



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE  
TENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Fukuoka, Japan  
1-4 September 2014

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**REPORT ON CMM 2013-09 (PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA)**

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**WCPFC-NC10-2014/DP-02**

**KOREA**

In accordance with paragraph 8 of Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin tuna(CMM 2013-09), the Republic of Korea reports as follows:

## □ Paragraph 2

### a. control of fishing effort

As of July 2014, the number of Korean-flagged large-scale purse seiners fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna stands at 24, which stays below the 2002-2004 average levels(30 vessels).

\* (note) 32 vessels in 2002, 29 in 2003 and 29 in 2004

### b. control of juvenile catches(age 0-3)

The Government of Korea established in May, 2011 *Notification on the Conservation and Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna\** for reasonable conservation and management of the species. The Notification prohibits Korean-fishing vessels from catching juveniles 20 kg or less(age 0-2).

\* (note) The Notification is now in the process of amendment to be consistent with CMM of WCPFC, and the amendment is expected to be completed by the 3rd quarter of 2014. Major modifications to be made are as follows:

- ① Adjust criteria of pacific bluefin tuna juveniles  
(current) 20kg or less(age 0-2) → (amendment) less than 30kg(age 0-3)
- ② Add a provision that prohibits fishing vessels from exceeding their catch limit in accordance with CMM of WCPFC
- ③ Order fishing vessels to stop harvest and consignment sale of bluefin tuna when accumulated catches of juvenile seems to exceed its catch limit

In accordance with CMM 2013-09 of WCPFC, Korea is required to reduce its juvenile Pacific Bluefin Tuna catch by 15% below the 2002-2004 annual average catch levels in 2014. Given that its 2002-2004 annual average catch levels\* are 1,435 tons, Korea's 2014 catch limit for juveniles is set at 1,220 tons. The Korean government strictly ensures that fishing activities are conducted within the catch limit.

\* (note) 932 tons in 2002, 2,601 tons in 2003 and 773 tons in 2004

Korea's juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna catches in recent years are as follows:

- 670 tons in 2011
- 1,406 tons in 2012
- 595 tons in 2013
- 1,192 tons in 2014<sub>(as of July 7)</sub> (97.7% of catch limit)

In the meantime, Korean-flagged fishing vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna have been ordered to discard at sea and not to sell on consignment all the juveniles to be caught from July 8th, 2014 with a view to comply with CMM 2013-09 of WCPFC.

### Paragraph 3

Korea has been conducting a survey on Pacific bluefin tuna during the period from 2010 through 2014.

Upon the request of the 8th meeting of the WCPFC Northern Committee, observers were deployed on board large-scale purse seiners from March to July, 2013 to understand the nature of fishing activities by large-scale purse seiners fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna\*. In the second half of this year, observers will carry out study on the characteristics of fishing activities as well.

\* Observers collected information on setting and hauling time, catches by species and possibilities of identifying species through fish detection.

Since 2011, the Korean government has been verified catch data of Pacific bluefin tuna by large-scale purse seiners, including checking detailed catches based on the number and actual weight of fish box and consignment sales document. In addition, biological information have been collected at the ports of landing as well.

In 2014, another study will be conducted by collecting larvae of Pacific bluefin tuna from the East China Sea.

#### **Paragraph 6**

Electronic data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna catches have been operating since 2011. Starting from 2014, the Korean government directed NFRDI to report catches initially when catch reaches 70% of its catch limit set by CMM of WCPFC, and to make a daily report when it reaches 80%.

\* NFRDI: National Fisheries Research and Development Institute

#### **Latter part of Paragraph 8**

Korea is monitoring the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna particularly by issuing catch certificate for Pacific bluefin tuna (statistical document). Most of Pacific bluefin tuna caught by Korean-flagged vessels is exported to Japan.

#### **Paragraph 11**

Regarding Pacific bluefin tuna, the Republic of Korea stands ready to cooperate with IATTC member states whenever necessary.