



**Western and  
Central Pacific  
Fisheries  
Commission**

**NORTHERN COMMITTEE**  
**TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
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**KEY COMPONENTS OF NEW CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR NORTH  
PACIFIC ALBACORE TO IMPLEMENT THE HARVEST STRATEGY ADOPTED IN 2023**

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**WCPFC-NC22-2026-DP01**  
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**Japan**

**1. Background**

North Pacific albacore (NPA) has been managed through Conservation and Management Measure (CMM 2019-03), the main component of which is paragraph 2:

*“Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories (hereinafter referred to as CCMs) shall take necessary measures to ensure that the level of fishing effort by their vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore in the WCPF Convention Area is not increased beyond 2002–2004 annual average levels.”*

Following the adoption of the Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore (Harvest Strategy 2023-01) at WCPFC20 in 2023, the Northern Committee (NC) needs to consider and develop a new CMM to implement this strategy. The management of NPA fisheries is inherently challenging: catch levels fluctuate significantly depending on the year and fishing season, and a wide range of fishing methods are employed, including longline, trawl, pole-and-line, and purse seine. The new CMM is therefore required to address and incorporate these complexities.

In order to facilitate initial discussions among CCMs at NC22, Japan has drafted key components to be included in the new implementing CMM. We hope that CCMs will share general directions on these key components toward the development of the new implementing CMM next year.

**2. Key Components for new NPA CMM**

(1) The CMM applies to all fisheries in the EEZ and high seas in north of equator.

(2) When the latest stock assessment shows that the  $SSB_{current}/SSB_{current, F=0}$  is above or equal to  $SSB_{threshold}$  with a probability of at least 50%, the existing effort control rule is applied. Specifically, the level of

fishing efforts by vessels fishing for NPA in the Convention area is not increased beyond 2002-2004 annual average levels.

- (3) When the latest stock assessment shows that  $SSB_{current}/SSB_{current, F=0}$  is below  $SSB_{threshold}$  with a probability greater than 50%, the ISC shall calculate catch limits reflecting the fishing intensity provided by the Harvest Strategy. In the same year of the stock assessment, catch limits are set for CCMs based on the catch records during 2002-2004 in addition to the existing effort control rule.
- a. CCMs shall control their fisheries under their respective catch limits. Fisheries with an annual average catch of less than 1000 metric tons over the most recent three years may be excluded from the catch limit scheme. CCMs may implement their catch limit through fishing effort controls.
  - b. To address fluctuation in annual catch, a triennial catch limit for each CCM shall be applied. Any overharvest by a CCM shall be deducted from its catch limit in the subsequent three-year management period. Underharvest of up to [ ]% of the catch limit may be carried over and added to the catch limit in the following three-year management period.
  - c. Each CCM shall develop a plan and submit to the Secretariat, by the end of March every year, a plan describing how it will manage and comply with its catch limit. These plans shall be reviewed by the NC in the same year.