



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**
6-9 September 2011
Sapporo, Japan

Discussion on CMM for North Pacific Albacore

**WCPFC-NC7/IP-03
29th August 2011**

In report of 2009 WCPFC Commission 6th Regular Session (7-11 December, 2009)

9.1 Review of existing conservation and management measures

b. CMM 2005-03 North Pacific albacore

206. The NC Chair presented a proposal to revise CMM 2005-03 on North Pacific albacore (WCPFC-2009/DP06). The NC Chair acknowledged the concerns of FFA members regarding the authority of the NC for the Convention Area north of 20° north latitude only, but highlighted the importance of a CMM that covered the entire distribution of the stock, which in the case of North Pacific albacore extends to the equator. It was noted that IATTC has in place a similar measure that covers all of its Convention Area north of the equator. The NC Chair proposed that the Commission adopt the proposed CMM under its mandate to manage stocks in the Convention Area over their entire range.

207. FFA members stated they could not support the measure because it exceeded the area of competence of the NC, and consultation within the Commission had been insufficient to generate the required understanding of the proposal among non-NC members.

208. Several CCMs, while noting that the proposal covered an area for which the Commission, rather than the NC, was responsible (i.e. 0–20° N), stated that they would be comfortable with a Commission decision to support the proposed CMM because it is important to cover the entire range of the stock.

209. After subsequent discussion in the margins of WCPFC6, there appeared to be consensus support for the application of the measure north of 20° degrees north latitude, but not in waters between the equator and 20° N.

210. WCPFC6 agreed to postpone further consideration of the measure until next year.



SIXTH REGULAR SESSION
Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia
7-11 December 2009

**DRAFT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR
NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE**

WCPFC6-2009/DP06
7th November 2009

Proposed by the Northern Committee



**Northern Committee
Fifth Regular Session
Nagasaki, Japan
7-10 September 2009**

**DRAFT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE
FOR NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE**

Conservation and Management Measure-2005-03 (as revised at NC5, 7-10 September 2009)

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC),

Observing that the best scientific evidence on North Pacific albacore from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean indicates that the species is either fully exploited, or may be experiencing fishing mortality above levels that are sustainable in the long term, and

Recalling further Article 22(4) of the WCPFC Convention that provides for cooperation with the IATTC regarding fish stocks that occur in the Convention Areas of both organizations and

Recognizing that the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) adopted, at its 73rd meeting, conservation and management measures on North Pacific albacore;

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

1. The total level of fishing effort for North Pacific albacore in the Convention Area north of the equator shall not be increased beyond the 2002-2004 average level.
2. The Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating Territories (hereinafter referred to as CCMs) shall take necessary measures to ensure that the level of fishing effort by their vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore in the WCPF Convention Area is not increased beyond 2002-2004 average levels.
3. All CCMs shall report all catches of albacore north of the equator to the WCPFC every six months, except for small coastal fisheries, which shall be reported on an annual basis. Such data shall be reported to the Commission as soon as possible and no later than one year after the end of the period covered.
4. All CCMs shall report annually to the WCPF Commission all catches of albacore north of the equator and all fishing effort north of the equator in fisheries directed at

albacore. The reports for both catch and fishing effort shall be made by gear type. Catches shall be reported in terms of weight. Fishing effort shall be reported in terms of the most relevant measures for a given type, including at a minimum for all gear types, the number of vessel-days fished. The report for a given calendar year shall be due on April 30 of the subsequent year. Reports for each of the years 2004 through 2009 shall be due on 30 April 2010.

5. The Northern Committee shall, in coordination with International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean and other scientific bodies conducting scientific reviews of this stock, including the WCPFC Scientific Committee, monitor the status of North Pacific albacore and report to the Commission on the status of the stock at each annual meeting, and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary for their effective conservation.
6. The Commission shall consider future actions with respect to North Pacific albacore based on recommendations of the Northern Committee.
7. The CCMs shall work to maintain, and as necessary reduce, the level of fishing effort on North Pacific albacore within the Convention Area commensurate with the long-term sustainability of the stock.
8. The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this CMM to the IATTC and request that the two Commissions engage in consultations with a view to reaching agreement on a consistent set of conservation and management measures for North Pacific albacore, and specifically, to propose that both Commissions adopt as soon as practicable uniform conservation and management measures and any reporting or other measures needed to ensure compliance with agreed measures.
9. 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 North Pacific albacore is limited, but that have a real interest in, and history of, fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for North Pacific albacore in the future.
10. The provisions of paragraph 9 shall not provide a basis for an increase in fishing effort by fishing vessels owned or operated by interests outside such 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.
11. For the purpose of evaluating implementation of paragraph 2, CCMs shall report to the Executive Director no later than 30 April 2010 the following information:
 - a. a list of their specific fisheries or fleets they have determined to be “fishing for” North Pacific albacore in the Convention Area; and
 - b. a description of the particular measures, as well as monitoring mechanisms, they have established to ensure that fishing effort in each of the fisheries or fleets does not increase above 2002-2004 average levels.

12. For the purpose of evaluating implementation of paragraphs 2–4, the Secretariat shall compile all the reports submitted under paragraphs 3 and 4 and present the compilation to the sixth regular session of the Northern Committee.

13. This Measure replaces CMM 2005-03.

