



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
NINTH REGULAR SESSION**

2-5 September 2013
Fukuoka, Japan

REPORT ON CMM 2012-06 (PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA)

WCPFC-NC9-2013 /DP-05

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Pacific Islands Regional Office
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4700
(808) 944-2200 • Fax (808) 973-2941

July 26, 2013

Professor Glenn Hurry
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 2356
Kolonia
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Glenn:

The following information is provided to satisfy the reporting requirements of WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2012-06 (Pacific Bluefin Tuna).

Paragraph 2: The United States does not have any vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the Convention Area north of 20 degrees north, so it does not need to limit fishing effort or catches of juveniles in any of its fisheries.

Paragraph 3: Although, the United States does not have any Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in the Convention Area, it does have a system in place that collects data on the catch of Pacific bluefin tuna in its other fisheries in a timely and consistent basis.

Paragraph 4: The United States monitors the international trade of Pacific bluefin tuna through its Highly Migratory Species International Trade Permit (HMS ITP) program. All importers, exporters and re-exporters of Pacific bluefin tuna products are required to hold an HMS ITP. Domestic regulations (50 CFR 300 Subpart M) require that each import, export or re-export of Pacific bluefin tuna be accompanied by a bluefin tuna catch document (BCD) (please see attachment) containing information on area of harvest, product information, and trade information. Copies of BCDs and re-export certificates are required to be submitted to NOAA Fisheries within 24 hours of a trade, and NOAA Fisheries maintains a database with information on imports, exports, and re-exports of Pacific bluefin tuna. For calendar year 2012, no information on exports or re-exports is available at this time, but the data show imports of 31 mt of bluefin tuna caught in the Pacific Ocean were imported to the United States, with 21 mt coming from Mexico and 10 mt from Japan.

Paragraph 6: Not applicable.

Paragraph 7: At the 2013 IATTC annual meeting, the United States worked with other IATTC contracting parties to support the catch-based resolution on Pacific bluefin tuna that was adopted.

If you have any questions about this submission please contact Valerie Chan at +1 808-944-2161 or valerie.chan@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Clarke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Raymond Clarke
Fisheries Biologist

cc: William Gibbons-Fly, U.S. Department of State
Ruth Matagi-Tofiga, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
Arnold Palacios, CNMI Department of Lands and Resources
Joseph Cameron, Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources

UNITED STATES BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT

Document No. _____

1. CATCH INFORMATION

A. VESSEL

	ATVP NO:			
	NAME:		FLAG:	ICCAT RECORD NO.:

B. CATCH DESCRIPTION

	LANDING DATE (ddmmyy):		AREA:	Pacific
	NO. FISH:		AVG WT (KG):	
	TOTAL WT (KG):		GEAR:	

C. GOVT. VALIDATION

	NAME OF AUTHORITY:		TITLE:		SEAL
	SIGNATURE:		DATE:		

2. TAG INFORMATION & PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

TAG #:	WT (KG):	Product Type		Product Type Descriptions
		F/FR	RD/GG/DR/FL/OT	
				F = Fresh FR = Frozen RD = Round GG = Gilled&Gutted DR = Dressed FL = Fillet OT = Other

3. TRADE INFORMATION

A. EXPORTER/SELLER

	COMPANY:		LICENSE NO:	
	ADDRESS:	STREET	CITY	STATE OR PROVINCE
	NET WT (kg):		SIGNATURE:	

B. POINT OF EXPORT/DEPARTURE:

	CITY:		STATE:		DESTINATION COUNTRY:
	COUNTRY:	USA	DATE:		

C. TRANSPORTATION DESCRIPTION (ensure documents are available at import)

D. GOVT VALIDATION

	NAME OF AUTHORITY:		TITLE:		SEAL
	SIGNATURE:		DATE:		

E. IMPORTER/BUYER

	COMPANY:		LICENSE NO:	
	ADDRESS:	STREET	CITY	STATE OR PROVINCE
	SIGNATURE:			

F. POINT OF IMPORT

	CITY:		STATE OR PROVINCE:	
	COUNTRY:		DATE:	

United States Bluefin Tuna Catch Document

Reporting Instructions for Bluefin Tuna Exports

Bluefin tuna exporters must fill out this form for each vessel's exported catch. Complete the document on the reverse side by entering the requested data in the appropriate data fields following the instructions below. (*See the bottom of this instruction sheet for Pacific bluefin tuna*). The document must be filled out completely prior to exporting bluefin tuna in accordance with 50 C.F.R. 300.185. The completed original document must accompany the exported consignment.

Submit a copy of the completed document to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) at one of the following addresses: by email to: BFTreporting@noaa.gov; by FAX to: 228-762-7144; or by mail to: Tuna/Swordfish Reporting, NSIL, 3209 Frederic St, Pascagoula, MS, 39567. NMFS must receive a copy of the document within 24 hours of export.

FORM INSTRUCTIONS

Document Number: Use the following formula to generate a document number: *USYear - International Trade Permit (ITP) number* (numerals only, do not include the "SE" prefix)- *sequential number*. For example, an exporter with the ITP number SE 10543 who is exporting the first bluefin for the year 2008 would use the following doc. number: US2008-10543-1.

1. Catch Information (*NOTE: It may be necessary to obtain this information from the Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit holder who first purchased the bluefin tuna.*)

A. Vessel: Enter the name of the vessel that captured the bluefin tuna and the vessel's Atlantic Tuna Vessel Permit (ATVP) number. For vessels with a length greater than 24 m, enter the ICCAT record number (see website <http://www.iccat.int/vesselsrecord.asp>)

B. Catch Description: Enter the Landing Date (date bluefin tuna was brought to dock and sold to Atlantic Tunas Dealer Permit holder), Area of catch, Gear type (choose from table below), Number of Fish entered on this form, Total Weight in kilograms of fish product entered on this form, and calculate average weight = (total weight/number of fish).

GEAR TYPES					
HAND	–	handline	LL	–	longline
RR	–	rod and reel	PS	–	purse seine
HARP	–	harpoon	TRAP	–	trap

2. Tag Information and Product Description

Enter the tag number for each bluefin tuna in the space provided. Enter the product type (choose from list on front of form) for each tagged fish and its weight in kilograms. If product type is "other" enter "OT" and a one-word description (*e.g., OT-toro*).

3. Trade Information

A. Exporter/Seller: Enter the exporting company's name and International Trade Permit number, address, the total weight of bluefin tuna listed on this form, and sign once the form is printed.

B. Point of Departure/Export: enter the point of departure including city, state, and date of export. ***Enter the destination (country) of the export.***

C. Transportation Description: Ensure that a copy of official transportation documentation (*e.g., airway bill*) is received by the importer, along with this form.

D. Government Validation: If bluefin tuna are tagged, leave this section blank (government validation is waived for tagged U.S. Atlantic and Pacific bluefin tuna). For untagged Pacific bluefin tuna, government validation is required. For validation, FAX the completed form to the NMFS-authorized validation official at: 866/252-3751. Be sure to specify return fax number and phone number. If your validated form has not been returned within 2 hours, call the validation official at 843-724-6425.

E. Importer/Buyer; and, F. Point of Import: leave blank – this section will be filled out by the foreign importer.

Pacific bluefin tuna exports: only the following fields are required: "Document Number," "Area" under "Catch Information," "Weight" and "Product Type" under "Tag Information and Product Description," and all "Trade Information" fields, including "Government Validation."

The following information is provided to you as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (PL 104-13): Under the provisions of the PRA and the Privacy Act of 1974 (PL 93-579), you are advised that disclosure of the information requested on the United States bluefin tuna catch document is mandatory for the purpose of managing the bluefin tuna fishery. The data is used to monitor trade of Atlantic bluefin tuna. Reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per completed form, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, and completing and reviewing the information. Pursuant to Section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and consistent with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100 (Confidentiality of Fisheries Statistics), the Agency does not release confidential information submitted in compliance with provisions of the Act, other than in aggregate form and under circumstances required or authorized by law. Whenever data are requested or released to the general public, the Agency ensures that information on the pecuniary business activity of a dealer is not identified. **Because you have been provided with a currently valid OMB control number for a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act you are required to respond to, or be subject to penalty for failing to comply with, this collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or suggestions for reducing this burden to: NMFS, Highly Migratory Species Division, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298.**