



**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-08 (Rev.01)

CHINESE TAIPEI



行政院農業委員會漁業署

FISHERIES AGENCY

Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan

6F., No.100, Sec. 2, Heping W. Rd., Taipei City, Taiwan

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August 25, 2017

Ref: WP106-109

Mr. Feleti P Teo OBE
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
P. O. Box 2356, Kolonia,
Pohnpei 96941, Federated States of Micronesia

Subject: Revised Annual Report of Pacific Bluefin Tuna Measure

Dear Mr. Teo,

As per the request of the Secretariat, we would like to submit a revised annual report on Pacific bluefin tuna with the new reporting template. Kindly update our report accordingly.

Kind regards,

Shin-Ling Lin
for

Ding Rong Lin

Director

Deep Sea Fisheries Division



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Annual Report on the implementation of the Conservation and
Management Measure to establish a multi-annual rebuilding plan for
Pacific Bluefin Tuna (CMM 2016-04)
Chinese Taipei

1. The two requirements specified in paragraph 3 of CMM 2016-04 are satisfied by the following measures.
 - (1) To ensure the total fishing effort by our vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of the 20 degrees north would not exceed the 2002-2004 levels, we have imposed a regulation since March 2010 to require the number of our vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna to stay below 660 and to require our fishing vessels to obtain prior approval to fish for this species.
 - (2) Regarding the requirement of catch reduction of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg, we would like to note that our catches of Pacific bluefin tuna are all larger than 30 kg. Besides, we have imposed a regulation in 2015 to prohibit vessels from retaining on board, transshipping, storing on a fishing vessel, or landing any Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg.
2. To implement paragraph 4 of CMM 2016-04, which requires CCMs to ensure the catches of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger would not increase from the 2002-2004 annual average levels, a regulation has been imposed in 2015 to limit the catches of Pacific bluefin tuna to stay below the level specified in the CMM.
3. For the reporting requirements specified in paragraph 6 of CMM 2016-04, our data are provided as follows.



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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)	Baseline fishing effort (Para 3, CMM 2016-04)			Para 6, CMM 2016-04			
					Para 6, CMM 2016-04			
		2002	2003	2004	2013	2014	2015	2016
Longline	vessels	684	659	632	513	485	483	504

Table 2. Catches (mt), including discards, of Pacific bluefin tuna in the Convention Area (include all the fisheries in the previous table, plus all other fisheries that catch any Pacific bluefin tuna)

Fishery	Baseline fishing effort (Para 3, CMM 2016-04)						Para 6, CMM 2016-04							
	2002		2003		2004		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg
Longline	0	1,523	0	1,863	0	1,714	0	331	0	483	0	552	0	454
Other coastal fisheries	0	4	0	21	0	3	0	3	0	42	0	26	0	26



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4. For paragraph 9 of CMM 2016-04, to prevent the commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of CMM 2016-04, our domestic regulation requires importers to get prior approval from the Agency. To apply for such approval, the importer is required to provide the catch documentation issued by exporting countries, or copy of the documentation validated by the country of last re-export if the catch or product is not imported from country of origin.
5. For paragraph 11 of CMM 2016-04, the following measures have been taken to ensure the data quality of Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries.
 - (1) We have introduced Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for the Pacific bluefin tuna. When Pacific bluefin tuna is caught, it shall be tagged appropriately, and the related information, such as the tag number, catch location, time, estimated weight and length shall be reported by the captain to fishery radio stations.
 - (2) Before the catch is landed, captains shall notify this Agency the estimated landing date and port via fishery radio stations so as to enable dispatch of staffs for the verification of catch and the related information at domestic fishing ports. We have sent several staffs to measure the size and weight at landing sites in Taiwan for the past six years and most of the Pacific bluefin tuna landed in Taiwan have been checked by our authorized staffs. In addition, the Catch Documentation shall be validated before the catch is first sold, either to domestic or foreign market. Through this program, the data collection of individual weight and length of Pacific bluefin tuna has been significantly improved. The abovementioned scheme also applies to our other coastal fisheries that bycatch Pacific bluefin tuna incidentally.
 - (3) Finally, we have kept investing on our scientists to conduct research on the stock assessment of Pacific bluefin tuna and age structure of catches of this species.
6. For paragraph 13 of CMM 2016-04, our delegation has attended the



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meetings of IATTC and the WCPFC-IATTC joint meetings to exchange opinion and to discuss Pacific bluefin tuna issues with the IATTC contracting parties.

7. Finally, the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna is monitored, and the result provides that we did not export PBF to other CCMs, while around 3.3 metric tons of PBF were imported from other CCMs in 2016.