



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
NINTH REGULAR SESSION**
2-5 September 2013
Fukuoka, Japan

**DRAFT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNAS**

WCPFC-NC9-2013/DP-06

Japan

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Recognizing that ~~WCPFC6~~WCPFC7 adopted Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM2009-07~~2010-04~~); and has revised the measure twice (CMM2010-04 and CMM2012-06) based on the ~~Taking account of the~~ conservation advice from ~~the 12th meeting of~~ the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) on this stock, which again highlighted the importance that the level of F is decreased below the 2002-2004 levels, particularly on juvenile age classes;

~~Also recognizing that the trend of spawning stock biomass has been influenced substantially by the annual level of recruitment and that collecting of fisheries data in an accurate and timely manner is critically important for the proper management of this stock, and;~~

Expressing grave concern for the latest stock status provided by ISC 13 that Pacific bluefin tuna “biomass level is near historically low levels and experiencing high exploitation rates above all biological reference points (BRPs) commonly used by fisheries managers, and that the risk of spawning stock biomass (SSB) falling below the historically lowest level will increase under F2007-2009 conditions;

Noting the conservation advice provided by ISC 13 that

- Further reduction of fishing mortality, especially for juvenile fish is needed to reduce the risk of SSB falling below its historically lowest level;
- Strengthening the monitoring of recruitment is highly recommended to comprehend the trend of recruitment in a timely manner;

Also noting that ISC will update its stock assessment with latest information available by February 2014;

Recognizing the importance of development of reference points for conservation and management of Pacific bluefin in 2014;

Further recalling that paragraph (4), 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;

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

1. The interim management objective for Pacific bluefin tuna is to ensure that the current (02-04 annual average) level of fishing mortality rate is not increased in the Convention Area. ~~Initially, control over fishing effort will be used to achieve this objective as follows:~~

2. The Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating Territories (hereinafter referred to as CCMs) shall take measures necessary to ensure that total fishing effort by their vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of the 20 degrees north shall stay below the 2002-2004 annual average levels for ~~2014~~2013, ~~except for artisanal fisheries~~. Such measures shall include those to reduce catches of juveniles (age 0-3) significantly below* the 2002-2004 annual average levels ~~for 2014, except for Korea. Korea shall take necessary measures to regulate the catches of juveniles (age 0-3) by managing Korean fishery in accordance with this CMM. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.~~

3. CCMs shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year. An emergency rule shall be developed in 2014 which stipulates specific rules CCMs shall comply when a drastic drop of recruitment is detected.

4. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international laws, 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 2 above. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.

~~5~~3. CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in order to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting;

~~6~~4. CCMs shall report to Executive Director by 31 July ~~2013~~ measures they used to implement paragraphs 2, 3, ~~5, 8~~6 and ~~9~~7 of this CMM. CCMs shall also monitor the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna and report the results to Executive Director by 31 July ~~2013~~. The Northern Committee shall annually review those reports CCMs submit pursuant to this paragraph;

~~7~~5. The Northern Committee at its Regular session in ~~2014~~2013 shall review this CMM based on the latest management advicenew ISC stock assessment for Pacific bluefin tuna provided by ISC14 in 2014~~scheduled in late 2012~~ and take further appropriate actions including substantial catch reduction of juveniles (age 0-3);

~~8~~6. The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this Conservation Management Measure to the IATTC Secretariat and its contracting parties whose fishing vessels engage in fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna and request them to take equivalent measures in conformity with paragraphs 2 and ~~5~~3 above;

~~9~~7. To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and, if appropriate, work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties bilaterally.

* CCMs are encouraged to reduce their juvenile catch at least by 15% below the 2002-2004 annual average levels in 2014.

| [108](#). 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 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.

| [119](#). The provisions of paragraph [108](#) 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