

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
SIXTH SESSION (JWG-06)**

ELECTRONIC MEETING
8am-11am, Japan Standard Time
27-29 July 2021

REPORT ON CMM 2020-02 (PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA)

IATTC-NC-JWG06-2021/DP-04

FIJI

FIJI
Information on Pacific Bluefin Tuna CMM 2020-02
(Fishing Effort and Catch)
2020

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA CMM 2020-02

1. *CMM 2020-02 paragraph 2; CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that:*

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.

Fiji had two vessels fishing in the Convention Area north of 20 degrees north with a total number of 10 vessel days but did not catch Pacific bluefin tuna.

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.

Fiji had two vessels fishing in the Convention Area north of 20 degrees north with a total number of 10 vessel days but did not catch Pacific bluefin tuna.

2. *Paragraph 3 of CMM 2020-02, 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*

Fiji did not record any catch of Pacific bluefin tuna in 2020.

3. *Paragraph 5 of CMM 2020- 02; CCMs shall report 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*

Please see attachment 1 for tables displaying fishing effort by vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin and catches of Pacific bluefin tuna in the Convention Area.

4. *Paragraph 7 of CMM 2020-02; CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year.*

Fiji flagged vessels do not target Pacific Bluefin tuna. However, vessel operators are supplied with fish identification booklets to correctly identify bluefin should they encounter one. All mandatory reporting of catches is 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 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.*

Fiji has national laws and regulations in place to ensure that fish and fish products imported into the country carries necessary valid documents such as certificate of origin, export permit from the country of export and approved import permit issued by Fiji's Ministry of Fisheries to the importer. This catch documentation process can also assist in preventing commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of this CMM.

6. *For paragraph 10 of CMM 2020-02, 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.*

Fiji flagged vessels do not target Pacific Bluefin tuna. However, vessel operators are supplied with fish identification booklets to correctly identify bluefin should they encounter one. Also, captains are required to report all catch irrespective of whether they are released or retained on board. Logsheets are checked by enforcement officers upon port arrival.

7. *For paragraph 13 of CMM 2020-02, To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and, if appropriate, work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties bilaterally.*

Fiji meets with relevant parties during the WCPFC's Northern Committee meeting and communicates with the concerned IATTC contracting parties as and when need arises.

