



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Fukuoka, Japan
4 – 7 September 2018

Report on CMM 2017-08 (Pacific bluefin tuna)

WCPFC-NC14-2018/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 16, 2018

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 2017-08 (Pacific Bluefin Tuna) with respect to calendar year 2017.

Paragraph 2: 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 3: The United States does not have any Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in the Convention Area.

Paragraph 4: 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 6: 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 7: 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 9: 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 10: The United States monitors the international trade of Pacific bluefin tuna through its Highly Migratory Species International Trade Permit (HMS ITP) program. All importers,

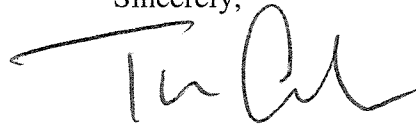


exporters and re-exporters of Pacific bluefin tuna products are required to hold an HMS ITP. Domestic regulations (50 CFR 300 Subpart M) require that each import, export or re-export of Pacific bluefin tuna be accompanied by a bluefin tuna catch document (BCD) (please see attachment) containing information 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 2017, 667 mt of bluefin tuna caught in the Pacific Ocean were imported to the United States, with 588 mt coming from Mexico, 79 mt from Japan and <1 mt from French Polynesia. 213 mt of bluefin tuna caught in the Pacific Ocean in 2017 were exported from the United States.

Paragraph 12: The third joint meeting on Pacific bluefin tuna between the IATTC and the WCPFC's Northern Committee is scheduled for September 2018 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Northern Committee. The United States plans to collaborate with Mexico, Japan and other interested parties during the upcoming meetings.

If you have any questions about this information please contact Valerie Post at +1 808-725-5034 or valerie.post@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Graham', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Tom Graham
Chief, International Fisheries Division

Attachment

cc: Michael Brakke, U.S. Department of State
Henry Sesepasara, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
Raymond Roberto, CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources
Michael Perez, Guam Office of the Governor

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	2002		2003		2004		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Unit of fishing effort (e.g., sets, fishing days, vessels)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	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 tuna¹ in the Convention Area

Fishery	2002		2003		2004		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg
American Samoa Longline	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1
United States Longline	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

