



COMMISSION
Twenty-First Regular Session
28 November to 3 December 2024
Suva, Fiji (Hybrid)

Proposal for monitoring, control and surveillance measures for Pacific bluefin tuna

WCPFC21-2024-DP13
31 October 2024

Submitted by the European Union

Explanatory Memorandum

The purpose of this proposal is to contribute to the establishment of effective regional monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) requirements for Pacific bluefin tuna (PBT) fisheries in WCPFC. To date, there are no regional MCS measures applicable to the Pacific bluefin tuna fishery in the WCPO, which is in contrast with the robust framework in place for tropical tunas even though their stocks are in a much healthier state compared to PBT.

The European Union (EU) recently submitted a proposal to the joint IATTC-WCPFC WG (IATTC-NC-JWG09-2024/DP-18) for the adoption of Monitoring and Control Measures for the Pacific Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), which was discussed together with other proposals. The EU proposal was largely based on the success story of Atlantic bluefin tuna where the adoption and implementation of stringent MCS measures contributed to the rebuilding of that emblematic stock.

IATTC at its 102th meeting held in September 2024 adopted a binding measure (Resolution C-24-03) on monitoring and control measures for the PBT tuna fishery in the EPO. Although the measure adopted by IATTC is much less ambitious and comprehensive than the relevant ICCAT measure, it constitutes a first step towards the establishment of a regional MCS framework for PBT in the EPO.

Given that PBT is managed jointly by WCPFC and IATTC, the EU considers that it is very important to ensure a high degree of consistency between the measures adopted by these two organisations for the conservation and management of this species. Noting that the relevant recommendation of the Northern Committee (NC) (WCPFC21-2024-NC20 - Summary report - Attachment E “Draft Conservation and Management Measure for the Monitoring, Controlling, and Surveillance of Pacific Bluefin Tuna”) is not fully consistent with the measure adopted by IATTC, the EU is submitting a proposal introducing amendments (see track changes) to the Annex E of the NC20 report with the aim to ensure consistency between the IATTC and WCPFC frameworks for PBT.

Although the EU is not a member of the NC, we trust that NC and WCPFC will be able consider and agree with the objective and specific amendments of this EU proposal.

Commission for the Conservation and Management of
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

NORTHERN COMMITTEE
TWENTIETH REGULAR SESSION

Kushiro, Japan (Hybrid)
15 – 16 July 2024

Draft Conservation and Management Measure for the
Monitoring, Controlling, and Surveillance of Pacific Bluefin Tuna

CMM 2024-XX

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Noting that, Conservation and Management Measure CMM2023-02 establishes annual catch limit of Pacific bluefin tuna for the management of the species,

Also noting that, Conservation and Management Measure CMM2023-02 paragraph 11 requires CCMs, to the extent possible, take measures necessary to prevent commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna that undermine the effectiveness of the CMM,

Further noting that, Conservation and Management Measure CMM2023-02 paragraph 13 requires CCMs to take measures necessary to strengthen monitoring and data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and farming,

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention that:

Objectives

0. The purpose of this CMM is to establish a regime for the monitoring and control of the conservation and management of the Pacific bluefin tuna fishery in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

1. Each CCM that has Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming shall report to the Executive Secretary by 15 June each year on the implementation of its monitoring and control measures it has taken in the previous calendar year to ensure its compliance with CMM2023-02 that include the following components:

(1) Monitoring and control measures for fisheries

a. Registration in the WCPFC RFV of commercial fishing vessels ~~and set nets~~ that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna

a.bis. Registration of set nets that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered set nets)

b. Allocation of catch limits by fishery within the CCMs, ~~as appropriate~~ where such allocation exist

c. Reporting requirements for catches for fisheries (targeted, incidental, and discards)

- d. Measures to monitor catch (e.g. landing receipts, landing inspection, observer program, etc.)
- e. Measures to monitor domestic transactions

(2) Monitoring and control measures for farming

- a. Registration of farms that are authorized to farm Pacific bluefin tuna ([including registration scheme, number of registered farms, number of registered 'holding pens' or 'cages'](#))
- b. Reporting requirements for caging of fish
- c. Reporting requirements for harvest of farmed fish
- d. Measures to monitor farmed fish (e.g. [rules, standards and procedures to monitor transfer and caging activitiesstereovideo-camera](#))

2. ~~The Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group~~ [TCC](#) shall review the implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance measures reported by CCMs in accordance with paragraph 1 and the outcomes of the review shall be reported to the Northern Committee [and the Commission](#) for their consideration on necessary revisions of WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures [for the management of Pacific bluefin tuna, taking into account any considerations from the Joint IATTC-WCPFC/NC WG.](#)

3. [WCPFC shall coordinate with IATTC through the Joint IATTC-WCPFC/NC and discuss any additional MCS measures, as appropriate, at their upcoming meetings, consistent with their objectives for the conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna.](#)