



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Twenty-First Regular Session

24 September to 30 September 2025

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (Hybrid)

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REPORTS ON CMM 2024-02 (MCS MEASURES FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA)

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WCPFC-TCC21-2025-28

9 September 2025

Submitted by the Secretariat

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to support TCC's consideration of the following task in paragraph 4 of CMM 2024-02:

*The Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) and the Northern Committee (NC) shall separately review the implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance measures reported by CCMs in accordance with this CMM by 2026 and based upon the results of such review, provide recommendations to the Commission.*

Background

2. The stated purpose of [CMM 2024-02](#) is to establish a regime for the monitoring and control of the conservation and management of the Pacific bluefin tuna fishery in the WCPO set out in [CMM 2024-01](#) (CMM 2024-02 paragraph 1).
3. The task assigned to TCC under paragraph 4 of CMM 2024-02, relates specifically to the reporting requirements outlined in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the same measure. These provisions are reproduced in the box below for ease of reference:

*2. Each CCM that has Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming shall report to the Executive Director 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 CMM2024-01 that include the following components:*

*(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)*
- b. Registration of set nets that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered set nets)*
- c. Allocation of catch limits by fishery within the CCMs, where such allocation exist*
- d. Reporting requirements for catches for fisheries (targeted, incidental, and discards)*

- e. Measures to monitor catch (e.g. landing receipts, landing inspection, observer program, etc.)
- f. Measures to monitor landings (including CMM 2017-02 on Minimum Standards for Port State Measures)
- g. 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 farming activities (including Rules, standards, and procedures to monitor transfer and caging activities)

3. CCMs that do not have Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming, shall report to the WCPFC Secretariat annually any by-catches of Pacific bluefin tuna under paragraph 9 of CMM 2024-01.

## NC21 and JWG-10 outcomes

4. Discussions on CCMs' reports on CMM 2024-02 were recorded in the *Chairs Summary from the Co-Chairs of the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG-10)*. This *Chairs Summary* is Attachment C to the [NC21 Summary Report](#). During this meeting, Japan tabled a proposal for a **draft template for CCMs' reports** on CMM 2024-02. The proposal was discussed but not agreed. The relevant excerpts from the *JWG-10 Chairs' Summary Report*, including the proposed template, are provided in **Annex 1** to this paper.
5. At NC21, the Northern Committee did not record any outcomes related to the review of CCMs' Reports on CMM 2024-02.

## 2025 Reports on CMM 2024-02

6. There are twelve (12) 2025 Reports on CMM 2024-02 which are presented for review by TCC:
  - Australia | [JWG-10-DP12](#)
  - Canada | [JWG-10-DP01](#)
  - China | [JWG-10-DP02](#)
  - Cook Islands | [JWG-10-DP03](#)
  - Fiji | [JWG-10-DP04](#)
  - Japan | [JWG-10-DP05](#)
  - Korea | [JWG-10-DP06](#)
  - New Zealand | [JWG-10-DP13](#)
  - Philippines | [JWG-10-DP08](#)
  - Chinese Taipei | [JWG-10-DP09](#)
  - United States | [JWG-10-DP10](#)
  - Vanuatu | [JWG-10-DP11](#)

## Recommendation

7. TCC21 is invited to note this paper.

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

Toyama, Japan (Hybrid)  
9 – 12 July 2025

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**CHAIRS' SUMMARY OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE  
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

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IATTC-NC-JWG10-2025/00

**AGENDA ITEM 3. REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA MEASURES**

7. The JWG reviewed WCPFC and IATTC members' implementation reports regarding CMM 2024-01, CMM 2024-02, Resolution C-24-02, and Resolution C-24-03. Co-Chair Miyahara explained that the discussion would be conducted in two rounds: first, a discussion on the implementation of CMMs by each party, and second, a review of the reports on MCS measures.

8. Japan asked Korea about current year fishing activities, specifically about a reported large purse seine catch of 7,000 fish in July that could potentially cause overshooting of catch limits. Korea responded that there was a significant PBF catch in late June or early July, and they were still compiling the exact catch amount. Korea explained that their initial report showed purse seine catches did not exceed 600 metric tons and they have reserved catch limits of more than 300 metric tons for unexpected situations.

9. In response to questions from Japan, Korea subsequently provided additional information from their relevant division, noting that they do not have recreational fisheries specifically targeting PBF but that recreational fisheries catch small PBF from time to time due to high abundance in their waters. Korea reported that recreational fisheries caught 358 individual PBF (0.83 metric tons) in 2023 and 526 individual PBF (1.21 metric tons) in 2024, with catches consisting only of small fish due to gear configuration. Regarding set nets, Korea reported having 155 total set net licenses (82 in Gangwon Province and 73 in North Gyeongsang Province) that do not target PBF. Japan clarified that their 1,688 set net sites are authorized to catch PBF, with many targeting PBF while others do not, and noted that Korea's recreational catches should be counted against their catch limits as a mandatory requirement. Korea explained that they count recreational fishery catches against their 2024 catch limits; they will continue to count against future catch limits.

10. The USA asked Mexico about the number of pens holding PBF and whether Mexico also has pens for yellowfin tuna. While they do not have the exact number, Mexico responded that Mexican farming companies have limited capacity based on each company's concession, and there are no pens for yellowfin tuna. Japan asked Mexico about sports fishery data collection methods, noting that Mexico estimated sports fishery catch to be 4 metric tons in 2024, and whether fishermen are required to provide catch reports. Mexico responded that sports fishermen must fill out documents and there are port inspectors who check vessel arrivals and communicate with fishermen.

11. Japan asked Chinese Taipei about the management of recreational sports fishermen, noting that their catches should be counted under WCPFC measures. Chinese Taipei responded that they have laws

requiring recreational fishermen to obtain tags before landing PBF, and without tags, they are not allowed to land.

12. In response to a question from Japan about how the USA manages the catch from their sport fisheries, the USA responded that its recreational fisheries are robustly managed in a manner consistent with its commercial fisheries through trip limits, bag limits, 100% logbook and near-real time reporting requirements. Although the management of this fishery did not change between 2023 and 2024, US recreational catches for PBF declined, and the number of fish caught to date in 2025 is also much lower than the same period in 2024. Japan noted concerns about the gap between commercial and recreational fishing trends, with commercial catches reducing by almost 40% while recreational catches increased sharply to a record high of almost 2,000 metric tons in 2023, and asked how the USA plans to manage sports fisheries under the new management procedure. Co-Chair Miyahara noted that this question was relevant to discussions to occur in Agenda Item 5.

13. Japan asked New Zealand about managing the sports fishery catch of PBF under WCPFC conservation measures. New Zealand responded that they manage PBF recreational harvest by a combined bag limit of 20 finfish per day, which differs from their southern bluefin tuna management approach. Chinese Taipei requested information about New Zealand's international trade partners, to which New Zealand replied that in 2024, they exported PBF primarily to Japan and smaller amounts to the USA, Australia, Canada, and Switzerland.

14. In response to a question from Japan about monitoring the number and average size of PBF caged in farming pens, particularly when originally caught by purse seiners, Korea responded that they check the amount of caging and harvest of PBF based on paper documents. Korea noted that government officials and scientists visit the farms to monitor activities, although coverage is not 100%. Korea explained that farming activities for PBF are in their initial experimental stage, so going forward, they will consider making necessary enhancements to their existing MCS system.

15. Japan asked Mexico to provide MCS information in written form for both WCPFC and IATTC implementation reports. Regarding farming activities, Japan noted that Mexico's purse seiners have 100% observer coverage, but observers cannot identify the number of fish to be caged or the average size of PBF to be caged, which is why video cameras are necessary. Japan asked whether Mexico's operators use video cameras to confirm the actual size of fish. Mexico responded that they have stereoscopic cameras when transfer is done and that observers and inspectors have the possibility to get information about the amount of fish transferred.

16. In response to questions from Japan about violations by sports fishermen, the USA reported that they have never discovered any laundering of PBF and noted that while recreational fishermen are prohibited from selling PBF on the market, a minimal number of violations have been identified and are addressed. Japan noted that the USA sport fisheries caught almost 2,000 metric tons in 2023, which could have a big impact, and stated that monitoring and enforcement measures are important. Japan explained that in their case, they frequently identify violations during peak season that are subject to penalties, with around 10 cases identified in their recreational fisheries almost every year, and expressed surprise that USA sports fishermen caught 2,000 metric tons, but no violations were found.

17. Co-Chair Miyahara noted the need for a standardized MCS reporting format and tasked Japan with creating a unified format for MCS reporting based on current CMM and IATTC resolutions. Japan agreed to make efforts to create a format for reporting that would be used for next year's reporting. Co-

Chair Miyahara asked Japan to create a draft skeleton of MCS measures for consideration at the JWG 11 meeting next year. Japan noted that creating a draft skeleton of MCS measures is a challenging task and requested assistance from other delegations during the intersessional period, stating that cooperation is necessary to complete this work. Japan created a draft reporting template and explained that it allows members to place their MCS activities according to existing obligations, and expressed hope that it would be helpful for unified reporting. The template in Annex C was considered but could not be agreed upon. This template will be sent to each commission for further consideration (**Annex C**).

18. No further discussions were held on the reports submitted by other members.

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**Draft Reporting Template of Conservation and Management Measure 2024-02 for the  
Monitoring, Controlling, and Surveillance of Pacific Bluefin Tuna  
/ Resolution C-24-03 on Monitoring and Control Measures for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the EPO**

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Related provisions of CMM 2024-02/Resolution C-24-03

2. *Each CCM/CPC that has Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming shall report to the Executive Director/Director 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 CMM2024-01/Resolution C-24-02 that include the following components:*
3. *CCMs/CPCs that do not have Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and/or farming, shall report to the WCPF/IATTC Secretariat annually any by-catches of Pacific bluefin tuna under paragraph 9 of CMM 2024-01/footnote 1 of Resolution C-24-02.*

**2(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) / a) Registration of commercial fishing vessels in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register in accordance with Resolution C-24-07 on the Regional Vessel Register	
b. Registration of set nets that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered set nets) / b) Registration of set nets that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered set nets)	

<p>c. Allocation of catch limits by fishery within the CCMs, where such allocation exist /</p> <p>c) Allocation of catch limits by fishery within the CPCs, where such allocation exist</p>	
<p>d. Reporting requirements for catches for fisheries (targeted, incidental, and discards) /</p> <p>d) Reporting requirements for catches for fisheries (targeted, incidental, and discards), including Resolution C-03-05 on data provision</p>	
<p>e. Measures to monitor catch (e.g. landing receipts, landing inspection, observer program, etc.) /</p> <p>e) Measures to monitor catch (e.g. landing receipts, landing inspection, observer program, etc.)</p>	
<p>f. Measures to monitor landings (including CMM 2017-02 on Minimum Standards for Port State Measures) /</p> <p>f) Measures to monitor landings, including Resolution C-21-07 on port state measures</p>	
<p>g. Measures to monitor domestic transactions /</p> <p>g) Measures to monitor domestic transactions</p>	

**(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 farming activities (including Rules, standards, and procedures to monitor transfer and caging activities)	