



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

**ELECTRONIC MEETING
2020**

Report on CMM 2019-02 (Pacific bluefin tuna)

WCPFC-NC16-2020/DP-10

VANUATU

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Information on Pacific Bluefin Tuna – CMM 2019-02
(Fishing Effort & Catch)
2019

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA (PBF)
CMM 2019-02**

CMM 2019-02 paragraph 2; CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that:

1] a) 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.

Vanuatu's Effort baseline for 2002-2004 is based on 2004 effort from logbook data. A total of 30 vessels fished the area north of 20° N in 2004 which is used as the baseline. In recent years 2017 to 2019, the number of vessels fishing in this area has been below 30 however, vessels do not target Pacific Bluefin tuna, it is caught as a bycatch.

1] b) All catches of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg shall be reduced to 50% 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.

Vanuatu did not catch any Pacific Bluefin less than 30Kg in 2019. The catch for 2019 Pacific Bluefin is 0 mt.

2) Paragraph 3 of CMM 2019-02, 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

Vanuatu's catch of Pacific bluefin 30 kg or greater was 0 MT.

3) Paragraph 5 of CMM 2019- 02; CCMs shall report each year their fishing effort and =30 kg catch levels, by fishery, for the previous 3 year, accounting for all catches, including discards

Please see attachment 1 Tables 1 with Fishing effort by vessels fishing for Pacific Bluefin tuna in the area north of 20° N in the convention area and Table 2 of catches including discards of Pacific Bluefin tuna in the Convention area.

4) Paragraph 7 of CMM 2019-02; CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year.

Vanuatu flagged fishing vessel do not target Pacific bluefin tuna. However, are provided with species identified guides to support their identification of species. All mandatory reporting of catches are submitted to SPC and then to the Commission sent to the WCPFC Secretariat through SPC.

5) For paragraph 8; Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, and in accordance with domestic laws and regulations

Vanuatu has laws and regulations in place to ensure that fish and fish products imported into the country carry the necessary documentation valid under the Customs Act which includes information such as the country of origination. Export of products out of Vanuatu also carry the necessary documentation of export with approved documents issued by the Ministry of Fisheries certifying Vanuatu as the country of export with information of importation and consignee information. This catch documentation process can assist also in preventing commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of this CMM.

6) For paragraph 10 of CMM 2019-02, CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen monitoring and data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and farming to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting.

Vanuatu flag vessels do not target Pacific Bluefin tuna. However, vessel operators have access to identification guides to support identification of fish species. Furthermore, it is a requirement that all species of fish caught both retained and discarded and recorded through logbook data.

7) For paragraph 13 of CMM 2019-02, To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and, if appropriate, work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties bilaterally.

Vanuatu meets with parties during the WCPFC Northern Committee meetings and communicates with concern parties of the IATTC to address issues or concerns.

Attachment 1:

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 2019-02)				Fishing effort (Para 5, CMM 2019-02)		
		2002	2003	2004	2002-2004 Average	2017	2018	2019
Vanuatu								
Longline ²	No. of vessels			30	30	21	27	22

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 5, CMM 2019-02)								All catches (Para 5, CMM 2019-02)					
	2002		2003		2004		2002-2004 Average		2017		2018		2019	
	<30k g	≥30k g	<30k g	≥30k g	<30k g	≥30k g	<30k g	≥30k g	<30 kg	≥30k g	<30 kg	≥30k g	<30 kg	≥30k g
Vanuatu														
Longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.105	0.183	0	0	0	0

¹ e.g., sets, fishing days, vessels

² Effort baseline (2002-2004) is based on 2004 effort from logbook.