up to [XXXX] metric tons for both years combined (biennial limit), and up to [XXXX] metric tons in either year (one-year maximum). The catch limits for Mexico will be subtracted and reserved from the total catch limits in paragraph 4 for the exclusive use of Mexico.

6. Any over-harvest by any CPC shall be deducted from that CPC's catch limit in the following year in accordance with paragraph X of the Management Procedure (C-26-XX).

7. Under-harvest of 2025-2026 biennial catch limits established in Resolution C-24-02 shall be added to catch limits in this Resolution applicable to 2027-2028 in accordance with Paragraph X of the Management Procedure (C-26-XX).

8. CPCs should endeavor to manage catches by vessels under their respective national jurisdictions in such a manner and through such mechanisms as might be applied, with the objective of reducing the proportion of fish of less than 30 kg in the catch toward 50% of total catch, taking into consideration the scientific advice of the ISC and the IATTC staff. At the annual meetings of the IATTC in 2027 - 2028, the Scientific Staff shall present the results of the previous year's fishing season in this regard for the Commission's review.

9. In each year in 2027-2028, each CPC shall report its commercial catches to the Director weekly after 50% of its annual catch limit in each year is reached.

10. The Director will send out notices to all CPCs when 75% and 90% of the limits in Paragraphs 4 or 5 have been reached. The Director will send out a notice to all CPCs when the limits in Paragraphs 4 or 5 have been reached.

11. By 31 January of each year, the Director shall notify all CPCs of the catch limit for each year in 2027 – 2028 established in Paragraphs 4 and 5 of this resolution that accounts for

any over-harvest or under-harvest in accordance with Paragraphs 6 and 7 of this Resolution, and Paragraphs X and X of Resolution C-26-XX.

12. In each year in 2027-2028, the IATTC Scientific Staff shall present an assessment to the Scientific Advisory Committee of the effectiveness of this resolution also taking into consideration the results of the ISC's latest Pacific bluefin tuna stock assessment, harvest scenario projections performed by the ISC, the management procedure (C-26-XX) and conservation and management measures for Pacific bluefin tuna adopted by the WCPFC. The Commission shall review and consider revising the management measures established in this Resolution based on the best available information, including the management procedure, the latest assessment, recruitment information, projections or other relevant information, as well as outcomes of the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group on Pacific bluefin tuna.

This resolution replaces resolution C-24-02.

Attachment 4

THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN
NORTHERN COMMITTEE
RESUMED MEETING OF THE TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION (NC22-2)
Online
11 November 2026

CANDIDATE INPUTS TO INFORM A MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION FOR NORTH PACIFIC SWORDFISH

SUBMITTED BY THE USA

Candidate Inputs to Inform a Management Strategy Evaluation for North Pacific Swordfish

Introduction

In 2025, the WCPFC Northern Committee (NC) agreed to initiate a management strategy evaluation (MSE) for Western and Central North Pacific Swordfish (NP SWO). The NC tasked the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species (ISC) to develop a work plan for conducting the MSE for NC's review in 2026. The NC also tasked itself to discuss candidate operational management objectives in 2026. After NC21 concluded, the funding for a contractor to assist with the technical MSE work was secured. This funding, however, is time-limited so MSE work needs to be completed by 2028. To ensure the MSE can be completed within the time constraints of funding, NC provided the following guidance on inputs to the MSE for NP SWO so that the ISC can begin work on preliminary analyses.

Candidate Management Objectives and Performance Indicators

The NC identified the following candidate management objectives and candidate performance indicators for use in the NP SWO MSE evaluation (Table 1).

Table 1. Candidate management objectives and performance indicators by category for a NP SWO MSE.

Category	Management Objective	Label	Performance Indicator
Safety	Maintain SSB above the limit reference point with at least 80% probability	Probability SSB > LRP	Probability that SSB is greater than the LRP in any given year of the MSE evaluation period
Status	Maintain fishing intensity (F) at the target value with at least a 50% probability	F_{Target}/F	F_{Target}/F
	Maintain SSB at or above SSB corresponding to TRP with at least a 50% probability	SSB	SSB
Stability	Change in total allowable catch between years should be relatively gradual	Catch stability	Probability that change in TAC is <10% or <15% between consecutive management periods
		Average change in TAC	Average change in TAC over MSE evaluation period
Yield	Maintain catches above average historical catch levels	Probability catch ≥historical catch levels	Probability that catch in any given year of the MSE evaluation period is greater than or equal to average historical (2008-2010) catch.
		Average annual catch	Average annual catch over MSE evaluation period

Candidate Reference Points

Previously, the ISC has identified NP SWO as a Level 1 stock, and HS 2016-01 specifies the LRP for NP SWO at F_{MSY}.

The NC identified the additional following candidate reference points for consideration as part of the WCNPO MSE evaluation:

- LRP = SSB_{MSY} = 17% $SSB_{F=0,}$ 7.7% $SSB_{F=0}$
- TRPs = FSPR40%, FSPR35%, FSPR30%,
- ThRP = 35% $SSB_{F=0}$, 30% $SSB_{F=0,}$, 25%$SSB_{F=0,}$ 20%$SSB_{F=0}$

Candidate Harvest Control Rules

The NC requests the ISC to evaluate the candidate harvest control rules (HCRs) contained in Table 2 with the general HCR shape as depicted in Figure 1, as well as up to three model-free, empirical HCR options developed by the analyst. Additionally, all HCRs should be evaluated with and without a meta-rule that limits TAC changes between management periods to 10% or 15%.

Table 2. Candidate Harvest Control Rules

HCR	F_{TARGET}	Control Point 1 (ThRP)	Control Point 2 (LRP)	Fmin
1	F40%	35% $SSB_{F=0}$	17% $SSB_{F=0}$	F90%
2	F40%	30% $SSB_{F=0}$	17% $SSB_{F=0}$	F90%
3	F40%	25% $SSB_{F=0}$	17% $SSB_{F=0}$	F90%
4	F35%	30% $SSB_{F=0}$	17% $SSB_{F=0}$	F90%
5	F35%	25% $SSB_{F=0}$	17% $SSB_{F=0}$	F90%
6	F30%	25% $SSB_{F=0}$	17% $SSB_{F=0}$	F90%
7	F30%	25% $SSB_{F=0}$	17% $SSB_{F=0}$	F70%
8	F30%	20% $SSB_{F=0}$	7.7% $SSB_{F=0}$	F70%

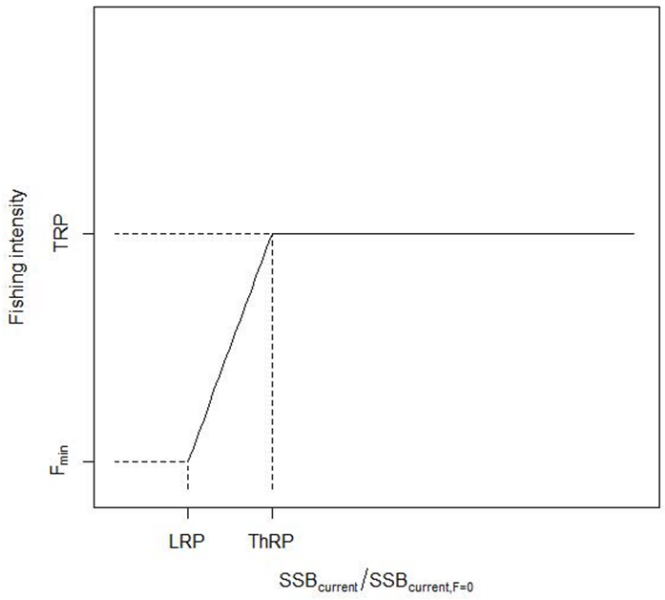


Figure 1. Generalized HCR shape

Other Operational Considerations

The NC recommends that the NP SWO MSE be designed such that the duration of the management periods be 3 years, and that the output controls of the MSE are total allowable catch (TAC) and is converted from fishing intensity. The duration of the MSE evaluation period should be long enough for simulations to reach equilibrium.

The MSE should be designed to manage all fishing mortality of NP swordfish (Western and Central North Pacific Ocean SWO and North Eastern Pacific Ocean SWO) in the Pacific Ocean north of the equator.

Recognizing that WCPFC CMM 2023-03 applies to the high seas and EEZ in the WCPFC Convention Area north of 20N, and limits fishing effort for fisheries harvesting over 200 mt of NP SWO, the NC requests the ISC Billfish Working Group to identify average catch levels and spatial distribution for those fisheries that are not included within the WCPFC CMM for the WCPFC Convention Area to inform future considerations related to implementation.

Attachment 5

THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN
NORTHERN COMMITTEE
RESUMED MEETING OF THE TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION (NC22-2)
Online
11 November 2026

[PLACEHOLDER]