

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
TENTH SESSION (JWG-10)**

9 – 12 July 2025
Toyama, Japan (Hybrid)

Report on CMM 2024-02 (MCS of Pacific bluefin tuna)

IATTC-NC-JWG10-2025/DP-05.1 (Rev.01)

JAPAN

From: 金納 雅英(KANNOU Masahide) <masahide_kanno210@maff.go.jp>
Sent: Sunday, June 15, 2025 3:49 PM
To: SungKwon Soh <SungKwon.Soh@wcpfc.int>
Cc: 清水 宣維(SHIMIZU Nobushige) <nobushige_shimizu640@maff.go.jp>; 大南 あかり(OONAMI Akari) <akari_onami830@maff.go.jp>
Subject: PBF report

Dear Soh-san,

I would like to submit the PBF report and PBF MCS report in accordance with CMM2024-01 and 2024-02.

Best regards,
Masahide

From: 金納 雅英(KANNOU Masahide) <masahide_kanno210@maff.go.jp>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2025 2:40 PM
To: SungKwon Soh <SungKwon.Soh@wcpfc.int>; 清水 宣維(SHIMIZU Nobushige) <nobushige_shimizu640@maff.go.jp>
Cc: 大南 あかり(OONAMI Akari) <akari_onami830@maff.go.jp>
Subject: RE: Reporting on NP albacore and NP swordfish - Japan is outstanding

Dear SungKwon-san,

Thank you for your continuous support.
I would like to submit the report NP albacore and swordfish and revised PBF report.

Best regards,
Masahide

1) Monitoring and control measures for fisheries

a. Registration of commercial fishing vessels that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including the WCPFC RFV in accordance with CMM 2018-06 on WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorization to Fish)

Japanese commercial fishing vessels targeting PBF are required to be authorized and registered under the licensing system by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the prefectural governments, or the approval system by the Regional Fisheries Coordination Commissions.

The number of fishing vessels authorized to fish for PBF in 2024 was as follows:

- purse seine vessels: 78
- drift net vessels: 50
- longline vessels: 366
- small-scale and artisanal vessels: 16,863

The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) has registered all vessels authorized to fish on the high seas in the Convention Area in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, in accordance with CMM2018-06.

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

Set nets for PBF are required to obtain a license from the prefectural governments. The number of set nets licensed in 2024 was 1,688.

c. Allocation of catch limits by fishery within the CCMs, where such allocation exist

Most of the catch limits for PBF are divided into two sectors; (1) fisheries managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and (2) fisheries managed by the prefectural governments. The rest of the catch limits are held by the Fisheries Agency as reserves.

The catch limits are managed under the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) system. The catch limits for the fisheries managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for the 2024 management year were as follows:

- purse seine fishery: 4,276.8mt(large fish), 678.5mt(small fish)

Fishery		2024	
		<30 kg	≥30 kg
Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Purse Seine	558	4,050
	Longline Dist.&Off.	1	730
Other fisheries	Longline Coastal	80	852
	Artisanal fisheries	1,052	300
	Set Net	1,189	563
	Others	229	402
Recreational fishing		0	44
Total		3,110	6,939

- drift net fishery: 50.1mt(large fish), 26.1mt(small fish)

- longline fishery: 762.9mt(large fish), 9.8mt(small fish)

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

All fisheries are required to report their PBF catch to the FAJ, including bycatch and discards. The following table shows the reported catch by fisheries in the 2024 management year:

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

FAJ established a new division in the agency that dedicates itself to the monitoring of catches and landings by fisheries. This division is assigned the task to monitor catch records of and conduct on-site inspections to not only large-scale fisheries managed by the Minster but also small-scal fisheries managed by prefectural governments. A total of 315 vessels were inspected for their landings from May to December 2024. In addition, FAJ conducted as-sea boarding inspections. Also, fishing vessels authorized to fish in the high seas are subject to the WCPFC Regional Observer Program.

Further, since October 2023, FAJ has been conducting a pilot project for further enhanced monitoring of PBF fisheries, including the tagging to individual fish, installation of monitoring cameras at major landing sites, and random patrolling by a private company entrusted by FAJ for PBF landing activities. FAJ intends to further enhance its management and control measures for the PBF fisheries on the basis of the outcomes of the pilot project.

f. Measures to monitor landings (including CMM 2017-02 on Minimum Standards for Port State Measures)

FAJ established a new division in the agency that dedicates itself to the monitoring of catches and landings by fisheries. This division is assigned the task to monitor catch records of and conduct on-site inspections to not only large-scale fisheries managed by the Minister but also small scall fisheries managed by prefectural governors. Further, since October 2023, FAJ has been conducting a pilot project for further enhanced monitoring of PBF fisheries, including the tagging to individual fish, installation of monitoring cameras at major landing sites, and random patrolling by a private company entrusted by FAJ for PBF landing activities. FAJ intends to further enhance its management and control measures for the PBF fisheries on the basis of the outcomes of the pilot project.

g. Measures to monitor domestic transactions

On June 19, 2024, the National Diet of Japan adopted proposed amendments to the Fishery Act and the Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants for the improved management of PBF fisheries. These amendments aim at enhanced and strengthened monitoring and control on catch and distribution (traceability) for large PBF (30kg or larger). The measures to be introduced through these amendments include:

(Amendment of Fishery Act)

- (a) Requirement for fishers to report the number of fish in addition to the weight;
- (b) Requirement for fishers to maintain the information used for PBF catch reporting (e.g. name of fishing vessel) to enable the tracing and investigation of catch; and
- (c) Strengthened penalties for violation of catch reporting;

(Amendment of Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants for the improvement of PBF fisheries)

- (a) Requirement for sellers to transfer the catch information the buyers;
- (b) Requirement for the sellers and the buyers to maintain the catch information;
and
- (c) Requirement for exporters to acquire a legal harvest certificate at the time of export.

(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')

Farming sites of PBF required to obtain a license by the prefectural governments. All farming sites for PBF are registered with the prefectural governments. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has instructed the prefectural governments to separate the licenses of PBF farming from those for other fish species. PBF farming sites are required to report the necessary information to the FAJ, such as the number of cages and the license numbers.

b. Reporting requirements for caging of fish and c. Reporting requirements for harvest of farmed fish

PBF farming sites are required to report their farming activities, such as information on number, average weight and source of PBF they caged, and number and average weight of PBF harvested.

d. Measures to monitor farming activities (including Rules, standards, and procedures to monitor transfer and caging activities)

FAJ has instructed purse seine fishing vessels to record their caging activities of PBF by a stereo video camera or by an observer from an independent source.