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Report on CMM 2018-02 (Pacific bluefin tuna)

WCPFC-NC15-2019/DP-08

CHINESE TAIPEI



行政院農業委員會漁業署

FISHERIES AGENCY

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July 30, 2019

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: Annual Report of Pacific Bluefin Tuna Measure

Dear Mr. Teo,

In accordance with paragraph 10 of Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (CMM 2018-02), this is to provide a report of the annual measures we have taken to implement paragraph 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 12 of this CMM as well as the results of international trade of the products derived from Pacific Bluefin tuna that we monitored.

Kind regards,

Ding Rong Lin
Director
Deep Sea Fisheries Division

Annual Report on the Implementation of the Conservation and
Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (CMM 2018-02)
Chinese Taipei

1. The two requirements specified in paragraph 2 of CMM 2018-02 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 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 since 2010.
 - (2) Regarding the requirement of catch reduction of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg, please note that our catches of Pacific bluefin tuna are all larger than 30 kg. Besides, we have imposed a regulation to prohibit vessels from retaining on board, transshipping, storing on a fishing vessel, or landing any Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg since 2015.
2. To implement paragraph 3 of CMM 2018-02, 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 to limit the catches of Pacific bluefin tuna to stay below the level specified in the CMM since 2015.
3. For the reporting requirements specified in paragraph 4 of CMM 2018-02, our data are provided as attached.
4. For paragraph 7 of CMM 2018-02, to prevent the commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of CMM 2018-02, 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 9 of CMM 2018-02, 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. Several on-site staffs are responsible for measuring the length and weight at landing sites in Taiwan for several years and most of the Pacific bluefin tuna landed in Taiwan have been checked by our authorized staffs. In 2018, we can also verify the length and weight of the Pacific bluefin tuna landing in Palau via our authorized inspector. 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. Besides, we have imposed a regulation in 2017 that the longline fishing vessels landed their catches shall be limited to 4 domestic ports.
6. For paragraph 12 of CMM 2018-02, our delegation has attended the 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 exported 1.6 metric tons of PBF to other CCMs, while around 11.9 metric tons of PBF were imported from other CCMs in 2018.

**Compiled Information on Pacific Bluefin Tuna
(Fishing Effort and Catch)**

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 ¹	Baseline fishing effort (Para 2, CMM 2018-02)			Fishing effort Para 4, CMM 2018-02		
		2002	2003	2004	2016	2017	2018
Chinese Taipei							
Longline	No. of vessels	684	659	632	504	559	480

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	All catches (Para 4, CMM 2018-02)						All catches Para 4, CMM 2018-02					
	2002		2003		2004		2016		2017		2018	
	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg
Chinese Taipei												
Longline	0	1,523	0	1,863	0	1,714	0	454	0	415	0	381
Other coastal fisheries	0	4	0	21	0	3	0	+	0	+	0	+
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>1527</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1884</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1717</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>454</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>415</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>381</u>

¹“+”: Bellow 499kg catch.

¹ e.g., sets, fishing days, vessels