



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
TENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Fukuoka, Japan
1-4 September 2014

REPORT ON CMM 2013-09 (PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA)

WCPFC-NC10-2014/DP-03

PHILIPPINES



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
PCA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
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July 30, 2014

Prof. Glenn Hurry
Executive Director, WCPFC
Kaselehlie Street, P. O. Box 2356
Kolonias, Pohnpei 96941,
Federated States of Micronesia.

Subject: Response to CMM 2013-09

Dear Prof. Hurry,

In compliance to CMM 2013-09, we are submitting the following information which has also been part of the Compliance Report submitted before July 1, 2014. Paragraph 2, 3 and 6 of said CMM requires Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating territories to perform the following:

"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 vessel 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. Such measures shall include those to reduce all catches of juveniles (age 0 - 3 (less than 30 kg)) significantly below the 2002- 2004 annual average levels for 2014. [CCMs are required to reduce their juvenile catch at least by 15% below the 2002-2004 annual average levels in 2014]"

Response:

The Philippines does not target Pacific bluefin tuna as this is a by-catch of our handline fisheries targeting Yellowfin tunas mainly caught in the area South of the 20 degrees North. For the year 2013, we have a recorded catch utilizing handline fishing gear of 4 pieces, the smallest of which is 250 kilograms.

"3. CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, 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 all CCMs shall comply with when a drastic drop of recruitment is detected."

Response:

As the catches of the Philippines for the year 2013 are all bigger than 30 kilograms, this paragraph is not applicable.

“6. 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;”

Response:

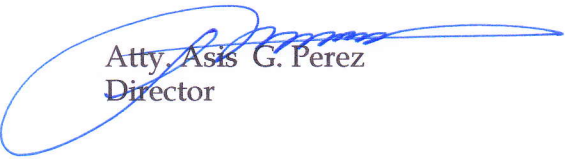
The Philippines, as regards our data collection, have additional funding support to cover majority of the tuna landing sites in the country. We have trained our data collectors/enumerators to identify different tuna species including identification of Pacific bluefin tuna. We also have a FAO 251 on the traceability of our fishery products, these efforts further improve/strengthen data collection scheme for PBFT.

For your information and guidance.

Best regards.

I remain,

Truly yours,


Atty. Asis G. Perez
Director

