



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
Twenty-First Regular Session**

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Updated information on North Pacific swordfish catch and fishing effort
(Reference: Annex I, CMM 2023-03)

WCPFC-NC21-2025/WP-03

WCPFC Secretariat

According to Paragraphs 2 – 4 of the WCPFC CMM 2023-03 below, all catches and fishing effort of North Pacific swordfish are compiled using the template provided in Annex 1 for the previous 3-years. Catch and effort data were extracted from [WCPFC-NC18-2022/IP-05](#).

2. *The Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating territories (hereinafter referred to as CCMs) shall take necessary measures to ensure that the level of fishing effort of their fisheries taking North Pacific swordfish in the Area is not increased beyond 2008-2010 average annual levels¹²;*

3. *Paragraphs 2 and 4 shall not be applied to those fisheries taking less than 200 metric tons of North Pacific swordfish in the Area per year. However, if the catches of such fisheries exceed 200 metric tons in any given year, the Commission shall adopt appropriate management measure for such fisheries.*

4. *All CCMs shall report annually to the WCPFC Commission all catches of North Pacific swordfish in the Area and all fishing effort in those fisheries subject to the measures in paragraph 2, by gear type using the template provided in Annex 1.*

NC20 will consider the template and information provided below for any further updates.

¹ For the US swordfish longline fishery, the level of fishing effort shall not be increased beyond the maximum number of limited entry permits available during 2008-2010.

² For the Chinese Taipei's coastal artisanal longline fishery, the level of fishing effort shall not be increased beyond the number of vessels licensed during 2008-2010.

Annex 1. Average annual fishing effort for 2008-2010 and annual fishing effort for subsequent years for fisheries taking North Pacific swordfish for the previous 3-years (2022-2024).

CCM	Area ³	Fishery (gear type)	2008-2010 Average			2022			2023			2024		
			Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days ⁴	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days
Japan	CA North Pacific Ocean	Drift gillnet	608	139	3,593	459	54	917(*)	631(*)	49	832(*)	631(*)	46	522(*)
		Longline	5,548	406	60,718	3,249	264	41,791	4,469(*)	252	42,107	4,175(*)	242	45,203
		Others (**)	545	-	-	604	-	-	516(*)	-	-	516(*)	-	-
		Total	6,701			4,309			5,616			5,322		
	CA north of 20°N	Drift gillnet	608	139	3,593	459	54	917(*)	631(*)	49	832(*)	631(*)	46	522(*)
		Longline	5,103	318	44,192	3,046	243	34,566	4,258(*)	221	34,578	4,009(*)	221	37,767
		Others (**)	545	-	-	604	-	-	516(*)	-	-	516(*)	-	-
		Total	3,978			2,598			5,405			5,156		
Korea	North Pacific Ocean	Longline	0.8	0	0	0								
		Total	0.8⁵			0			0					
Chinese Taipei (***)	CA north of 20°N (The area)	Setnet	31											
		Gillnet (not specified)	6											
		Harpoon	37											
		Coastal artisanal longline	610	673		279	277 227		489	383		267	483	
		Longline	611	633	30,031	402 403	190	10,522	631 636	230 231	14,272 14,279	625	251	15,511
		Total	1,295			681 682			1,120			892		
	North Pacific Ocean	Setnet												
		Gillnet (not specified)												
		Harpoon												
		Coastal artisanal longline				279	277 227		489	383		267	483	
		Longline				829	413 421	37,548 37,639	1,075 1,082	399 411	39,092 39,632	1,036	428	43,221
		Total				1,108			1,564			1,303		

³ If collective effort limits across the North Pacific Ocean, report the Area and North Pacific Ocean separately.

⁴ Fishing days shall be the total days of fishing (both targeting and bycatch). CCMs can consider the plural effort metrics in Annex 1 to this CMM in their entirety and in the case of fisheries that take NPS as bycatch, the metric of “fishing days” may not be appropriate for assessing the compliance with the effort control provision.

⁵ Korea caught 2.3 tons of North Pacific swordfish as bycatch in 2008. No catches since then.

CCM	Area ³	Fishery (gear type)	2008-2010 Average			2022			2023			2024		
			Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days ⁴	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days	Catch (t)	No. of vessels	Fishing days
USA	Convention Area	Handline	4			1			1			1		
		American Samoa Longline	10			26			15			64		
		US Longline	1,182	164 ⁶		735	142		748	145		821	144	
		Total	1,196			762			764			886		
	Pacific	Gillnet				29	7		37	5		1		
		Handline				1			1		1			
		Harpoon				32	17		36	17	19	9		
		Hook and Line				2	11		1	9	1	7		
		American Samoa Longline				26			15		64			
		US Longline				902	147		841	150	955	149		
		Other				26	22		31	21	9	13		
	Total				1,018			962		1,073				
Vanuatu	North Pacific Ocean	Setnet												
		Drift gillnet												
		Longline	23.373	15	1417	79.449	26	1889	56.937	17	1324	26,577	12	919
		Others												
		Not specified												
		Total	23.373	15	1417	79.449	26	1889	56.937	17	1324	26.577	12	919
GRAND Total														

(*) Provisional

(**) Others include set-net, troll, pole and line and other artisanal fisheries etc., mostly operating within territorial water of Japan.

(***) All swordfish were bycatch. Data for [2024](#) are still preliminary.

⁶ The maximum level of limited entry permits available during 2008-2010 was 164.