



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE  
THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Busan, Republic of Korea  
28 August – 1 September 2017

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**Report on CMM 2016-04 (Pacific bluefin tuna)**

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**WCPFC-NC13-2017/DP-09**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
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July 27, 2017

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 Measure 2016-04 (Pacific Bluefin Tuna) with respect to calendar year 2016.

Paragraph 3: 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 4: The United States does not have any Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in the Convention Area.

Paragraph 6: 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.

Paragraph 8: 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 9: The United States has laws and regulations in place to ensure that fish and fish product that is harvested in violation of foreign laws or treaties cannot be lawfully imported into the United States and entered in to commerce. These laws and regulations could apply to commercial transactions in Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of this CMM.



Paragraph 11: 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 12: 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 2016, 616 mt of bluefin tuna caught in the Pacific Ocean were imported to the United States, with 572 mt coming from Mexico and 44 mt from Japan. 150 mt of bluefin tuna caught in the Pacific Ocean in 2016 were exported from the United States.

Paragraph 14: The United States proposed a resolution on bluefin at the IATTC annual meeting in July 2017 that is currently underway. The second joint meeting on Pacific bluefin tuna between the IATTC and the WCPFC's Northern Committee is scheduled for August 2017 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Northern Committee. The United States plans to collaborate with Mexico and Japan and other interested parties during the upcoming meetings.

If you have any questions about this submission please contact Valerie Post at +1 808-725-5034 or [valerie.post@noaa.gov](mailto:valerie.post@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,



Tom Graham  
Chief, International Fisheries Division

cc: William Gibbons-Fly, U.S. Department of State  
Ruth Matagi-Tofiga, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources  
Raymond Roberto, CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Wil Castro, Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plan

**Attachment 1. Fishing Effort by vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin and catches of Pacific bluefin in the Convention Area.**

**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	2015	2016
Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

**Table 2. Catches (mt), including discards, of Pacific bluefin tuna<sup>1</sup> in the Convention Area**

Fishery	2002		2003		2004		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	<30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	<30kg
American Samoa Longline	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	6	0	0
United States Longline	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Pacific bluefin tuna catches are reported on longline logsheets for the American Samoa fishery, however the species may be misidentified.

