



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE  
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

13-14 July 2026

Nagasaki, Japan (Hybrid)

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**CONSULTATIVE DRAFT**

**Draft amendments to the Conservation and Management Measure  
For North Pacific Albacore (CMM 2019-03)**

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**WCPFC-NC22-2026-DP03**

**16 June 2026**

**Submitted by Canada**

### **Explanatory Note**

In 2025, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission tasked the Northern Committee with initiating a review of the [Conservation and Management Measure for North Pacific Albacore \(CMM 2019-03\)](#) in 2026, to ensure that compliance with the measure can be assessed and that it accurately reflects the [Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore \(HS 2023-01\)](#).

The intent of this consultative draft is to support discussions at Northern Committee under Agenda Item 2.2.3 on the Review of the CMM for North Pacific Albacore (CMM 2019-03). The consultative draft outlines proposed amendments to CMM 2019-03, which seek to:

- Update and streamline the CMM;
- Clearly link the CMM to the HS 2023-01;
- Introduce CCM level obligations to act in accordance with the HS 2023-01; and,
- Better define CCM level fishery limits so that compliance with the CMM can be assessed.

Canada submits this consultative draft as a basis to advance discussions on the review of CMM 2019-03 and welcomes views from CCMs. This document, including any proposed amendments, drafting suggestions, or alternative formulations, is provided solely on a without prejudice basis for discussion and information purposes.



COMMISSION

SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

5 – 11 December 2019

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**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE  
FOR NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE**

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Conservation and Management Measure 20~~19-03~~2X-XX

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC),

Amendments limit the following preambular paragraph to the role of ISC and the review that is to take place every 3 years to future proof measure.

*Observing* that the best scientific evidence on North Pacific albacore ~~from~~ is provided by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), as detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding between the WCPFC and the ISC; ~~indicates that the species is likely not overfished relative to the limit reference point adopted by the Commission (20%SSB current F=0) and overfishing is likely not occurring.~~

Amendment to acknowledge adoption of Harvest Strategy for North Pacific albacore tuna.

*Acknowledging* that the WCPFC has adopted CMM 2022-03 on Establishing a Harvest Strategy for Key Fisheries and Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and that the Commission has adopted a Harvest Strategy for the North Pacific Albacore Fishery (HS 2023-01);

*Recalling further* Article 22(4) of the WCPFC Convention that provides for cooperation with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) regarding fish stocks that occur in the Convention Areas of both organizations; and,

Amendment to update preambular paragraph on IATTC management of North Pacific albacore tuna.

*Recognizing* that the ~~Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)~~ adopted, ~~at its 73<sup>rd</sup> meeting, conservation and management measures on North Pacific albacore, and that it adopted supplemental measures at its 85th meeting that were amended at its 93rd meeting~~

Resolution C-23-02, Amendment to Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, at its 101st meeting;

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

Addition to clearly cover the scope of the CMM.

X. This Measure applies to all areas of high seas and all EEZs in the Convention Area north of the equator. Coastal states are encouraged to take measures in archipelagic waters and territorial seas which are consistent with the objectives of this CMM and to inform the WCPFC of the relevant measures that they will apply in these waters.

Addition to clearly reference components of the Harvest Strategy in HS 2023-01.

X. The components of the Harvest Strategy are set out in HS 2023-01.

Amendment to future proof and add clarity to the measure.

1. The total level of fishing effort for North Pacific albacore in the Convention Area north of the equator shall not be increased beyond ~~current~~ 2002-2004 annual average levels, in accordance with the Harvest Strategy (HS 2023-01).

Amendment to streamline provision, and to better define CCM level fishery limits.

2. ~~The Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating Territories (hereinafter referred to as CCMs)~~ CCMs shall take necessary measures to ensure that the level of fishing effort by their vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore, ~~whether taken as target catch or as bycatch~~, in the ~~WCPFC~~ Convention Area is not increased beyond 2002-2004 annual average levels;

Amendment to add clarity to the measure.

3. All CCMs shall report annually to the WCPFC ~~Commission~~ all catches of albacore north of the equator in all fisheries and all fishing effort north of the equator in fisheries directed at albacore. The reports for both catch and fishing effort shall be made by gear type. Catches shall be reported in terms of weight. Fishing effort shall be reported in terms of the most relevant measures for a given gear type, including at a minimum for all gear types, the number of vessel-days fished, using the template provided in Annex 1.

Exclusion of reference to other scientific bodies other than the ISC and WCPFC SC, as any other body would need to follow ISC and WCPFC SC process.

4. The Northern Committee shall, in coordination with ~~International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean~~ ISC and ~~other scientific bodies conducting~~

~~scientific reviews of this stock, including~~ the WCPFC Scientific Committee, monitor the status of North Pacific albacore and report to the ~~WCPFC Commission~~ on the status of the stock at each annual meeting, and make such recommendations to the ~~WCPFC Commission~~ as may be necessary for their effective conservation.

Amendment to remove paragraph as it covers established governance of the Commission.

~~5. The Commission shall consider future actions with respect to North Pacific albacore based on recommendations of the Northern Committee.~~

Amendments to link CCM level obligation to maintain and reduce fishing, in accordance with the established Harvest Strategy.

6. ~~The~~ CCMs shall ~~work to~~ maintain, and ~~as necessary~~ reduce, the level of fishing effort on North Pacific albacore within the Convention Area in accordance with the Harvest Strategy (HS 2023-01) ~~commensurate with the long-term sustainability of the stock.~~

Introduction of a commitment for CCMs to agree on an allocation scheme to reduce fishing intensity, in accordance with the parameters outlined in the Harvest Strategy.

6. bis If female spawning biomass falls below the threshold reference point with a probability greater than 50% and is above the limit reference point with a probability of at least 50%, CCMs shall agree to an allocation scheme to reduce total fishing intensity, taking into account historical fishing activity and the source of increased fishing mortality in reference to 2002-2004 annual average levels, in accordance with the Harvest Strategy.

Introduction of an obligation on CCMs to convert their allocation of fishing intensity into catch and/or effort.

6. ter CCMs shall convert their allocation of fishing intensity into operational catch for longline fleets and effort for surface fleets.

Introduction of an obligation for the Commission to act (including timelines) should an exceptional circumstance be identified.

6. quater If an exceptional circumstance is identified by the ISC and the WCPFC Scientific Committee, the WCPFC shall re-evaluate this CMM at its next Commission meeting, including taking into account any Northern Committee and scientific advice pursuant to its evaluation of the existence of exceptional circumstances as reflected in NC21-WP-06 ISC25/ANNEX 05, and may, as appropriate, recommend further measures.

7. The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this ~~resolution~~ CMM to the IATTC and request that the two Commissions engage in consultations with a view to reaching agreement

on a consistent set of conservation and management measures for North Pacific albacore, and specifically, to propose that both Commissions adopt as soon as practicable uniform conservation and management measures and any reporting or other measures needed to ensure compliance with agreed measures.

8. The provisions of paragraph [2] shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of those small island developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for North Pacific albacore is limited, but that have a real interest in, and history of, fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for North Pacific albacore in the future.

9. The provisions of paragraph [8] shall not provide a basis for an increase in fishing effort by fishing vessels owned or operated by interests outside such small island developing State Members or participating territories, unless such fishing is conducted in support of efforts by such Members and territories to develop their own domestic fisheries.

10. This CMM shall replace the CMM ~~2005~~2019-03.

Annex I: Average annual fishing effort for 2002-2004 and annual fishing effort for subsequent years for fisheries directed at North Pacific albacore in the North Pacific Ocean

CCM	Area <sup>1</sup>	Fishery	2002-04 Average		Year		Year		Year		Year		Year		Year	
			No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days

<sup>1</sup> If collective effort limits across the North Pacific Ocean, report Convention Area and North Pacific Ocean separately