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**Report on CMM 2014-04 (Pacific bluefin tuna)**

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**WCPFC-NC11-2015/DP-10 (Rev.01)**

**KOREA**

# **Implementation Report on the Conservation and Management Measure to Establish a Multi-annual Plan to Rebuild Pacific Bluefin Tuna**

**(CMM 2014-04)**

July 28, 2015

## **Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea**

Pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 11 of the Conservation and Management Measure to Establish a Multi-annual Plan to Rebuild Pacific Bluefin Tuna (CMM 2014-04), the Republic of Korea hereby reports on its implementation of CMM 2010-04.

### **Para 3 (1) and (2). Effort Control and Juvenile Catch Reduction**

**paragraph 3.** CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that:

(1) Total fishing effort by their vessel fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of the 20° N shall stay below the 2002–2004 annual average levels.

(2) All catches of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg shall be reduced to 50% of the 2002–2004 annual average levels. Any overage of the catch limit shall be deducted from the catch limit for the following year.

### **Para 3 (1) Effort Control:**

As of July 2015, twenty-four (24) large-scale purse seiners have caught Pacific bluefin tuna (hereinafter “PBF”), which is below the level of 2002-2004 annual average (30 vessels).

<b>Number of Vessels Caught PBF from 2002 to 2004</b>	
2002	32
2003	29
2004	29

### **Para 3(2) Juvenile (age 0-3/ less than 30kg) Catch Reduction**

Korea's *Ministerial Directive on the Conservation and Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna*, which was introduced in May 2011 for the conservation and management of PBF, was amended in December 2014 to be in line with CMM 2014-04. The Ministerial Directive requires that juvenile PBF catches (age 0-3, less than 30kg) stay below 50% (718 tonnes) of Korea's 2002-2004 annual average (1,435 tonnes). Major requirements of the Ministerial Directive include:

- ✓ The efforts for PBF and the catches of juvenile PBF shall stay below the level prescribed by the relevant conservation and management measures of the WCPFC;
- ✓ Catches of PBF (e.g. nature of catches, quantities) shall be reported to the government; and
- ✓ When a certain level (80-90% of allowed level) of the total PBF juvenile catch has been reached, the government shall take necessary measures to prevent the total catches from exceeding the catch limit (e.g. prohibition of PBF catches and closure of designated consignment market for PBF).

Any PBF catches are required to be reported to the President of the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) under the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of Korea within 24 hours of the catch. Since 2005, the government has been verifying reported PBF catches by Korean purse seiners, checking the number of consigned boxes against the number of fish and cross-checking the reported catches with the sales log sheets maintained at designated consignment markets. Biological data such as lengths and weights are also collected at landing sites. The Korean government has been taking various measures to keep the juvenile catches below the established limit (50% of Korea's 2002-2004 annual average). For example, when 80-90 percent of the allowed level of juvenile catch has been exhausted, the government immediately prohibits any sale of PBF in both domestic and international markets through the closure of designated consignment markets for PBF and statistical documents.

#### **Para 4. Catch Management on Non-juvenile PBF**

**paragraph 4.**CCMs shall take every possible measure not to increase catches of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger from the 2002–2004 annual average levels.

Korea is currently placing less effort than the 2002-2004 annual average level to strictly manage the catches of PBF 30kg or larger.

#### **Para 5. Reporting Requirements for 2002-2004 Baseline Effort and 2013/14 Catch Level**

**paragraph 5.**CCMs shall report their 2002–2004 baseline fishing effort and <30 kg and >=30kg catch levels for 2013 and 2014, by fishery, as referred to in the preceding two paragraphs, to the Executive Director by 31 July 2015. CCMs shall also report to the Executive Director by 31 July each year their fishing effort and <30 kg and >=30 kg catch levels, by fishery, for the previous year, accounting for all catches, including discards. The Executive Director will compile this information each year into an appropriate format for the use of the Northern Committee.

The baseline effort (2002-2004) of the Korean large-scale purse seine fleet was 30 vessels (32/2002; 29/2003; and 29/2004), the reference point under which Korea's efforts are being kept pursuant to paragraph 3(1) of CMM2014-04. The PBF catches in 2013 were 604 tonnes in total, among which 580 tonnes were less than 30kg and 24 tonnes were 30kg or larger. The catches in 2014 were 1,310 tonnes in total, among which 1,198.2tonnes were less than 30kg and 112 tonnes were 30kg or larger.

<b>2014 Juvenile PBF Catches by Fishery</b>	
large-scale purse seiner	1,192 tonnes
set net	6 tonnes
trawler	0.2 tonnes

## **Para 7. Juvenile Recruitment Monitoring**

**paragraph 7.** CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year.

Catches of PBF taken in the EEZ of Korea are required to be reported to the NFRDI within 24 hours of the catch. The NFRDI also collects operational information and biological data such as the weight and length for the monitoring purposes of PBF juvenile recruitment.

## **Para 8. Prevention of PBF Trade that Contravenes CMM 2014-04**

**paragraph 8.** Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, 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 3 above. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.

*Korea's Ministerial Directive on the Conservation and Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna* requires that all PBF caught by Korean vessels be sold only through designated consignment fisheries market in order to prevent any commercial transaction of PBF and its products that undermine the effectiveness of CMM 2014-04. The international trade of PBF is also being monitored through statistical documents accompanying the export of PBF to foreign markets, mostly the Japanese market. The Korean government has been taking measures to keep the juvenile PBF catches below 50% of the 2002-2004 annual average level. For example, when 80-90 percent of the allowed level of catch has been exhausted, the government immediately prohibits any sale of PBF in both domestic and international markets through the closure of designated consignment markets for PBF and statistical documents.

## **Para 10. Strengthening Data Collection System**

paragraph10. 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.

The government requires designated consignment market representatives to report the records of PBF sales to the government. From 2015, all fishers are required to report to the government any catches of PBF within 24 hours of the catch. The government also collects samples from PBF sold in designated consignment markets to record catch dates, location, lengths and weights and also gets tissue samples to improve the quality of data.

### **Para 13. Cooperation with the IATTC Contracting Parties**

**paragraph 13.** To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and, if appropriate, work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties bilaterally.

So far, no formal bilateral arrangement on PBF with the IATTC Contracting Parties has been made. Korea stands ready to fully cooperate with the IATTC Contracting Parties to observe this CMM.



### Reporting template for the CMM 2014-04 (Pacific bluefin tuna)

Paragraph 5 of the CMM 2014-04 requires CCMs to report as follows:

5. CCMs shall report their 2002–2004 baseline fishing effort and <30 kg and  $\geq$ 30 kg catch levels for 2013 and 2014, by fishery, as referred to in the preceding two paragraphs, to the Executive Director by 31 July 2015. CCMs shall also report to the Executive Director by 31 July each year their fishing effort and <30 kg and  $\geq$ 30 kg catch levels, by fishery, for the previous year, accounting for all catches, including discards. The Executive Director will compile this information each year into an appropriate format for the use of the Northern Committee.

Table 1. Fishing effort by vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna *in the area north of 20° N in the Convention Area*

Fishery	Unit of fishing effort (e.g., sets, fishing days, vessels)	2002	2003	2004	2013	2014
Offshore large purse seine	number of vessels	32	29	29	24	24

Table 2. Catches (mt), including discards, of Pacific bluefin tuna *in the Convention Area* (include all the fisheries in the previous table, plus all other fisheries that catch any Pacific bluefin tuna)

Fishery	2002		2003		2004		2013		2014	
	<30kg	$\geq$ 30kg	<30kg	$\geq$ 30kg	<30kg	$\geq$ 30kg	<30kg	$\geq$ 30kg	<30kg	$\geq$ 30kg
Offshore large purse seine	932	-	2,601	-	773	-	580	24	1,192	112
Set net	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	6	0
Coastal trollers	-	-	-	-	-	-	<1	0	0	0
Offshore trawl	-	-	-	-	-	-	<1	0	<1	0

- : no data