



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**

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Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan

Report on CMM 2014-04 (Pacific bluefin tuna)

WCPFC-NC11-2015/DP-13

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Pacific Islands Regional Office
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July 30, 2015

Mr. Feleti Teo
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 2356
Kolonia
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Mr. Teo:

The following information is provided to satisfy the reporting requirements of WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures 2013-09 and 2014-04 (Pacific Bluefin Tuna) with respect to calendar year 2014.

CMM 2013-09

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: The United States does not have any Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in the Convention Area, and has not established any mechanisms to monitor recruitment of juveniles into fisheries.

Paragraph 6: 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 few incidentally caught Pacific bluefin tuna in its other fisheries (e.g. longline) in a timely and consistent manner.

Paragraph 8: 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. NOAA Fisheries maintains a database with information on imports, exports, and re-exports of Pacific bluefin tuna. For calendar year 2014, 238 mt of bluefin tuna caught in the Pacific Ocean were imported to the United States, with 226 mt coming from Mexico and 12 mt from Japan. 161 mt of bluefin tuna caught in the Pacific Ocean in 2014 were exported from the United States.

Paragraph 10: Not Applicable

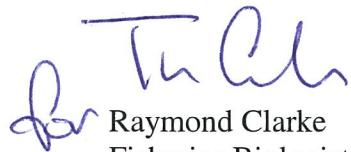
Paragraph 11: At the IATTC annual meeting in July 2015, the United States progressed a proposal on a rebuilding plan for Pacific bluefin tuna, but IATTC was unable to reach consensus on the proposal.

CMM 2014-04

Paragraph 5: The United States does not have vessels fishing for Pacific Bluefin tuna in the Convention Area north of 20° N. Please see attachment 1 for a table displaying catches of Pacific bluefin tuna in the Convention Area.

If you have any questions about this submission please contact Valerie Chan at +1 808-725-5034 or valerie.chan@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,


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

Attachment 1.

Table 2. Catches (mt), including discards, of Pacific bluefin tuna in the Convention Area

Fishery	2002		2003		2004		2013		2014	
	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg
American Samoa Longline		7		10		2		2		3
United States Longline		1		0		0.5		0		0