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**Proposed Amendments to Conservation and Management Measure for the North  
Pacific Striped Marlin (CMM 2010-01)**

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**WCPFC21-2024-DP08\_Rev01<sup>1</sup>**  
**29 November 2024**

**Submitted by United States of America**

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<sup>1</sup> Rev01 updates Table 1 for Scenario 2 and Table 1 for Scenario 3 to reflect the correct calculations

**Explanatory Note for  
Proposed Amendments to Conservation and Management Measure for the North  
Pacific Striped Marlin (CMM 2010-01)**

In 2010, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC or Commission), concerned about the status of North Pacific striped marlin, adopted a conservation and management measure (CMM) that established catch limits for members and cooperating nonmembers (hereafter referred to as CCMs) that had historically caught North Pacific striped marlin. These concerns for the stock were validated as the 2011 stock assessment indicated that relative to BMSY and FMSY, this stock was overfished and experiencing overfishing (the Commission has not adopted reference points to formally determine the stock's status). Unfortunately, the reductions adopted by the Commission in CMM 2010-01 were not large enough to eliminate overfishing or rebuild the stock as stock assessments conducted in 2015, 2019 and 2023 continued to find the stock to be overfished and experiencing overfishing.

In 2019, the WCPFC adopted an interim rebuilding plan where the interim rebuilding target for North Pacific striped marlin is  $20\%SSBF=0$ , to be reached by 2034 with at least 60% probability. The rebuilding plan included the following rebuilding strategy:

*“Beginning in 2020, and based on the best scientific information available, members will develop measures to rebuild the stock in accordance with the rebuilding objective, with the aim of adopting revised conservation and management measures for North Pacific striped marlin at WCPFC17. Members should consider reduced catch limits and retention, release, and gear requirements, among other potential tools”*

In 2024, the ISC Billfish working group produced a rebuilding analysis ([SC20-SA-WP-13](#)) in response to a tasking from WCPFC16, which analyzed the probability of 10 scenarios to meeting the rebuilding target. Eight of the ten projection scenarios achieved the rebuilding objective of the stock within the parameters of the rebuilding plan. SC20 reviewed this analysis, and provided the following recommendations:

*“SC20 noted that ISC24 maintained the conservation advice of WCNPO MLS from 2023, which is the latest available scientific information. SC20 also noted that ISC24 provided the results of stochastic rebuilding projection based on the 2023 WCNPO MLS stock assessment. These evaluated harvesting scenarios to achieve WCNPO MLS interim rebuilding target ( $20\%SSBF=0$  with more than 60% probability) as requested by the Commission (SA-IP-15). SC20 noted the recommendations of the peer review of WCNPO MLS stock assessment (SA-WP-13) and recommended that these be incorporated into the future stock assessment scheduled for 2027.*

*SC20 recommended the Commission to take the above information into account when considering possible revision of the CMM for North Pacific striped marlin.”*

The rebuilding analyses from the ISC provides potential pathways for the Commission to consider to ensure that this stock is rebuilt. The United States examined

the projection scenarios provided in the rebuilding analysis, and felt that the catch-based scenarios rather than the effort-based ones would be more appropriate as North Pacific striped marlin are not targeted, but caught incidentally in many fisheries. Previous discussions at the Commission have also noted discrepancies between the biomass estimated in the stock assessment and biomass reported by WCPFC members. The ISC identified several reasons for the discrepancy and recommended, *“the relative change in catch or F should be considered when interpreting the results of this analysis.”* As many fisheries have changed over time, the United States does not believe it is appropriate to retain the original baseline identified in CMM 2010-01 (highest catch from 2000-2003), and believes that a more appropriate baseline from which to set a total allowable catch and catch limits from are the average 2018-2020 catches as modeled in the rebuilding analysis. Finally, the United States noted that the peer review for the North Pacific striped marlin assessment ([SC20-SA-WP-12](#)) made a number of recommendations to improve the next stock assessment. As many of these recommendations will be addressed in the next stock assessment scheduled for 2027, the United States focused on those catch scenarios with a phased reductions (specifically scenarios 4,5, or 6) to allow the Commission to review the measure in 2027 when information from the next stock assessment is available. In addition, based on consultations with other CCMs, we have incorporated revisions to include additional reporting for North Pacific striped marlin discards and a provision for catch limit adjustments in the event catch limits are exceeded.

Due to the continued poor status of this stock, WCPFC should take action to rebuild this stock, and the United States has developed the following proposal for WCPFC21’s consideration to revise CMM 2010-01 for North Pacific striped marlin.

**Application of CMM 2013-06 to the  
Proposed Amendments to Conservation and Management Measure for the North  
Pacific Striped Marlin (CMM 2010-01)**

The following information is being provided to assist the Commission in understanding the CMM 2013-06 effects of the proposed changes by the United States to the North Pacific striped marlin measure.

**a. Who is required to implement the proposal?**

The proposed revisions would apply to all CCMs. The proposed revision would modify the catch limits for North Pacific striped marlin with a phased approach. An explanation and table for each proposed scenario is outlined in Annex 1 below.

**b. Which CCMs would this proposal impact and in what ways and what proportion?**

The proposed revisions would impact all CCMs that catch North Pacific striped marlin.

**c. Are there linkages with other proposals or instruments in other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations or international organizations that reduce the burden of implementation?**

None identified.

**d. Does the proposal affect development opportunities of SIDS?**

In advance of the proposal deadline, we requested input from the SIDS on this 2013-06 analysis.

Pending requested input from SIDS, the authors believe the answer to be: No, the proposal does not affect development opportunities for SIDS or Participating Territories (hereafter "SIDS"). We are not aware of any active SIDS fisheries targeting North Pacific striped marlin, nor any desire to develop targeted fisheries for North Pacific striped marlin so this proposal will not inhibit the development of existing or potential fisheries. In reviewing the annual catch limits by CCMs, a handful of SIDS have reported catches of North Pacific striped marlin. With the exception of Vanuatu, catches by other SIDS have generally been less than 10mt.

**e. Does the proposal affect SIDS domestic access to resources and development aspirations?**

Pending requested input from SIDS, the authors believe the answer to be: No, this proposal does not affect SIDS domestic access to resources and development aspirations. See response to "d", above.

**f. What sources, including financial and human capacity, are needed by SIDS to implement the proposal?**

CCMs are currently required to limit their catches of North Pacific striped marlin to 20% of their highest catch rate from 2000-2003. This proposal would modify the catch limits for North Pacific striped marlin, and if the limits differ, SIDS would need to implement the remaining option in their national legislation/licensing conditions or access agreements, and may need resources, financial and human capacity, to implement the provisions. Based on current reporting, a majority of SIDS do not catch North Pacific striped marlin and in those cases, no additional resources would be necessary.

**g. What mitigation measures are included in the proposal?**

The proposal does not specify specific mitigation measures to ensure catch limits are followed, but notes examples of such measures include effort reductions, gear modifications, and spatial management.

**h. What assistance mechanisms and associated timeframe, including training and financial support, are included in the proposal to avoid a disproportionate burden on SIDS?**

Pending requested input from SIDS, the authors note that since the majority of the catch of North Pacific striped marlin is taken by CCMs that are not SIDS, we do not anticipate any disproportionate burden on SIDS at this time (pending requested input from SIDS).

**Annex 1: Explanation and summary table for each proposed scenario**

**Scenario 1:**

The total catch of North Pacific striped marlin will be subject to a phased reduction such that by 1 January 2028 the catch is 89% of the levels caught in 2018-2020.

Each flag/chartering CCM with vessels fishing in the convention area north of the equator shall be subject to the following catch limits for North Pacific striped marlin for the years 2025 and beyond:

- a. 2025      Average catch from 2018-2020
- a. 2028 and beyond      11% reduction from average catch from 2018-2020

Table 1 for Scenario 1:

| <i>CCM or collective group</i>    | <i>Average catch 2018-2020*</i> | <i>2025-2027 limit</i> | <i>2028 and beyond</i> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>JPN</i>                        | 1308                            | 1308                   | 1164.1                 |
| <i>TWN</i>                        | 330                             | 330                    | 293.7                  |
| <i>KOR</i>                        | 22                              | 22                     | 19.6                   |
| <i>USA</i>                        | 371                             | 371                    | 330.2                  |
| <i>CHN</i>                        | 51.7                            | 51.7                   | 46.0                   |
| <i>Total (not including SIDS)</i> | 2082.7                          | 2082.7                 | 1853.6                 |

\*From 2022 WCPFC Yearbook data

## Scenario 2:

The total catch of North Pacific striped marlin will be subject to a phased reduction such that by 1 January 2028 the catch is 90% of the levels caught in 2018-2020.

Each flag/chartering CCM with vessels fishing in the convention area north of the equator shall be subject to the following catch limits for North Pacific striped marlin for the years 2025 and beyond:

- a. 2025 7% reduction from average catch from 2018-2020
- a. 2028 and beyond 10% reduction from average catch from 2018-2020

Table 1 for Scenario 2:

| <i>CCM or collective group</i>        | <i>Average catch<br/>2018-2020*</i> | <i>2025-2027<br/>limit</i> | <i>2028 and beyond<br/>limit</i> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>JPN</i>                            | 1308                                | 1216.4                     | 1094.8                           |
| <i>TWN</i>                            | 330                                 | 306.9                      | 276.2                            |
| <i>KOR</i>                            | 22                                  | 20.5                       | 18.4                             |
| <i>USA</i>                            | 371                                 | 345.0                      | 310.5                            |
| <i>CHN</i>                            | 51.7                                | 48.1                       | 43.3                             |
| <i>Total (not including<br/>SIDS)</i> | 2082.7                              | 1936.9                     | 1743.2                           |

\*From 2022 WCPFC Yearbook data

## Scenario 3:

The total catch of North Pacific striped marlin will be subject to a phased reduction such that by 1 January 2028 the catch is 86% of the levels caught in 2018-2020.

Each flag/chartering CCM with vessels fishing in the convention area north of the equator shall be subject to the following catch limits for North Pacific striped marlin for the years 2025 and beyond:

- a. 2025 Average catch from 2018-2020
- a. 2028 9% reduction from average catch from 2018-2020
- b. 2033 and beyond 14% reduction from average catch from 2018-2020

Table 1 for Scenario 3:

| <i>CCM</i>                            | <i>Average catch<br/>2018-2020*</i> | <i>2025-2027<br/>limit</i> | <i>2028-2032<br/>Limit</i> | <i>2033 and beyond<br/>limit</i> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>JPN</i>                            | 1308                                | 1308                       | 1190.3                     | 1023.6                           |
| <i>TWN</i>                            | 330                                 | 330                        | 300.3                      | 258.3                            |
| <i>KOR</i>                            | 22                                  | 22                         | 20.0                       | 17.2                             |
| <i>USA</i>                            | 371                                 | 371                        | 337.6                      | 290.3                            |
| <i>CHN</i>                            | 51.7                                | 51.7                       | 47.0                       | 40.5                             |
| <i>Total (not including<br/>SIDS)</i> | 2082.7                              | 2082.7                     | 1895.3                     | 1629.9                           |

\*From 2022 WCPFC Yearbook data

**Draft Audit Points  
for the Proposed Amendments to  
Conservation and Management Measure  
for the North Pacific Striped Marlin (CMM 2010-01)**

| Obligation | Description   | Category | Draft Audit Point  |
|------------|---|----------|--|
| Para. 5    | [No change]<br><br>NP striped marlin catch limits applicable to CCMs with vessels fishing in the Convention Area north of the equator: commencing 2011. | QL       | [No Change]<br><br>The CCM reported its catch level in AR Pt2 and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported catch limit and confirm that its allowable limit was not exceeded.       |
| Para. 6    | [No change]<br><br>Report on implementation of CMM 2010-01 for NP striped marlin including report against limits of CMM (in AR Pt 2)                    | RP       | [No change]<br><br>Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report of national binding measures CCMs applied to flagged/chartered vessels to reduce CCM vessels' catch and total catch. |
| Para. 8    | Report on catch, effort, and estimates of total live and dead discards of NP striped marlin   | RP       | The CCM reported its catch, effort, and estimates of total live and dead discards of NP striped marlin in AR Pt 2 and the Secretariat can verify the CCM's reported data.                |
| Para. 6    | Report on implementation of CMM 2010-01 for NP striped marlin including report against limits of CMM (in AR Pt 2)                                       | DL       | Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report of national binding measures CCMs applied to flagged/chartered vessels to reduce CCM vessels' catch and total catch.                    |



**SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

6-10 December 2010

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**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR NORTH PACIFIC  
STRIPED MARLIN**

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**Conservation and Management Measure 2010-01**

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

*Noting* with concern that the best available scientific advice from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) on the status of North Pacific Striped Marlin shows that the stock is subject to fishing mortality above levels that are sustainable in the long term;

*Further noting* the advice from the ISC that fishing mortality on the stock should be reduced from the 2003 levels;

*Also noting* that the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Members will be adopting a system of zone-based longline limits to replace the current system of flag-based arrangements within their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs);

*Acknowledging* the advice from the Scientific Committee that the information provided by the ISC does not support classification of North Pacific Striped Marlin as a “northern stock” under Annex 1 of the WCPFC Rules of Procedure;

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

1. This Measure shall apply in high seas and EEZs within the convention area north of the equator.
2. For the purposes of this measure, vessels operated under charter, lease or other similar mechanisms as an integral part of the domestic fleet of a coastal State, shall be considered to be vessels of the host State or Territory. Such charter, lease or other similar mechanism shall be conducted in a manner so as not to charter known IUU vessels.
3. Nothing in this measure shall prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations of Small



Island Developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area seeking to develop their own domestic fisheries.

4. The total catch of North Pacific Striped Marlin will be subject to a phased reduction such that by 1 January 2013 the catch is 80% of the levels caught in 2000 to 2003.
  5. Each flag/chartering CCM with vessels fishing in the convention area north of the equator shall be subject to the following catch limits for North Pacific Striped Marlin for the years 2011 and beyond:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 2011   | [10%] reduction of the highest catch between 2000 and 2003;2012 |
|  | [15%] reduction of the highest catch between 2000 and 2003;     |
| 2013 and beyond: [20%] reduction of the highest catch between 2000 and 2003; |   |
  6. Each flag/chartering CCM shall decide on the management measures required to ensure that its flagged/chartered vessels operate under the catch limits specified in paragraph 5, noting that previous examples of such measures have included effort reductions, gear modification and spatial management.
  7. By 30 April 2011, each flag/chartering CCM shall report to the Commission verifiable information regarding its catch of North Pacific Striped Marlin by its flagged/chartered vessels north of the equator.
  8. Each year CCMs shall report in their Part 2 annual reports their implementation of this measure, including the measures applied to flagged/chartered vessels to reduce their catch and the total catch taken against the limits established under paragraphs 5 and 7.
  - 9.
  - 10.
- . This measure shall be amended in 2011 based on the revised stock assessment for north Pacific striped marlin.

## **Attachment R**

### **Audit Points Checklist for Proposed New or Amended Obligations**

#### **("Audit Points Checklist")**

*(To be completed by proponents of new and amended measures. This checklist should not be confused with the "2013-06 Checklist", which is specific to impacts of new or amended proposals on SIDS.)*

1. To whom does the obligation apply? Set out any proposed exceptions or exclusions.

☐ All CCMs      ☐ Flag CCMs      ☐ Some CCMs - if so, which CCMs?

**This obligation applies to all CCMs.**

2. What is the scope of the new obligations (i.e., does it apply to a particular geographical area, fishery, stock, species of special interest?)

**The new obligations would apply to all CCMs fishing for North Pacific striped marlin.**

3. Are there existing obligations that should be assessed in combination with any of the proposed new obligations? If so, name the CMM and paragraph(s), or other Commission obligation.

**No**

4. Which proposed new obligations will require submission of Reports (RP) or Implementation Statements (I), impose Limits (QL), or have Deadlines (DL)? Please fill out the relevant section(s) for each of the proposed new obligations.

**a. Current audit point:**

**- Paragraph 5 will require a submission of QL (pre-existing audit point: CMM 2010-01 5 QL); the catch limit tables may need to be updated pending final outcome**

**b. Due to the updating of paragraphs, the reference in the audit points will need to be updated for:**

**- Paragraphs 6 will require submission of a report (pre-existing audit point: CMM 2010-01 08 RP)**

**- Paragraph 6 will also require a deadline (DL) (this is a pre-existing audit point CMM 2010-01 08 DL)**

**c. NEW audit point**

**- Paragraph 8 will require submission of a report (RP)**

I. Deadline

Specify what is required and by what deadline.

**The deadline is AR Pt 2 deadline.**

II. Report

Specify the type of information that is required, including any specific formats or templates to be used, and whether the information must be complete (100%) or a sub-set of information is sufficient to meet the proposed objective.

Is this information already provided wholly or in part through any other data submission requirement, i.e. operational level catch and effort data?

**The information is provided in part by observer reports/data.**

If no, specify the proposed reporting mechanism to be used for submission of new required information (i.e., Annual Report Part 1, Annual Report Part 2, direct to WCPFC Secretariat, other)

Can the information provided be verified through another source? If yes, specify what other data or information source should be used.

**No**

### III. Implementation

In addition to the required Implementation Statements, list any additional information required to demonstrate CCM's implementation with the proposed new requirement.

Describe any data or other information that can be reviewed by the WCPFC Secretariat to confirm or verify implementation.

**Observer reports/data may have relevant information.**

### IV. Quantitative Limit

Specify the proposed CCM-level or Collective limit.

**To be determined based on the outcome of discussions. Tables presented in Annex 1 outline potential QL's based on proposed scenarios.**

Specify what verifiable data shall be provided by CCM to confirm its adherence to the limit.

**This information is already being collected as part of the current audit point, only the QL is being updated.**

Specify what data sources are available to the WCPFC Secretariat to review and confirm CCM's reported limit.

### V. Other

If none of the other categories are appropriate: Specify the nature of the obligation. Specify how compliance is to be assessed.

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Process for considering proposed audit points alongside new proposals

The purpose of the checklist is for proponents of new obligations to identify what they see as being the appropriate criteria or performance standard by which compliance should be assessed against new or amended obligations. This process will assist in identifying data gaps, potential duplication of reporting, and existing measures that might be linked to new

or amended obligations.

The process for considering proposed audit points for proposed new obligations is as follows:

- Step 1: Proponent of the proposed new or amended obligation(s) submits a completed AP Checklist at the same time as the proposed new or amended obligation(s) is submitted.
- Step 2: Where proposed new or amended obligation(s) undergoes further discussion and negotiation, the AP Checklist remains attached to the proposal and is also considered throughout the iterative process.
- Step 3: If proposed new or amended obligation(s) reaches the stage of finalization for adoption, the lead CCM on finalizing the proposed new or amended obligation(s) also updates the AP Checklist to reflect the final proposed new or amended obligation(s).
- Step 4: The proposed audit points for the proposed new or amended obligation(s) are adopted as part of the final proposed new or amended obligation(s) and attached to the final CMM, or in the case of a Commission decision that is not reflected in a CMM, the proposed audit points are posted on the appropriate section of the WCPFC website associated with the decision or outcome.