

**NORTHERN COMMITTEE**

**TENTH REGULAR SESSION**

1-4 September 2014

Fukuoka, Japan

**DRAFT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE TO ESTABLISH A MULTI-ANNUAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

**WCPFC-NC10-2014/DP-06**

**Japan**

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

*Recognizing that* WCPFC6 adopted Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM2009-07) and the measure was revised three times since then (CMM2010-04, CMM2012-06 and CMM2013-09) 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;

*Expressing grave concern* for the latest stock assessment provided by ISC Intercessional Plenary Meeting in March 2014 indicating the following:

* + - * The current (2012) Pacific bluefin tuna biomass level is near historically low levels and experiencing high exploitation rates above all biological reference points except for *Floss*;
      * The average recruitment level for the last five years may have been below the historical average level;
      * The recently adopted WCPFC CMM 2013-09 and IATTC resolution for 2014 (C-13-02), if continued in to the future, are not expected to increase spawning stock biomass (SSB) if recent low recruitment continues;
      * If the low recruitment of recent years continues, the risk of SSB falling below its historically lowest level observed would increase;
      * Further substantial reductions in fishing mortality and juvenile catch over the whole range of juvenile ages should be considered to reduce the risk SSB falling below its historically lowest level; and
      * Monitoring of recruitment should be strengthened to allow the trend of recruitment to be understood in a timely manner,

*Recognizing the importance of* development of reference points for conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna in 2014; and

*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. The Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating Territories (hereinafter referred to as CCMs) shall implement a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Pacific bluefin tuna starting in 2015 and continuing through 2024, with the goal of achieving the preliminary target reference point of SSB set at the historically median (42,592t[[1]](#footnote-1)\*) with at least 60% probability. Implementation and progress of this plan shall be reviewed based on the results of stock assessments to be conducted by ISC in 2016 and every three years thereafter. This CMM shall be amended if necessary upon such review.

**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 degrees north shall stay below the 2002-2004 annual average levels.
2. All catches of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30kg shall be reduced to 50% of the 2002-2004 annual average levels. Any overage of the catch limit shall be deducted from the catch limit for the following year.

3. CCMs shall endeavor to take measures not to increase catches of Pacific bluefin tuna over 30kg from the 2002-2004 annual average levels.

4. CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year.

5. 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 above. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.

6. The CCMs shall cooperate to establish Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) to be applied to Pacific bluefin tuna as a matter of priority.

7. CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in order to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting;

8. CCMs shall report to Executive Director by 31 July annually measures they used to implement paragraphs 2, 4, 5, 7 and 10 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.

9. The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this Conservation Management Measure to the IATTC Secretariat and its contracting parties whose fishing vessels engage in fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna and request them to take equivalent measures in conformity with this CMM.

10. To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and, if appropriate, work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties bilaterally.

11. The provisions of paragraph 2 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.

12. The provisions of paragraph 11 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



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2. CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that:

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1. \* Historical median SSB was calculated by the average of historical median of SSB of each bootstrap simulation. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. \* Historical median SSB was calculated by the average of historical median of SSB of each bootstrap simulation. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)