



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**

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CCM'S REPORT ON PARA 4 OF CMM 2010-04 (PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA)

WCPFC-NC7-2011 /DP-02

JAPAN



FISHERIES AGENCY

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907, Japan

July 28, 2011

Professor Glenn Hurry
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 2356, Kolonia,
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, 96941

Dear Executive Director Hurry,

In accordance with paragraph 4 of the conservation and management measure for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM2010-04), Japan submits a report explaining measures and actions it has introduced and been implementing for Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) since the 6th Northern Committee meeting. This is an initial report followed by supplementary information sooner.

Major fisheries for Pacific Bluefin Tuna

In Japan, Pacific Bluefin tuna is caught by many fisheries but approximately 85% of catch are from 3 major fisheries; purse seine, artisanal fisheries and set-net. Purse seine is the largest fishery with 2 fishing grounds: western part of Japan for juvenile and Sea of Japan for adults, while eastern part of Japan used to be a major fishing ground in the past. Regarding artisanal fisheries, PBF are mostly fished in Eastern China sea and Sea of Japan, and smaller amount was reported from Pacific coast.

1. Purse seine fishery: Set catch limits

(1) Catch limit for juvenile fish

An annual catch limit of juvenile PBF – smaller than 30kg – has been introduced for 2011 and 2012 in purse seine fishery operating the western part of Japan; the catch limit is 4,500mt, which is equal to 02-04 average catch and to a 26% reduction from 05-09 average catch.

(2) Catch limit for adult fish

In addition to the above catch limit for juvenile fish, a voluntary catch limit of 2,000mt for adult PBF was introduced as industry initiative for June-August for 2011 and 2012 in purse seine fishery operating in the Sea of Japan.

2. Set-net Fishery: Issued a guidance not to increase set-nets for PBF

In January 2010, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries issued an administrative guidance not to increase the number of licenses of set-nets for PBF to relevant prefectural governments which have the authority to manage this fishery.

3. Artisanal fisheries: Introduced a vessel registration system and mandatory reporting

For artisanal fishery – mostly troll fishery – operating in the Sea of Japan and Eastern China Sea, a registration scheme has been introduced as of April 1st, 2011, under which all small scale fishing vessels fishing for PBF are required to register. Such registration is accompanied by mandatory reporting of their catch. As of July 1st, 2011, over 5,000 vessels are on the registration. This registration scheme is scheduled to

expand to small scale fishing vessels operating in the Pacific side in 2012.

Aquaculture: Introduced a registration system and mandatory reporting.

Starting in April 2011, all PBF aquaculture sites are required to register and to report their farming activities, including information on caging and harvest. As of this July, 126 aquaculture sites are on the registration.

Import: Strengthened data collection

(1) Korea

Starting in January 2010, mandatory reporting for each import transaction has been tasked to importers in case they intend to import PBF from Korea. From March 2011, the number of size categories in the reporting format has been expanded from 5 categories to 7 categories in order to acquire more precise data on import of juvenile fish:

Before February 2011:

smaller than 2kg, 2 - 3kg, 3 - 5kg, 5 - 50kg, over 50kg

After March 2011:

smaller than 2kg, 2 - 3kg, 3 - 5kg, 5 - 10kg, 10 - 30kg, 30 - 50kg, over 50kg

(2) Mexico

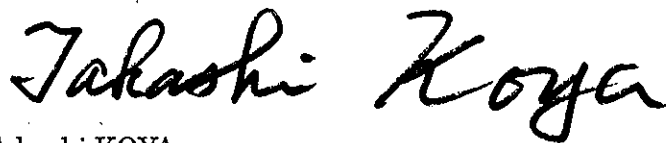
Starting in February 2011, mandatory reporting came into effect for importers in case they intend to import PBF from Mexico.

Work with other IATTC members

(1) In May 2011, the NC chair held a meeting with IATTC members who have fisheries for PBF in the eastern Pacific. Japan assisted the NC Chair's work and joined the meeting.

(2) During the last IATTC annual meeting held in July at La Jolla, the Director General of Fisheries Agency of Japan sent a letter to the Commissioner of Mexican Fisheries Agency (CONAPESCA) calling on Mexico to cooperate in establishing sound conservation and management measures for PBF in the eastern Pacific.

Sincerely yours,



Takashi KOYA

Alternative Japanese Commissioner to WCPFC