



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

Report on CMM 2016-04 (Pacific bluefin tuna)

WCPFC-NC13-2017/DP-02

CHINA

From: Wan Chen [<mailto:wan.chen@live.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2017 11:34 PM
To: Feleti Teo <Feleti.Teo@wcpfc.int>
Cc: Zhang Kairui <admin1@tuna.org.cn>
Subject: China report under 2016-04 on bluefin tuna

Dear Dr. Feleti Teo:

According to CMM 2016-04, paragraph 12, CCMs shall report to ED by 31 July annually measures they used to implement paragraphs 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 14 of this CMM. CCMs shall also monitor the international trade of the products derived from Pacific Bluefin tuna and report the results to ED by 31 July annually.

China have no vessels targeting bluefin tuna in WCPFC, and we have rigid discipline of bluefin tuna import verification. In 2016, two Chinese LL vessels, namely Da Yang 15 & 16, were identified by New Zealand authorities to engaged to illegal fishing activities in the WCPFC convention area, and had fished some bluefin tuna as by-catch. Subsequently these vessels were subjected to strong compliance action by the Chinese Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture. The actions by both New Zealand and China against this case to support sustainable fishing practices received positive media coverage in New Zealand. New Zealand considers that the compliance action taken by China as the flag state for the Da Yang 15 & 16 adequately reflects the scale and severity of the incident and also demonstrates a strong commitment from Chinese authorities to cooperate in the struggle to eliminate the IUU fishing.

According to the requirement of relevant RFMOs, the Ministry of Agriculture and the China Customs issued in 2010 Joint Announcement on “Catch Clearance Certificate” to Imported Bluefin tuna. All the imported Bluefin tuna are from Atlantic Ocean. The Bluefin tuna fished by Chinese LL fleet in 2016 are from Atlantic Ocean under ICCAT quota allocated to China.

It is stipulated in the Announcement that as of July 1, 2010, Bluefin tuna to enter a customs boundary within China (including entry of samples, temporary import, import under processing trade, as well as entry into a special customs supervision zone or customs bonded supervision area), the related company shall apply to the Ministry of Agriculture for a “Catch Clearance Certificate”. Upon entry, the related company shall declare to the customs voluntarily and accurately, and go through customs formalities with the “Catch Clearance Certificate”. And the place of origin for the relevant aquatic product shall be declared and determined pursuant to relevant regulations.

When applying to the Ministry of Agriculture for the “Catch Clearance Certificate”, the related company shall submit the original of the Catch Certificate issued by the government authorities of the flag state. When a product listed in Appendix of that Announcement which has been processed in a country or region rather than the flag state, the applicant shall submit the duplicate of the Catch Certificate issued by the government authorities of the flag state and the original of the Re-export Certificate issued by an authorized agency in the processing country or region.

The China Overseas Fisheries Association has been instructed by the Government to pre-examine the application for the Clearance Certificate based on the information provided, and submit to Bureau of Fisheries for approval.

Hope the information above could demonstrate the willingness of Chinese government to protect the Bluefin tuna and please let me know should you have further questions.

Thank you with warm regards,

Wan Chen
Deputy Director
Division of Distant Water Fishing
Bureau of Fisheries
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