



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE  
FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Fukuoka, Japan  
4 – 7 September 2018

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**Proposed amendment to the current CMM 2017-08  
(CMM for Pacific Bluefin Tuna)**

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**WCPFC-NC14-2018/DP-11**

In accordance with CMM2013-06 Conservation and Management Measure on the criteria for the consideration of Conservation and Management proposals the following assessment has been undertaken.

a. Who is required to implement the proposal?

The current CMM (CMM2017-08) are addressed to all CCMs to implement it, although Pacific Bluefin tuna catch has not been reported by SIDS CCMs. Also, for possible extension of fisheries for SIDS in the future, the CMM states in its paragraph 13 that “The provisions of paragraph 2 and 3 shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of those small island developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention area whose current fishing activity for Pacific Bluefin tuna is limited, but that have a real interest in fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for Pacific Bluefin tuna in the future”.

Japan’s proposal does not change above mentioned nature of the current CMM.

b. Which CCMs would this proposal impact and in what way(s) and what proportion?

c. Are there linkages with other proposals or instruments in other regional fisheries management organizations or international organizations that reduce the burden of implementation?

d. Does the proposal affect development opportunities for SIDS?

e. Does the proposal affect SIDS domestic access to resources and development aspirations?

f. What resources, including financial and human capacity, are needed by SIDS to implement the proposal?

g. What mitigation measures are included in the proposal?

h. What assistance mechanisms and associated timeframe, including training and financial support, are included in the proposal to avoid a disproportionate burden on SIDS?

As described in a. above, Japan’s new proposal does not impact fisheries by SIDS, so no special consideration for SIDS is required.



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**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

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**Conservation and Management Measure 20187-XX08**

*The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):*

Recognizing that WCPFC6 adopted Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM 2009-07) and the measure was revised ~~seven~~<sup>six</sup> times since then (CMM 2010-04, CMM 2012-06, CMM 2013-09, CMM 2014-04, CMM 2015-04, ~~and~~ CMM 2016-04) and CMM2017-08 based on the conservation advice from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) on this stock;

Noting ~~with concern~~ the latest stock assessment provided by ISC Plenary Meeting in July 2018~~6~~, indicating the following:

- [(1) SSB fluctuated throughout the assessment period (1952–2014~~6~~), (2) SSB steadily declined from 1996 to 2010, and (3) the slow increase of the stock continues~~decline appears to have eased~~ since 201~~0~~<sup>9</sup> including the most recent two years (2015-2016), although the stock remains near the historic low (2.6% of unfished SSB);
- The 2015 recruitment estimate is low and similar to estimates of previous years while the 2016 recruitment estimate is higher than the historical average; and the uncertainty of the 2016 recruitment estimate is higher than in previous years because it occurs in the terminal year of the assessment model and is mainly informed by one observation from the troll age-0 CPUE index~~The 2014 estimated recruitment was relatively low, and the average recruitment for the last five years may have been below the historical average;~~
- The fishery exploitation rate in 201~~5~~<sup>4</sup>-201~~6~~<sup>3</sup> exceeded all biological reference points evaluated by the ISC except FMED and FLOSS.
- Since the early 1990s, the WCPO purse seine fisheries, in particular those targeting small fish (age 0-1) have had an increasing impact on the spawning stock biomass, and in 201~~4~~<sup>6</sup> had a greater impact than any other fishery group.
- The projection results indicate that: (1) the current management measures~~the probability of SSB recovering to the initial rebuilding target (SSBMED1952-2014) by 2024 is 69% or above the level prescribed in by~~ the WCPFC (CMM 201~~7~~<sup>5</sup>-08~~4~~) if low recruitment scenario is assumed and WCPFC CMM 2015-04 and IATTC Resolution (C-16~~4~~<sup>4</sup>-08~~6~~) under the low recruitment scenario resulted in an estimated 98% probability of achieving the initial biomass rebuilding target (6.7% of SSB<sub>F=0</sub>) by 2024~~continue in force and are fully implemented;~~ and (2) this estimated probability is above the threshold to consider catch limit increase (75% or above in 2024) prescribed by the WCPFC Harvest Strategy (Harvest Strategy 2017-02)~~(2) a 10% reduction in the catch limit for fish smaller than 30 kg would have a larger effect on recovery than a 10% reduction in the catch limit for fish larger than 30 kg; and~~

- [The estimated probability of achieving the second biomass rebuilding target \(20% of  \$SSB\_{F=0}\$ \) 10 years after the achievement of the initial rebuilding target or by 2034, whichever is earlier, is 96%; and this estimate is above the threshold to consider catch limit increase \(60% or above in 2034\) prescribed by the WCPFC Harvest Strategy; and](#)
- Catching a high number of smaller juvenile fish can have a greater impact on future ~~SSB~~[spawning stock biomass](#) than catching the same weight of larger fish;]

*Further recalling* that paragraph (4), Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention, which requires cooperation between the Commission and the IATTC to reach agreement to harmonize CMMs for fish stocks such as Pacific bluefin tuna that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

*Adopts*, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:

### **General Provision**

1. This conservation and management measure has been prepared to implement the Harvest Strategy for Pacific Bluefin Tuna Fisheries, and the Northern Committee shall periodically review and recommend revisions to this measure as needed to implement the Harvest Strategy.

### **Management measures**

- 2 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~~[57.5](#)% of the 2002–2004 annual average levels. Any overage or underage of the catch limit shall be deducted from or may be added to the catch limit for the following year. [The maximum underage that a CCM may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 5% of its annual initial catch limit.](#)

- 3 CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that all catches of Pacific Bluefin tuna 30kg or larger shall not be increased from [115% of](#) the 2002-2004 annual average levels<sup>1</sup>. Any overage or underage of the catch limit shall be deducted from or may be added to the catch limit for the following year. [The maximum underage that a CCM may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 5% of its annual initial catch limit.](#) 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 2 (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 tuna 30 kg or larger to catch Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg. The ISC is requested to review, in its work referred to in Section 5 of Harvest Strategy, the implications of this special provision in terms of PBF mortality and stock rebuilding probabilities in 2020. Based on that review, in 2020 the Northern Committee will determine whether it should be continued past 2020, and if so, recommend changes to the CMM as appropriate.

- 4 CCMs shall report their 2002–2004 baseline fishing effort and <30 kg and >=30 kg catch levels for 2013 and 2014, by fishery, as referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3, to the Executive Director by 31 July

<sup>1</sup> CCMs with a base line catch of 10 t or less may increase its catch as long as it does not exceed 10 t.

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 Executive Director will compile this information each year into an appropriate format for the use of the Northern Committee

- 5 CCMs shall intensify cooperation for effective implementation of this CMM, including juvenile catch reduction.
- 6 CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year.
- 7 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 2 and 3 above. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.
- 8 CCMs shall cooperate to establish a catch documentation scheme (CDS) to be applied to Pacific bluefin tuna in accordance with the Attachment of this CMM.
- 9 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;
- 10 CCMs shall report to Executive Director by 31 July annually measures they used to implement paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 12 of this CMM. CCMs shall also monitor the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna and report the results to Executive Director by 31 July annually. The Northern Committee shall annually review those reports CCMs submit pursuant to this paragraph and if necessary, advise a CCM to take an action for enhancing its compliance with this CMM.
- 11 The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this ~~CMM Conservation Management Measure~~ to the IATTC Secretariat and its contracting parties whose fishing vessels engage in fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in EPO and request them to take equivalent measures in conformity with this CMM.
- 12 To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and, if appropriate, work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties bilaterally.
- 13 The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of those ~~Small~~~~small~~ ~~Island~~~~island~~ ~~Developing~~~~developing~~ State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for Pacific bluefin tuna is limited, but that have a real interest in fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for Pacific bluefin tuna in the future.
- 14 The provisions of paragraph 13 shall not provide a basis for an increase in fishing effort by fishing vessels owned or operated by interests outside such developing coastal State, particularly Small Island Developing State Members or participating territories, unless such fishing is conducted in support of efforts by such Members and territories to develop their own domestic fisheries.

## **Development of a Catch Document Scheme for Pacific Bluefin Tuna**

### **Background**

At the 1st joint working group meeting between NC and IATTC, held in Fukuoka, Japan from August 29 to September 1, 2016, participants supported to advance the work on the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) in the next joint working group meeting, in line with the development of overarching CDS framework by WCPFC and taking into account of the existing CDS by other RFMOs.

### **1. Objective of the Catch Document Scheme**

The objective of CDS is to combat IUU fishing for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) by providing a means of preventing PBF and its products identified as caught by or originating from IUU fishing activities from moving through the commodity chain and ultimately entering markets.

### **2. Use of electronic scheme**

Whether CDS will be a paper based scheme, an electronic scheme or a gradual transition from a paper based one to an electronic one should be first decided since the requirement of each scheme would be quite different.

### **3. Basic elements to be included in the draft conservation and management measure (CMM)**

It is considered that at least the following elements should be considered in drafting CMM.

- (1) Objective
- (2) General provision
- (3) Definition of terms
- (4) Validation authorities and validating process of catch documents and re-export certificates
- (5) Verification authorities and verifying process for import and re-import
- (6) How to handle PBF caught by artisanal fisheries
- (7) How to handle PBF caught by recreational or sport fisheries
- (8) Use of tagging as a condition for exemption of validation
- (9) Communication between exporting members and importing members
- (10) Communication between members and the Secretariat
- (11) Role of the Secretariat
- (12) Relationship with non-members
- (13) Relationship with other CDSs and similar programs
- (14) Consideration to developing members
- (15) Schedule for introduction
- (16) Attachment
  - (i) Catch document forms
  - (ii) Re-export certificate forms
  - (iii) Instruction sheets for how to fill out forms

- (iv) List of data to be extracted and compiled by the Secretariat

#### **4. Work plan**

The following schedule may need to be modified, depending on the progress on the WCPFC CDS for tropical tunas.

- 2017 The joint working group will submit this concept paper to the NC and IATTC for endorsement. NC will send the WCPFC annual meeting the recommendation to endorse the paper.
  
- 2018 The joint working group will hold a technical meeting, preferably around its meeting, to materialize the concept paper into a draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.
  
- 2019 The joint working group will hold a second technical meeting to improve the draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.
  
- 2020 The joint working group will hold a third technical meeting to finalize the draft CMM. Once it is finalized, the joint working group will submit it to the NC and the IATTC for adoption. The NC will send the WCPFC the recommendation to adopt it.