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

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**WCPFC-NC13-2017/DP-06**

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

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

(CMM 2016-04)

August 3, 2017

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

Pursuant to paragraphs 6 and 12 of the Conservation and Management Measure to Establish a Multi-annual Plan to Rebuild Pacific Bluefin Tuna (CMM 2016-04), the Republic of Korea hereby reports on its implementation of the CMM.

### 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:

In 2016, twenty-four (24) large-scale purse seiners have caught Pacific bluefin tuna (hereinafter “PBF”), which are below the level of 2002-2004 annual average (30 vessels). The number of vessels (24) remains the same in July 2017.

<table 1. the number of vessels caught PBF from 2002 to 2004>

Number of Vessels Caught PBF from 2002 to 2004	
2002	32
2003	29
2004	29

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

In accordance with *Ministerial Directive on the Conservation and Management of Pacific bluefin Tuna*, the Government of Korea reduces its annual catch limit for PBF less than 30kg (age 0-3) to 50% (718tonnes) of Korea’s 2002-2004 annual average (1,435tonnes) and uses it as a management measure. Any PBF catches are required to be reported to the National Institute of Fisheries Science (NIFS) within 24 hours of the catch. Since 2005, the government has been crosschecking the reported PBF catches by Korean purse seiners and

the sales log sheets maintained at designated consignment markets for data verification.

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 be sold at a designated consignment market; and
- ✓ When total PBF juvenile catches are deemed to approach or exceed its annual catch limit, 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).

In addition, when 80-90 percent of the annual catch limit for juvenile has been exhausted, the government immediately prohibits any sales of PBF in both domestic and international markets through the closure of designated consignment markets for PBF and statistical documents.

Notwithstanding 718 tonnes (less than 30kg) and 0 tonnes (30kg or more) of Korea's annual PBF catch limits, the overage (469 tonnes) of PBF 30kg or more occurred in 2016. In this regard, Korea announced its voluntary payback plan at the 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission: 50% (235 tonnes) of the total overage will be equally deducted from each year's catch limit for PBF less than 30kg over the period of 2017 to 2021.

#### **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. Any overage of the catch limit shall be deducted from the catch limit for the following year. However, in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 CCMs may use part of the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg stipulated in paragraph 3 (2) above to catch Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger in the same year. In this case, the amount of catch 30 kg or larger shall be counted against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg. CCMs shall not use the catch limit for Pacific Bluefin smaller than 30 kg.

Where PBF 30kg or more is caught, Korea's domestic regulations require that information on the catch and fishing activities be reported to the NIFS within 24 hours of the catch, Also, all PBF caught by Korea's Purse seiners are required to be traded only in designated consignment markets to collect correct catch data for verification and to prevent any illegal trade of PBF.

Also, the government takes measures including the prohibition of fishing and landing of PBF and the closure of designated consignment markets for PBF and statistical documents, if and when there is a risk of seriously undermining the effectiveness of the CMM for PBF.

As mentioned above, notwithstanding 0 tonnes of Korea’s annual catch limits for PBF 30kg or more, 469 tonnes of overage occurred in 2016. The government announced its voluntary payback plan at the 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission: 50% (235 tonnes) of the total overage will be equally deducted from each year’s catch limit for PBF less than 30kg over the period of 2017 to 2021.

**Para 6. Reporting Requirements for 2002-2004 Baseline Effort and 2013/14 Catch Level**

**paragraph 6.** 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 3 year, accounting for all catches, including discards.

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 CMM2016-04.

PBF catches for the previous 3 years are as follows:

In 2014, 1,311 tonnes of PBF were caught in total, comprising 1,199 tonnes of PBF less than 30kg and 112 tonnes of PFF 30kg or more. All of the larger PBF were caught by large-scale purse seiners.

In 2015, 677 tonnes of PBF were caught in total, comprising 676 tonnes of PBF less than 30kg and 1 ton of PFF 30kg or more. The larger PBF catches were made by large-scale purse seine and set net fisheries.

In 2016, 1,028 tonnes of PBF were caught in total, comprising 559 tonnes of PBF less than 30kg and 469 ton of PFF 30kg or more. The larger PBF catches were made by large-scale purse seine and set net fisheries.

<table 2. PBF catches (tonnes) in 2014, 2015 and 2016 per size and fishery type>

Year	less than 30kg				30kg or larger		
	purse seiner	set net	others	subtotal	purse seiner	set net	subtotal
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2014	1,192.4	6.0	0.2	1,198.6	112	0	112
2015	675.1	0.8	0.4	676.3	0.7	0.3	1
2016	554.7	1.7	3.0	559.4	469.1	0.05	469.1

## Para 8 Juvenile Monitoring

**paragraph 8.** CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year.

Since 2010, Korea has been working on sampling PBF eggs and larvae from the areas near Jeju Island and in some part of Korea's South Sea and East Sea adjacent to Busan. Results of the survey<sup>1</sup> taken during the period of June 20-27 in waters around Jeju Island were reported to the ISC Plenary Meeting in July 2017. The area near Jeju Island will also be surveyed eight times during 2017 to collect more PBF eggs and larvae.

## Para 9. Prevention of PBF Trade that Contravenes the CMM

**paragraph 9.** 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 and 4 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 at designated consignment fish markets in order to prevent any commercial transaction of PBF and its products that could undermine the effectiveness of the CMM. The international trade of PBF is also being monitored through statistical documents accompanied by PBF exported to foreign markets, mostly the Japanese market.

Also, the government takes measures including the prohibition of fishing and landing of PBF and the closure of designated consignment markets for PBF and statistical documents, if and when there is a risk of seriously undermining the effectiveness of the CMM for PBF (e.g. overages of PBF juvenile catch limits).

## Para 11. Strengthening Data Collection System

**Paragraph 11.** CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen monitoring and data collecting system for Pacific Bluefin tuna fisheries and farming in order to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting.

The government requires designated consignment market representatives and port-samplers to report the records of PBF sales and biological data (eg. length, weight) to the government,

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<sup>1</sup> A 8-meter-long ring net with the opening of 2 meters in diameter and the mesh size of 334 $\mu$ m was used for the survey.

respectively. Since 2015, all fishers have been required to report to the government any catches of PBF within 24 hours of the catch. The NIFS takes some of PBF sold in designated consignment markets as a sample to collect and analyze biological data (e.g. weight, length, stomach contents and otolith, etc.) From 2016, the NIFS has been collecting tissue samples for close-kin analyses.

#### **Para 14. Cooperation with the IATTC Contracting Parties**

paragraph 14. 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. However, Korea stands ready to fully cooperate with the IATTC Contracting Parties to observe this CMM.