



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION**

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Nagasaki, Japan

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON EVALUATING CMM 2005-03 (NP ALBACORE)

WCPFC-NC8-2012/DP-02

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Pacific Islands Regional Office
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4700
(808) 944-2200 • Fax (808) 973-2941

July 26, 2012

Mr. Masanori Miyahara
Chairman, Northern Committee
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
PO Box 2356
Kolonia, Pohnpei State 96941
Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Chairman Miyahara:

In preparation for the Eighth Regular Session of the Northern Committee, the United States would like to offer some information and suggestions regarding the Committee's task of evaluating the effectiveness of the conservation and management measure for North Pacific albacore.

We are pleased with the progress made last year by the Committee on this task. With the aim of seeing further progress at the upcoming meeting, we would like to highlight a few important aspects of Tables 1 and 2 in Attachment C, Annex A of the NC7 Summary Report, particularly given how they were left at the end of last year's meeting. We would also like to make a few suggestions regarding what to do next with the information in the tables. Please see Attachment 1 for our suggestions, and Attachment 2 for the referenced tables, including updated data for U.S. fisheries. I would appreciate it if you could share this information and these suggestions with the other Northern Committee members in advance of the meeting.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Tosatto
Regional Administrator

Attachments

cc: William Gibbons-Fly, U.S. Department of State
John Joyner, CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources
Ufagafa Ray Tulafono, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
Celestino Aguon, Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources



Attachment 1. Suggestions of the United States regarding Tables 1 and 2 in Attachment C, Annex A of the NC7 Summary Report.

Table 1:

- In the “Fishing for” NP albacore column, a response of “Y/N” indicates that the member should further divide the fishery (e.g., by location, season, or gear type) such that each fishery is either Y or N, not both.
- The Secretariat should be asked to verify that the 2006-2010 average annual catches in the table are consistent with the data held by the WCPFC, and to point out any discrepancies.
- The Secretariat should be asked to compute the percentage of total NP catches that occur in fisheries “fishing for NP albacore” (necessarily separately for the entire North Pacific and just in the Convention Area in the North Pacific, as the data permit).

Table 2:

- In providing or updating their 2002-2004 average levels of fishing effort and their annual levels of fishing effort in the years 2005-2010 in each of their fisheries fishing for NP albacore, members should ensure the data are for the entire North Pacific or just the Convention Area in the North Pacific; they should not include fishing effort in the South Pacific.
- We note that although members may choose to limit fishing effort in their fisheries using whatever measure of fishing effort they see fit to limit, paragraph 4 of the CMM provides that “Fishing effort shall be reported in terms of the most relevant measures for a given gear type, including at a minimum for all gear types, the number of vessel-days fished.” Thus, it would be appropriate for all members to report fishing effort in terms of vessel-days fished in Table 2 (in addition to other metrics, if they choose). This uniformity in reporting would greatly aid the Northern Committee’s evaluation of the CMM.
- The Secretariat should be asked to plot reported fishing effort over time for each fishery, and to the extent possible, for groups of fisheries of similar types.

Attachment 2. Tables 1 and 2 in Attachment C, Annex A of the NC7 Summary Report, with updates for U.S. fisheries (highlighted).

Attachment C, Annex A

Table 1. Average annual catch of North Pacific albacore

CCM	Data pertain to WCPFC Area only or entire N Pacific?	Fisheries with ANY catch of NP albacore	"Fishing for" NP albacore? (Y/N)	2006-2010 average annual catch
Canada	N Pacific total catches	Albacore troll	y	5,899
Total catches for Canada:				5,899
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				5,899
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				100
China	CA only	Longline	NK	(2007-8) 10272.5
Total catches for China:				
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
Cook Islands	N Pacific total catches	Albacore troll	Y	31
	N Pacific total catches	Longline	Y	8
Total catches for Cook Islands:				193
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				100
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				100
Japan	CA only	LL Coast	Y/N	17,098
		LL DW	Y/N	4,207
		PL Coast	N	80
		PL DW	Y	24,970
		PS Coast	N	11
		PS DW	N	1,840
		GN	N	455
		Troll	N	470
		Set Net	N	50
		Others	N	37
Total catches for Japan:				49,218
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				46,275
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				94
NOTE:				
1) "2006-2010 average annual catch" is preliminary.				
2) "Y/N": this category vessels includes two types; "fishes for NP ALB" and "non targeting".				
Korea	N Pacific	LL DW	Y/N	176
Total catches for Korea:				176
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				176
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				100
NOTE:				
1) "2006-2010 average annual catch" is preliminary.				
2) "Y/N": this category vessels includes two types; "fishes for NP ALB" and "non targeting".				

Philippines				
Total catches for Philippines:				
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
Chinese Taipei	N Pacific	albacore LL	Y	2,548
	N Pacific	LL others	N	552
Total catches for Chinese Taipei:				3,100
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				2,548
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				82
United States	N Pacific	Albacore troll	Y	12,099 12,344
		Longline	N	297 288
		Gillnet	N	3
		Pole and line	N	90
		Purse seine	N	3423
		Other	N	505577
Total catches for United States:				12,946 13,236
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				12,099 12,344
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				93
NOTE:				
1) These USA (2006-2010) data may not be confirmed from figures available to the Secretariat.				
2) US response: See all our annual reports under CMM 2005-03, the latest of which is dated 8 Jul 2011 30 Apr 2012 .				
Vanuatu	CA only	LL	Y	7,591
Total catches for Vanuatu:				10,178
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				2,587
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				25
Belize	CA only	LL	Y	95
Total catches for Belize:				95
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				95
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				100
NOTE: catch unsegregated by area				
Federated States of Micronesia	CA only	LL	N	N/A
Total catches for FSM:				
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
NOTE: Commenced fishery in 2009				
Marshall Islands	CA only	LL	N	N/A
Total catches for RMI:				
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
NOTE: Commenced fishery in 2008				

Table 2. Fishing effort fishing for North Pacific albacore (ALB)

CCM	Area ¹	Fishery ²	2002-04 Average		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
			No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days
Canada ³	N Pacific	ALB troll		8,898	213	8,565	174	6,243	198	7,113	134	5,907	135	6,589	157	7,532
	CA ⁴ only	ALB troll		266	1	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
China																
Cook Islands	N Pacific	ALB troll	4	183	2	240	2	171	1	57	1	0	0	0	0	0
	N Pacific	LL	1	2	1	4	0	0	1	37	1	17	0	0	0	0
Japan ⁵	CA only	LL Coast	296		289		287		273		276		280		286	
		LL DW	633		591		538		494		480		361		342	
		PL DW	141		134		125		106		104		104		101	
Korea ⁶	N Pacific	LL			191	2,896	67	4,312	67	8,073	81	8,474	72	3,189	98	9,208
Chinese Taipei ⁷	N Pacific	ALB LL	25		23	2,363	24	4,156	21	3,360	18	2,603	13	2,082	20	2,093
USA	N Pacific	ALB troll		24,994		24,731		22,006		24,000		20,631 24,994		24,358 25,429		25,224 25,486
Vanuatu	N Pacific		32	9,728	28	5,096	29	5,278	33	9,999	15	3,195	14	2,548	12	2,184
Belize ⁸													40		49	

¹ Data pertain to WCPFC Area only or entire N Pacific?

² Fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore

³ NOTE: For Canada no fishing inside the CA since 2005

⁴ Convention Area

⁵ Japanese albacore data are not segregated by north or south pacific with respect to effort or number of vessels

⁶ Korean albacore data are not segregated by north or south pacific with respect to effort (number of vessels)

⁷ This data just indicates the fishery fishing for NP albacore only

⁸ Vessel number and effort was given for all species