



**COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**Nagasaki, Japan (Hybrid)
13 – 14 July 2026**

SUMMARY REPORT

Acknowledgements

The financial, logistical and administrative support provided by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Secretariat and all Members of the Northern Committee are gratefully acknowledged. Mr. Masanori Miyahara, who chaired the Twenty-Second Regular Session of the Northern Committee, and Mr. Samuel Coyle, who served as the rapporteur for the meeting, are acknowledged with appreciation.

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ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – List of participants
- Attachment 2 – Agenda
- Attachment 3 – Chairs’ summary of the 11th Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group meeting on the management of Pacific bluefin tuna
- Attachment 4 – Draft Implementation Table to Improve Monitoring of Catch Limits for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (WCPFC-NC22-2026-DP02_Rev01)
- Attachment 5 – North Pacific albacore catch and effort reporting template (WCPFC-NC22-2026-WP04)
- Attachment 6 – Draft Amendment to the CMM for NP albacore (CMM 2019-03)
- Attachment 7 – Candidate Inputs for NP swordfish (WCPFC-NC22-2026-DP04_Rev01)
- Attachment 8 – Work Programme for the Northern Committee

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SUMMARY REPORT

AGENDA ITEM 1 — OPENING OF MEETING

1. The Twenty-Second Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC22) took place in Nagasaki, Japan, on 13 – 14 July 2026. The meeting was attended by Northern Committee (NC) members from Canada, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Japan, Republic of Korea (ROK), Philippines, Chinese Taipei, United States of America (USA), and Vanuatu and observers from New Zealand, the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), The Ocean Foundation, The Ocean Governance Institute (OGI), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The list of meeting participants is in **Attachment 1**.

1.1 Opening of meeting

2. Mr. Masanori Miyahara, Chair of the NC, opened the meeting.

1.2 Adoption of agenda

3. The provisional agenda was adopted without modification (**Attachment 2**).

1.3 Meeting arrangements

4. Mr. Samuel Coyle (Japan) was appointed as rapporteur for the meeting.

1.4 Report from ISC and SC

1.4.1 Report from ISC

5. Dr. Shuya Nakatsuka, Vice-Chair of the ISC, presented the outcomes of the ISC26 Plenary Meeting, which was held in Taipei City, Chinese Taipei. The meeting was attended by scientists from Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Chinese Taipei, and the USA. Some observers also attended the meeting.

6. The ISC 2026 report provides an overview of the status of tuna, billfish, and shark stocks in the North Pacific Ocean, together with recent scientific activities and future priorities. North Pacific albacore, which was assessed this year, is unlikely to be overfished or experiencing overfishing under current fishing levels. Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) has continued its successful recovery. North Pacific swordfish, blue marlin, blue shark, and shortfin mako shark are also considered to be in generally healthy condition. In contrast, Western and Central North Pacific striped marlin remains overfished and continued reductions in annual catch are recommended to promote stock rebuilding.

7. During 2026, the ISC completed benchmark assessments for North Pacific albacore and Pacific blue marlin, conducted a peer review of the PBF stock assessment, advanced harvest strategy implementation, and further developed Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) frameworks for several species.

8. The ISC recommended continued improvement of PBF assessment methods, including recruitment indices, abundance indices, ageing techniques, and biological parameters. For North Pacific albacore, the Plenary recommended evaluating the need for an independent review of the assessment framework. For North Pacific swordfish, the ISC advised the Northern Committee to continue development of the MSE process and to postpone the next benchmark assessment from 2028 to 2029 to incorporate new biological information and allow sufficient time for MSE development.

9. Looking ahead, stock assessments for PBF, Western and Central North Pacific striped marlin, and North Pacific blue shark are scheduled for 2027. In addition, the ISC will initiate an external review of its scientific functions to further strengthen the transparency, effectiveness, and credibility of its scientific advice.

10. Japan asked whether the ISC anticipated any difficulties in conducting the striped marlin stock assessment as planned, requesting that the NC be informed of any issues with implementation. The ISC responded that while it could not offer full certainty, the assessment remained on schedule and it was optimistic the work could be completed as planned.

1.4.2 Report from SC

11. The NC noted that as the 22nd Regular Session of the WCPFC Scientific Committee will be held on 11 – 19 August 2026, no report from SC22 was available at NC22.

12. The ISC reported that it had begun applying the WCPFC Management Advice and Uncertainty Template (SC21-SA-IP-22) to its stock assessments, starting this year with North Pacific albacore and blue marlin, and confirmed its intention to continue using the template for future assessments.

AGENDA ITEM 2 — CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE NORTHERN STOCKS

2.1 Pacific Bluefin Tuna

13. Co-Chair Josh Madeira of the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG) presented the outcomes of the 11th JWG as outlined in the Chairs' Summary (**Attachment 3**).

14. Co-Chair Madeira outlined progress on CDS, including a new draft CMM and next steps to develop a terms of reference and instructions for completing the ePBCD and ePBRC as well a plan to resolve funding between both Commissions. Co-Chair Madeira reported that JWG-11 discussed CCM/CPC implementation reports on PBF measures and received information from the ISC on conversion factors, recruitment index, and the results of the independent review of the stock assessment. The ISC also provided responses related to the long-term harvest strategy based on the 3rd JWG intersessional meeting in March 2026. Co-Chair Madeira outlined the intensive discussions on the long-term harvest strategy, including the complex issues relating to West: East fishery impact, conservation of small fish,

sportfishing, conversion factors and other outstanding issues. He noted that the JWG made progress but ultimately was unable to reach consensus on the long-term harvest strategy or any recommendations on current management measures. He confirmed that the JWG intends to continue to prioritize discussions to advance the Management Procedure (MP). Finally, Co-Chair Madeira summarized next steps, including that the Co-Chairs will consult with JWG members and identify opportunities for further discussion to advance the long-term harvest strategy.

2.1.1 CMM for PBF (CMM 2024-01)

15. Korea underscored the serious difficulties it faces under the current catch limits, which do not provide a workable basis for managing the rapidly increasing influx of large PBF into its territorial seas, particularly fish that are unavoidably caught in set nets. Korea recalled that its proposed amendments to CMM 2024-01 included the application of an adjusted conversion factor based on the latest ISC analysis.

16. Korea further recalled that, during the Heads of Delegation meeting at JWG11, the application of a conversion factor of 6.37 to a portion of the small-fish catch limits had been discussed extensively. On the basis of ISC advice indicating that such an arrangement would not adversely affect the stock, a tentative understanding had been reached at that meeting.

17. Korea therefore proposed that, for 2027 only, the conversion factor of 6.37 be applied to a portion of the initial catch limits for PBF smaller than 30 kg allocated to Korea and Japan. Japan supported this proposal with limit of its usage in a small percentage.

18. The USA opposed any change outside the broader MP negotiations at the JWG, with the USA noting that Mexico would likely object and that any factor change belongs in that larger negotiation. Canada asked Korea and Japan to put a concrete written proposal on record for review. The ISC clarified it would not be able to run impact analysis on a one-year conversion but if size-distribution data of the catches are provided, it can conduct similar analysis of conversion during the assessment cycle as provided in WCPFC-NC22-2026-IP01 of JWG.

19. Although no consensus was reached, Korea and Japan drafted the following language for future consideration on the 2027-only arrangement: “In 2027 only, Korea may use up to 35 per cent, and Japan up to 20 per cent, of their respective initial catch limits for PBF smaller than 30 kg to catch PBF 30 kg or larger, applying the conversion factor of 6.37.” The Chair encouraged the concerned CCMs to continue discussion on this proposal and come up with an agreement to be considered in WCPFC23.

20. Korea reiterated that it had made substantial efforts to compromise on a range of issues in order to facilitate agreement on a PBF management procedure. Against that background, Korea urged the Northern Committee to give serious consideration to this limited, one-off arrangement, which would provide at least partial relief from the acute management difficulties Korea is currently facing.

21. Korea further stated that, should this last-resort request not be accepted, it would have no practical alternative but to seriously consider applying the conversion factor of 6.37 to a portion of its initial small-fish catch limit in its territorial seas in 2027. In doing so, Korea noted that WCPFC conservation and management measures do not apply within the internal waters and territorial seas of coastal States. Korea underlined the seriousness of Korea’s situation and the importance of establishing a workable means of managing unavoidable catches in its coastal fisheries.

2.1.2 CMM for the Monitoring, Controlling and Surveillance of PBF (CMM 2024-02)

22. Without significant progress in discussion on MP and the new CMM, no modification to the CMM of MCS was proposed.

23. Japan introduced a draft implementation table to improve monitoring of PBF catch limits (WCPFC-NC22-2026-DP02), developed in response to a recommendation in the 2025 Compliance Monitoring Report that the NC improve processes for tracking carryover and transfers between small and large fish catch limits. Japan explained that the table, comprising separate small and large fish components, would record initial catch limits, overage/underage, transfers with the applicable conversion factor, and resulting compliance.

24. The USA and Chinese Taipei supported the proposal, with the USA suggesting members be encouraged to use the table voluntarily pending a management procedure and implementation measure, and Chinese Taipei recommending it be used by all CCMs, including for bycatch reporting. Fiji raised a technical question on the operation of the carryover provision, noting that while the CMM limits the annual amount of carryover, it does not appear to specify whether previously carried over quota may continue to be rolled forward across successive years if it remains unused. Fiji sought ISC advice on whether iterative carryover could have implications for realized fishing mortality or the projected stock trajectory, particularly noting that the paper presented at JWG-10 on future projections did not explicitly model the carryover provision, and asked whether this may warrant future evaluation.

25. On the understanding that Fiji's intervention was relating to the calculation of carryover under the current CMM, the Chair asked Japan to clarify the carryover point in writing for inclusion with the proposed table. No further discussion took place on the scientific aspect of Fiji's question, which remained for future consideration. The NC agreed to encourage the relevant CCMs to use the template for future implementation reporting (**Attachment 4**).

2.2 North Pacific Albacore (CMM 2019-03)

2.2.1 Reports from CCMs and Observers

26. The NC reviewed the compiled catch and effort information for North Pacific albacore in NC22-WP-01.

27. The USA thanked the Secretariat for its continued compilation of the catch and effort tables, but suggested revising their format, noting that some tables referenced outdated reference-period information and that a clearer structure distinguishing catch and effort in Convention Area, Pacific-wide, and by fisheries targeting North Pacific albacore would be more useful. The USA shared a proposed template with the Secretariat for consideration (**Attachment 5**). The NC requested the Secretariat to use the proposed template to report catch and effort data presented in its annual "UPDATED INFORMATION ON NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE FISHING EFFORT" paper (i.e., WCPFC-NC22-2026-WP01) to the NC. The NC also encouraged Members to use this template in their future report of implementation.

28. The ISC Albacore Working Group (ALBWG) presented the 2026 North Pacific albacore benchmark stock assessment results. The ISC Plenary accepted the assessment as best available science in June 2026. The assessment found that the North Pacific albacore stock is virtually certain to not be overfished relative to threshold and limit reference points adopted by the WCPFC and IATTC, and the stock is virtually certain to not be experiencing overfishing relative to the target reference point. The ALBWG updated catch data,

biological composition data, and indices of abundance through 2024. Estimated population biomass has been increasing since 2020. Similarly, indices of abundance (including those that the assessment model does not fit to) have also been increasing and catch amounts have been decreasing in recent years. The assessment model performed well across a suite of model diagnostics including a likelihood profile of unfished population scale, age structured production model, and hindcast skill.

29. Japan asked the ALBWG to clarify why the 2026 benchmark stock assessment showed substantial changes from the 2023 assessment, not only in the trend but also in the absolute value of SSB, noting this could have implications for the harvest control rule given its reliance on fixed F-target and reference point values. Japan also asked why the future projections showed an upward SSB trend toward an unprecedented high level, and sought clarification on the factors driving this projection, as well as the reason for the apparent widening of uncertainty in recent recruitment estimates.

30. The ALBWG explained that the change in absolute SSB values was primarily attributable to a small shift in the estimated unfished recruitment parameter (R_0), driven by the recalculation of the primary abundance index following the addition of three years of data, though overall stock status remained unchanged (i.e., not overfished, with overfishing not occurring). The ALBWG noted that the upward SSB projection reflected this same index increase, which had not been available for the 2023 assessment, and attributed the higher recruitment uncertainty to the biology of North Pacific albacore, which do not reach maturity until around age five, meaning recent recruitment estimates are not yet well informed by the abundance index.

2.2.2 Application of Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore Fishery

31. The ISC ALBWG gave a presentation entitled “ISC Albacore Working Group Response to Request for Science Advice,” which described the ALBWG’s scientific advice in response to an NC21 request. Details of this advice can be found in the document WCPFC-NC22-2026-IP03. The ALBWG demonstrated the North Pacific Albacore Harvest Strategy Tool (https://connect.fisheries.noaa.gov/NPALB_harvest_strategy_tool), which is an online tool developed by the ALBWG to help fisheries managers and stakeholders visualize and explore various historical reference periods as the basis for developing allocation rules for the harvest strategies of North Pacific Albacore Tuna.

2.2.3 Review of the CMM for North Pacific Albacore (CMM 2019-03)

32. Canada submitted a consultative draft proposal to amend CMM 2019-03 (WCPFC-NC22-2026-DP03), intended to update and streamline the measure, clearly link it to Harvest Strategy 2023-01, introduce CCM level obligations to act in accordance with the Harvest Strategy, and better define CCM level fishery limits to allow assessment of compliance.

33. The USA suggested clarifying that the measure implements the Harvest Strategy rather than restating its components, and recommended replacing “bycatch” with “incidental catch” to avoid contradictory references to target and non-target catch. The ROK and Chinese Taipei raised similar concerns regarding the treatment of bycatch and incidental catch and the proposed fleet-specific metrics. Japan suggested an alternative approach based on a minimum catch threshold to define the CMM’s scope, and reserved further comment on the role of the NC in addressing exceptional circumstances.

34. The Cook Islands asked why no assessment had been conducted under CMM 2013-06, sought clarity on the allocation mechanism and advocated for it to be agreed in advance rather than at the point a trigger occurs, questioned whether the absence of a de minimis exemption could pose disproportionate administrative burdens for smaller fisheries, and stressed that SIDS provisions, including protections for developing fisheries, should remain robust and not be weakened in the final CMM.

35. China proposed deleting language encouraging application of measures in archipelagic waters and territorial seas as a sovereignty matter, keeping the measure focused on fisheries directly targeting North Pacific albacore, and removing bycatch-related references on the basis that incidental catch is already addressed under general data submission requirements and the Tropical Tuna Measure. China also sought clarification on the differing catch and effort limits proposed for longline versus surface fleets, noting its own longline fishery is traditionally managed by effort, and proposed allowing each CCM to choose catch, effort, or a combination of both based on its fishery's characteristics.

36. Canada thanked Members for their comments, requested written submissions to incorporate into a revised draft, and clarified that the core issue requiring consensus was how to define "fishing for" in a way that allows compliance to be assessed while preserving CCM flexibility on catch and effort management. Canada indicated it would welcome further intersessional discussion, including with Japan and the USA.

37. Japan presented a proposal (WCPFC-NC22-2026-DP01) outlining a new CMM to implement Harvest Strategy 2023-01. Under the proposal, the existing effort control rule would continue to apply while the stock remains above the SSB threshold, but if the stock falls below the threshold, the ISC would calculate catch limits based on the Harvest Strategy, to be applied triennially per CCM alongside the existing effort control, with carryover/deduction for under- and overharvest, a possible exclusion for smaller fisheries, and annual compliance plans submitted to the Secretariat for NC review.

38. Korea asked that treatment of CCMs without albacore catch history be addressed as discussions proceed. China supported the general direction but reiterated its concerns regarding bycatch overlap with the Tropical Tuna Measure and sought clarification on EEZ catch attribution to coastal States. Vanuatu recalled that NC20 (Kushiro) had agreed to a 2003-2005 baseline for Vanuatu and asked that this be reflected in the proposals. The USA expressed strong support and asked about monitoring to confirm the measures work as intended, including how a TAC exceedance would be handled within the triennial period, and whether a reporting table similar to that used for PBF would be proposed for albacore. Chinese Taipei supported the catch limit, carryover, and reporting elements, suggested the specific figures needed further consideration, and indicated it wished to discuss bycatch further with Japan.

39. In response, Japan indicated the catch limit approach offered flexibility that could help address China's overlap concern, that coastal State attribution was consistent with other northern stock CMMs, and that it remained open to further discussion with Vanuatu, Chinese Taipei, and the USA. Canada welcomed "WCPFC-NC22-2026-DP01," noted convergence with its own proposal (WCPFC-NC22-2026-DP03) and suggested a possible merger, and sought ISC advice on the operational flexibility of underharvest carryover relative to the HCR's intent. Japan responded that implications for minor incidental harvesters and reference-year choices should be evaluated by the ISC and remained subject to further negotiation. The ISC noted that evaluating carryover impacts was difficult given that multiple age classes are caught simultaneously, and that any overage was unlikely to be substantial. Pew welcomed both proposals and urged continued intersessional work toward a unified text. The USA reiterated that

current management, built around the north-of-equator scope reflected in the MSE, was working well and should not be substantially altered.

40. The Chair noted that China's concern centered on the area between the equator and 20°N, and, observing that two separate documents were complicating discussion, asked Japan and Canada to combine them into a single document, first identifying outstanding issues (**Attachment 6**). The Chair proposed an intersessional working group co-chaired by Japan and Canada to continue this work.

2.3 North Pacific Swordfish (CMM 2023-03)

2.3.1 Reports from CCMs and Observers

41. No discussions were held on this item.

2.3.2 Development of a management framework

42. NC21 tasked the ISC Billfish Working Group (BILLWG) to begin technical work on an MSE for Western and Central North Pacific Ocean swordfish (WCNPO SWO) and to develop a detailed MSE workplan to be presented to NC22 in July 2026. The USA indicated it would provide additional capacity for this work, and preliminary work was presented to the WG by a consultant (Adrian Hordyk, Blue Matter Science) during the working group meetings. A full workplan was drafted and presented to the BILLWG at the stock assessment meeting, and the WG agreed to provide two options for a workplan to NC22, noting that the WG preferred option one. Option one requests NC provide draft performance indicators, management procedures, and operational management objectives in 2026 so that preliminary results could be provided to NC23. Option two delays the provision of these items to NC23, which would require preliminary results be provided to NC in an intersessional session prior to NC24. The WG noted that funding for the MSE would expire in 2028 and further work on the MSE after NC24 would not be possible without additional capacity.

43. The USA submitted candidate inputs to inform the MSE for North Pacific swordfish (WCPFC-NC22-2026-DP04), proposing candidate management objectives and performance indicators across the safety, status, stability, and yield categories, candidate reference points (including an LRP of 17%SSBF=0 and a range of target and threshold reference points), and six candidate harvest control rules for evaluation, with and without a meta-rule limiting TAC changes between management periods to 10%. The USA also suggested that management periods be set at three years, that TAC serve as the output control, and that the MSE cover all fisheries harvesting North Pacific swordfish north of the equator.

44. Japan raised concern that the three-year funding timeline placed unreasonable pressure on the process and asked whether it could be extended. The ISC responded that the timeline was tied to the terms of the USA's grant and that its limited working group capacity made the externally funded analyst position essential, and encouraged Members to identify further funding.

45. Japan also suggested aligning the yield performance indicator's historical catch baseline (2014-2018) with the existing effort control baseline (2008-2010), and requested that the scope of fisheries to be covered be more clearly defined to enable the ISC to conduct a provisional evaluation. The USA agreed to revise the baseline accordingly and clarified that while the current CMM only limits effort, a management procedure should account for all sources of mortality without necessarily limiting every fishery. The USA also noted that the NC could consider holding a short intersessional virtual meeting in

2027, similar to that used for PBF for ISC to present preliminary results ahead of NC23 to allow Members time to consider the results and provide feedback at NC23.

46. The ISC stressed that clear, early instructions from the NC on scope and area of application were essential, as later changes would disrupt the MSE process, and flagged technical revisions might be needed in the USA's paper, including that the status indicator should incorporate biomass, not just fishing mortality, and that the limit reference point need not mirror the control point's shape.

47. The NC agreed that an intersessional email process could be used to finalize candidate inputs to the MSE (**Attachment 7**). The Secretariat would circulate the working paper for Members and observers to provide feedback on and the USA would prepare a revised paper for consideration. The Chair also asked the USA to organize the virtual meeting and work with other Members to amend the USA proposal if necessary. The ISC noted that its billfish technical meeting would occur in August 2026 and that without direction on key inputs, no MSE results would be available for NC23, and sought confirmation at least of the geographic scope in NC22. The USA clarified that the scope should be consistent with the area evaluated under the 2023 stock assessment. The NC confirmed this scope, endorsed the ISC proceeding on this basis, and endorsed the ISC's proposal to shift the next stock assessment from 2028 to 2029.

48. The NC agreed that candidate inputs to the North Pacific swordfish MSE would be completed by WCPFC23 and sent it back to the ISC.

2.3.3 Review of the CMM for North Pacific Swordfish (CMM 2023-03)

49. No discussions were held on this item.

AGENDA ITEM 3 — CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR OTHER STOCKS

3.1 North Pacific Striped Marlin (CMM 2024-06)

50. Korea reminded that CCMs may wish to consider making amendments to paragraphs 5 and 6 of CMM 2024-06 next year, taking into account the audit point discussions at WCPFC22. The Chair agreed the issue would be recorded in the report but encouraged the CCMs to consider the issue even before WCPFC23. The NC agreed to revisit this issue at NC23.

3.2 Non-target, associated, dependent species (seabirds, sea turtles, and sharks)

3.2.1 Seabirds (CMM 2025-05)

51. The NC noted that there had been no substantive discussion on seabirds for several years and agreed to drop this item from the NC23 agenda.

3.2.2 Sea turtles (CMM 2018-04)

52. Canada noted that work was underway to update the sea turtle measure and suggested the item be retained for a further year. The NC agreed to retain this item on the NC23 agenda.

3.2.3 Sharks (CMM 2025-06)

53. The NC agreed to retain this item on the NC23 agenda, noting that the ISC was conducting stock assessments for sharks.

AGENDA ITEM 4 — CLIMATE CHANGE

54. No discussions were held, but it was agreed to retain this item for the future.

AGENDA ITEM 5 — REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME

55. The NC agreed to drop this item from NC23's agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 6 — DATA

56. The NC agreed to drop this item from NC23's agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 7 — COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

7.1 ISC

57. The ISC expressed its appreciation for financial support given to it in the past and asked for the continuation of this, noting that its work depended heavily on contributions from scientists and support from NC members, and that any form of support, whether financial, logistical, or through recognition, remained critical to its continued operation. The Chair requested CCMs to continue their financial support to the ISC, appreciating the USA's financial support for the peer review of the PBF stock assessment this year.

7.2 IATTC

58. The NC recommended continued and strengthened cooperation with the IATTC, including collaboration on North Pacific swordfish through the MSE process. NC noted that as WCPFC and IATTC typically consider revisions to shared measures around the same time, it would be helpful to report on NC discussions regarding potential revisions to the North Pacific albacore CMM so that these could also be raised at the IATTC.

AGENDA ITEM 8 — FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

8.1 Work Programme for 2027-2029

59. The NC reviewed and revised the Work Programme for the Northern Committee for 2027-2029 (**Attachment 8**).

AGENDA ITEM 9 — ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

9.1 Election of Officers

60. The NC nominated Chair Miyahara to continue as Chair, but no candidate was nominated for Vice-Chair.

9.2 Administrative arrangements for the Committee

9.2.1 Secretariat functions and costs

61. No specific issues were raised.

9.2.2 Rules of Procedure

62. No proposals were received on this matter.

9.3 Next meeting

63. The Chair will consult with Japan for the venue and time of NC23. Its progress will be shared among NC members.

64. The ISC noted its 2027 Plenary was scheduled for June 23 to 28. The USA proposed a short virtual intersessional meeting ahead of NC23 to review preliminary North Pacific swordfish MSE results.

9.4 Other business

65. No other business was discussed.

AGENDA ITEM 10 — ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 22ND REGULAR SESSION OF THE NORTHERN COMMITTEE

66. The NC reviewed and adopted the Summary Report.

AGENDA ITEM 11 — CLOSE OF THE MEETING

67. The meeting was brought to a close at 11:36 AM on 14 July 2026.

**COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

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**COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

AGENDA

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- 1.2 Adoption of the agenda**
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 - 1.4.1 Report from the ISC
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NORTHERN STOCKS**

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- 2.2.1 Reports from CCMs and Observers
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**COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**CHAIRS' SUMMARY OF THE 11TH JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING
ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

IATTC-NC-JWG11-2026-00

AGENDA ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The 11th Session of the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG-11) was held on 8–11 July 2026. The meeting was opened by co-chairs Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan, Northern Committee Chair) and Mr. Josh Madeira (USA, IATTC). Co-Chair Miyahara welcomed delegates and invited Mr. Shinji Tokunaga, Deputy Director of the Fisheries Department of Nagasaki Prefectural Government, to deliver welcome remarks.
2. Mr. Tokunaga welcomed delegates to Nagasaki Prefecture, noting the importance of PBF to local fisheries and that cooperation with stock management measures had contributed to the stock's recovery. He expressed hope that the JWG would continue to update PBF measures in line with the status of the stock.
3. Korea made an opening statement included in full in **Attachment C**, welcoming the shift toward a more stable, long-term management framework and highlighting its own conservation efforts. Korea stated that shifting stock distribution should be better reflected in the management framework.
4. Japan welcomed JWG members, observers, and participants, thanking the Co-Chairs and Secretariats for their preparation. Japan noted that this year features the establishment of an MSE-based management procedure and the implementation of CMMs, emphasizing that while these items are difficult and complicated, they are confident the JWG can make good progress.
5. A list of participants to JWG-11 is included in **Attachment A**.

AGENDA ITEM 2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND MEETING PROCEDURES

6. Co-Chair Miyahara outlined the meeting procedures and presented the provisional agenda for adoption.
7. The provisional agenda was adopted (**Attachment B**).
8. Mr. Samuel Coyle of Japan was appointed as rapporteur for the meeting.

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

9. 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.

10. Mexico asked why the number of Japanese artisanal vessels conducting PBF fishing was increasing, and whether this raised concerns about Japan's commitment to limit age-0 fish mortality. Japan responded that 19,661 artisanal vessels conducted PBF fishing in 2025, an increase from 2024 but still well below the 2015 baseline of 24,086 vessels, and that it continued to manage fishing effort in line with WCPFC CMMs. It also stressed its efforts to reduce age-0 catch below 50% of 2002-2004 levels.

11. Korea asked how Japan controls catch limits for artisanal and set net fisheries between monthly reporting cycles, whether set net operators are compensated for releasing PBF, and what quantitative results exist on release success. Japan responded that prefectures issue cautions at around 70–85% of limits, that compensation exists for time spent releasing PBF but budgets are quickly exhausted, and that release estimates remain unreliable due to recapture in adjacent nets and the difficulty to count live released fish.

12. Fiji requested clarification on the application of the 17% carryover provision, specifically whether it is calculated on initial catch limits or on limits already adjusted for prior carryover, and whether carried-over amounts could themselves be carried over again. Japan responded that the carryover is calculated based on initial catch limits only, excluding unused or previously carried-over amounts, and noted that it had tabled an implementing table to clarify this calculation.

13. Japan asked Korea how it manages recreational PBF catch and how many of its 159 registered set nets caught PBF. It also asked, referring to news carried by Korean media during last year's meeting in Toyama, whether an alleged 1,300 PBF reportedly caught in a single Korean set net and diverted to livestock feed were counted against its limit. Korea responded that it does not regulate recreational PBF fisheries due to their low level of catch and early development, reporting 615 PBF caught last year. Korea confirmed all 159 set nets caught PBF. As for the large catch of PBF reported last year, Korea stated that 181.6 metric tons of discarded PBF were counted against its catch limit, fish caught in the set net were also counted against the catch limit, and because the fish were dead and unfit for human consumption they were sold as livestock feed.

14. The USA asked which fisheries produced Korea's reported age-0 catch and whether survey data reflected full fleet coverage. Korea responded that no formal coverage requirement exists and that the figure is based on purse seine port sampling and field surveys, which it is working to expand to set nets. Korea also described set net release pilot projects, including a 2023 trial on release techniques, ongoing work on live release and avoidance, and electronic monitoring, noting that one set net currently participates.

15. Japan asked Mexico about the poor migration and smaller PBF observed in the eastern Pacific in 2025 and changes thereafter, and how it manages recreational catch, noting its apparent small scale relative to the USA. Mexico responded that its recreational fishery is limited to two fish per person per day and is largely conducted and monitored by the USA. It added that the average size of purse seine catch is about 150 cm in length, reflecting a preference for larger fish, and that vessels avoided predominantly small fish schools, ceasing fishing at the end of the 2026 season after encountering mostly small fish.

16. The USA asked about the composition of Mexico's artisanal fleet and whether PBF bycatch occurs in other fisheries. Korea asked whether the fleet operates under a separate limit, what size classes it catches, and how reported catch is verified. Mexico responded that artisanal vessels are 10–12 meters in length, operate without observers, and are allocated 300 metric tons with a 15-metric-ton per vessel limit, monitored through logbooks and inspectors. Mexico added it does not know the size composition but expects smaller fish than purse seine catch, and that discards are likely negligible.

17. Korea asked Chinese Taipei how many of its 502 registered longline vessels caught PBF, whether they target or incidentally catch PBF, whether management uses an individual quota or Olympic-style system, whether its catch table includes only retained fish over 30 kg or also discards, and how discards are monitored. Chinese Taipei responded it would follow up on vessel numbers, but confirmed that fishing is seasonal and operates under an Olympic-style system together with an individual tag-based system introduced in 2025 after exceeding catch limits in 2024; it added that fish under 30 kg cannot be retained and no discard was reported last year, thus they are not included in the catch table.

18. Japan asked how Chinese Taipei manages and monitors recreational and sport catch under its TAC and CDS system, including total catch, while Korea asked whether sport-caught PBF must be tagged. Chinese Taipei responded that such catch is subject to catch limit for other fisheries with none reported last year, and is subject to landing declarations; it confirmed tagging is required for landing to monitor catch and landing time and weight.

19. Japan asked the USA to confirm its 2025 catch limit and actual catch, questioned low utilization, and noted that despite an 80% reduction in the recreational bag limit, recreational catch had increased by about 800% from the baseline in the IATTC measure in 2014 to 2,000 metric tons in 2023, asking how this would be controlled. The USA responded that 2025 catch was affected by poor migration and small fish size and that it is exploring ways to revitalize its fishing fleets; it added that the bag limit reduction was under a superseded measure and that it remains compliant with requirements to manage recreational catch in line with commercial fisheries.

20. Korea asked the USA whether recreational catch and licensing are subject to any total regulatory limit beyond bag and trip limits, whether recreational catch is monitored against an in-season control comparable to the commercial system, and how misidentification of PBF in the American Samoa longline fishery is verified and addressed. The USA responded that it does not maintain additional total limits beyond bag and trip limits, but tracks recreational catch in near-real time on a monthly basis; it added that while American Samoa longline data previously relied on paper logbooks, delaying follow-up on discrepancies, recently implemented electronic reporting enables faster review.

21. Japan asked Australia to clarify how its 2025 catch limit relates to the CMM, including whether its reported 4 metric ton overcatch would be deducted from the following catch limit or how much underage was carried over under CMM 2024-01. Australia's response is attached (**Attachment D**).

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

AGENDA ITEM 4 SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

4.1 Review of conversion factors

23. Dr. Shuya Nakatsuka, Chair of the ISC Pacific Bluefin Tuna Working Group (PBFWG), presented the analysis on conversion factors for swapping catch quotas between PBF fishery sectors while maintaining overall fishing intensity, which was originally presented at JWG-10. The PBFWG explained their rationale for calculating conversion factors for large fish, small fish, and mixed fisheries by combining fleets. The PBFWG further noted that the conversion factors could be applied bidirectionally across all fishery sectors, and that forward simulations confirmed the factors could theoretically maintain relative SSB and SPR at similar levels regardless of the direction or magnitude of the swap tested.

24. Korea questioned what level of change would be drastic enough to require recalculation of the conversion factors. The PBFWG responded that the factors were unlikely to change significantly absent a major shift in fleet composition, and that any such change would likely need to be assessed gradually over time through post-hoc analysis.

25. In response to a question from Chinese Taipei on whether the ongoing stock recovery and associated changes in fishing behavior could affect the calculation, the PBFWG explained that changes in selectivity for fleets catching large PBF would have limited effect on the results, as that size class has remained relatively stable, whereas changes affecting fleets catching small PBF, primarily attributable to Japan, could have greater impact, and confirmed that the conversion factors could be updated if necessary.

4.2 Independent review of stock assessment

26. The PBFWG presented the outcomes of the independent peer review of the 2024 PBF stock assessment. The PBFWG reported that the panel found the assessment well-constructed, with no major deficiencies, estimating 2022 SSB at 23.2% SSB₀, above the second rebuilding target of 20% SSB₀. The panel's two highest priorities for improvement were refining the growth curve and reestablishing a recruitment index, to establish more reliable information on recruitment, noting that the Japanese troll index was truncated in 2010 and has not been replaced.

27. In response to a question from Japan on incorporating its chartered-vessel recruitment index, the PBFWG explained that the time series has been too short to validate against the adult index, but that doing so would be a top priority for 2027 stock assessment.

28. Korea noted its ongoing larval surveys that identified eggs and larvae in its waters and hoped the results could eventually be incorporated into the assessment. The PBFWG responded that the larval survey is promising but not yet ready for assessment use.

29. In response to a question from New Zealand on the timeline for close-kin mark-recapture (CKMR) methods, the PBFWG explained that CKMR could be a useful input for the stock assessment but has not been prioritized to date as PBF stock assessment is internally consistent.

30. Regarding a follow-up question from Japan, the PBFWG clarified that Japan's chartered-vessel survey retains all the catch regardless of size, but that the resulting index still requires further validation before use in the assessment.

4.3 Recruitment index

31. The PBFWG presented an update on the recruitment index, compiled in response to a request

from the JWG's March 2026 intersessional meeting. The PBFWG reported that the Japanese real-time troll monitoring index (RTM), now spanning close to ten years since 2017 and comprising roughly 300 operations annually, showed a relatively stable trend with no indication of serious recruitment decline in recent years, though the index remains excluded from the stock assessment itself. The PBFWG noted that continuing this work to advance the RTM will be very important for the MSE moving forward.

32. Korea highlighted a related point raised during the ISC meeting regarding an increase in catches by Korean set nets targeting large fish in recent years, noting the ISC's advice on the matter and requesting a separate segment be established for this fishery.

4.4 Reports from WCPFC-SC and IATTC-SAC

33. The JWG noted that the 22nd meeting of the WCPFC Scientific Committee (11–19 August 2026, Samoa) would occur after JWG-11, and therefore no SC outcomes were available for this meeting.

34. The IATTC reported on the 17th SAC meeting, noting the staff's recommendations to adopt PBF reference points, finalize the long-term harvest strategy at JWG-11 for 2027 implementation, extend current measures by one to two years if consensus is not reached in time, continue recruitment monitoring and development of exceptional circumstances criteria, and continue improving harvest control rule robustness. The SAC endorsed consideration of a harvest strategy based on the Newport Beach proposal.

AGENDA ITEM 5 LONG-TERM HARVEST STRATEGY

5.1 Development of the long-term harvest strategy

35. Co-Chair Madeira presented a summary of the development of the long-term harvest strategy, noting that the current interim strategy would need a JWG recommendation on the expiring IATTC measure this year regardless of broader progress, with both commissions expecting a comprehensive long-term harvest strategy finalized in 2026 for 2027 implementation. He reviewed the strategy's development history, including the 2023 update to objectives, reference points, and the original 16 candidate HCRs, the ISC's completion of the MSE, and the subsequent intersessional meetings that shifted discussions from science to management decisions.

36. Co-Chair Madeira reported that JWGI-03 had reached preliminary agreement on a management procedure (the "Newport Beach MP": F-target FSPR 27.5%, Control Point 1 at 20%SSBF=0, Control Point 2 at 7.7%SSBF=0, Fmin at SPR70%, review after six years). Co-Chair Madeira noted the requests to the ISC following the Newport Beach meeting that requested the ISC to calculate TACs and advise on exceptional circumstances and the recruitment index. He presented the outstanding issues for resolution at JWG-11, including the West-East fishery impact ratio, small fish/age-0 fish, treatment of sport fishing, and implementation measures, among others.

37. Korea stated that it did not recall reaching preliminary agreement on the specific HCR reflecting an F-target of FSPR 27.5%, noting that members had instead agreed to return home for internal discussion, and that TAC calculations and MSE performance data were not available at the time, with HCRs 17 and 18 not yet MSE-tested. Co-Chair Madeira reported the language from the JWGI-03 report and proposed further discussion on this during Agenda Item 5.3.

5.2 Scientific information related to the long-term harvest strategy

5.2.1 Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)

38. The PBFWG reported that it had calculated the TACs for HCR 17 and HCR 18 (the Newport Beach proposal, at 80:20 and 70:30 impact ratios respectively), though these had not yet been formally MSE-tested and were expected to perform between HCR 7 and HCR 8. The PBFWG also clarified that a prior reference to the probability of breaching $7.7\%SSBF=0$ exceeding 10% applied only to the recruitment-drop robustness test, not the general reference set, and confirmed it would conduct a formal MSE of the adopted MP once selected.

5.2.2 Review of criteria for exceptional circumstances

39. The PBFWG presented the draft exceptional circumstances protocol, modeled generally on the North Pacific albacore protocol, covering stock and fleet dynamics, application, and implementation elements. The PBFWG also noted that the exceptional circumstances are intended to address conditions of low recruitment, reflecting the MSE's finding that the current MP was not robust to a recruitment drop.

5.2.3 Other information relevant to the long-term harvest strategy

40. The PBFWG provided an update on the recruitment monitoring index and the adult abundance index. The PBFWG reported that the recruitment monitoring index showed no indication of a serious recruitment decline in recent years. The PBFWG further reported that the adult abundance index, based on standardized longline CPUE for PBF of 200 cm or larger, showed a good recovery of the stock under both GLMM and VAST models, consistent with previously conducted projections.

5.3 Recommendations on the long-term harvest strategy

41. Co-Chair Madeira introduced the draft interim PBF MP text, noting that it incorporated the outcomes of JWGI-03, including the reference points, control points, and a 2032 review date, and was modeled on the WCPFC skipjack MP (CMM 2025-03). He proposed working through the outstanding issues identified at JWGI-03 one by one: West-East fishery impact, additional LRP considerations, exceptional circumstances/recruitment, WCPO conservation measures for small fish, conversion factors, underage/overage provisions, and treatment of sport fishing.

42. Japan reported strong concerns from its fishermen to HCR 17, but stated its delegation's strong preference for HCR 17 over HCR 18. The United States and Mexico both expressed support for HCR 18.

43. **West-East fishery impact:** Japan opposed any gradual shift from the current impact balance, citing hardship already faced by its fishermen. The USA and Mexico favored moving toward a more equitable balance, with both supporting HCR 18. Co-Chair Miyahara noted no shared definition of "equitable balance" existed, and therefore the Co-Chairs recommended language that the equitable balance is "being achieved gradually." He cautioned that failure to agree on a new MP would leave current management measures unchanged.

44. **Additional LRP considerations:** Japan flagged inconsistent use of "LRP" versus "control point" terminology in the Co-Chairs' MP draft. Co-Chair Madeira acknowledged that some technical edits would be needed to ensure consistency in the draft proposal. JWG members did not provide any further request

to consider additional LRP considerations at this time.

45. **Exceptional circumstances/recruitment:** JWG members did not raise any points on exceptional circumstances or recruitment beyond the points that have been raised in prior meetings, noting that further work on the recruitment index is a priority.

46. **WCPO small fish (Age-0) measures:** Japan gave a presentation (JWG11-2026-DP15) on measures taken to protect age-0 fish and the USA sought clarification on how the effectiveness of such measures is monitored.

47. **Conversion factors:** Mexico opposed continued use of conversion factors, citing stock recovery and the lack of an equivalent EPO-side mechanism. In addition, Mexico expressed their concern with any attempt to utilize conversion factors to convert from large fish to small fish. Korea and Japan supported continued use of the conversion factor (currently 0.68), and supported use of adjusted conversion factors based on the ISC's paper.

48. **Underage/overage provisions:** The USA expressed that its position on underage depends on whether the implementing measures utilize annual or biannual measures, and the need for limits on carryforward to ensure no compounding effect of quota among management periods. Japan highlighted that the IATTC resolution has different carryover percentages applied for Mexico and the USA.

49. **Treatment of sport fishing:** Japan noted their position that all fisheries, including sport fishing, should be included in the MP framework. Korea asked the ISC for clarification on whether sport fishing in the EPO was included in the MSE output, particularly because the sport fish catch fluctuates from year to year. Korea also asked if this influences the exceptional circumstances provisions. The ISC responded that the TAC output from MSE includes all the mortality including the sport fish catch, and if the actual catch goes over the TAC for whatever reason, it is beyond what is assumed in the MSE. Korea responded, noting that sport fishing influences the performance of the MP and should be addressed within the MP framework. The USA responded that consideration of sport fishing is an important topic for implementation of the MP.

50. The JWG reviewed a revised draft of the interim management procedure text. The JWG raised a number of technical and drafting comments on the objectives, applicable area, and Annexes 1 through 3, several of which were bracketed for further consideration. The JWG then adjourned to convene a small group meeting (Heads of Delegation plus two) to continue work on the outstanding issues.

51. Following extended small working group and Heads of Delegation-plus-two discussions, Co-Chair Madeira reported that the JWG had made progress on several elements but was unable to reach consensus on the management procedure. Co-Chair Madeira identified that several of the outstanding issues are related and although there was some progress, additional time is needed to resolve the key issues. He noted in particular that the West-East fishery impact ratio, small fish measures, and other implementation considerations remain outstanding. The Co-Chairs encouraged JWG members to continue to work to advance the long-term harvest strategy, and included the draft MP (Rev1) for further consideration (**Attachment E**).

52. Japan expressed deep disappointment at the outcome, stating that despite significant compromise efforts by its delegation and others over the course of the meeting and prior intersessional discussions, one member had introduced a firm position on the final day requiring a 75:25 West-East

impact balance, representing a drastic and, in Japan's view, unworkable shift from the current 82:18 ratio within a single year. Japan stated this position allowed no room for negotiation and that a single member should not be able to block consensus supported by the broader membership, noting the significant impact of PBF abundance on its coastal fishing communities and stakeholders (**Attachment F**).

53. Korea stated that despite having shown flexibility, including a request for members to consider an updated conversion factor, no agreement could be reached even on that limited proposal. Korea noted that the current framework has become increasingly impractical for managing catches in its coastal waters given changing PBF distribution and abundance, and stated it was seriously considering separate domestic management of PBF catch within its territorial sea as a last resort, while emphasizing this would not reflect any retreat from its conservation commitments and would be implemented with strict controls, monitoring, and precaution. Korea stated it remained committed to continued engagement with the JWG (**Attachment G**).

54. Pew Charitable Trusts noted that it had been 11 years since the ISC's first MSE workshop, and that this was the fifth JWG meeting since the MSE was completed. Pew expressed regret that the JWG could not recommend a management procedure at this meeting, that discussions had reportedly focused on allocation and adjustment of parameters such as the conversion factor to generate a preferred initial TAC, and that key discussions had occurred outside plenary, contrary to the transparency principles of both Conventions. Pew urged the JWG to tentatively agree on a version of the Newport Beach MP and to negotiate allocation and the conversion factor in 2027, informed by further ISC analysis, allowing the MP to be implemented starting in 2028.

55. WWF encouraged the JWG not to give up given the time already invested, and proposed continuing discussions the following morning.

56. Co-Chair Madeira noted that members needed to depart, and that time did not allow for further discussion. To conclude the item, the JWG agreed to include the marked-up "WP_02Rev01" text with the meeting report as a basis for continued work, noting that continued JWG discussion is required to address the outstanding issues. The Co-Chairs confirmed their intention to consult with JWG members and consider additional opportunities to advance discussion on the long-term harvest strategy, including through intersessional work as needed.

AGENDA ITEM 6 CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME

57. Mr. Shingo Ota (Japan), Chair of the 7th Catch Documentation Scheme Technical Meeting (JWG-CDS-07), presented the key outcomes of the meeting held on 8 July 2026.

58. Co-Chair Miyahara asked if there were any comments on the Chair's Summary Report. There being none, the JWG adopted the report and agreed to have one more CDS Technical Meeting in 2027 prior to JWG-12 (**Attachment H**).

AGENDA ITEM 7 REVIEW OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

59. Co-Chair Miyahara, noting that the discussion in Agenda Item 5 was not conclusive yet, stated

that the discussion in this agenda item cannot proceed this year, but invited Korea to introduce its proposal by focusing upon background and reasons for the proposal (**Attachment J**). The Draft Conservation and Management Measure for Implementing the Pacific Bluefin Tuna Management Procedure is attached as **Attachment I**.

60. Korea presented its proposed amendments to CMM 2024-01, aimed at facilitating a fairer and more flexible transition to long-term management while maintaining existing conservation safeguards. The proposal included: clarifying that current national catch limits are without prejudice to any future agreement on allocation in accordance with CMM 2024-01; excluding recreational vessels from the historical effort limit considering the unique and non-commercial nature of the fishery; allowing the limited introduction of new gear types; allocating future increases in the large-fish catch limit in equal shares among Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei, rather than in proportion to existing allocations, so as to avoid further widening current disparities; recognizing small-scale bycatch fisheries in Australia and New Zealand; treating 2027–2028 as a single two-year management period, with adjustments for over- and underages between the two years; providing for a one-off transitional carryforward of 323 metric tons of Korea's unused 2025 catch limit; reviewing the current 0.68 conversion factor in light of the latest scientific information; and conducting a periodic review of allocation, no later than 2028, based on the full range of relevant Convention criteria rather than historical catch alone.

61. Japan, noting the existence of its large EEZ, spawning grounds, large number of fishing vessels, as well as fishermen in coastal areas of Japan, and enormously long coastline, stated that it does not consider that the current allocation is unfair. Japan recalled that Korea's purse seine catches had previously been characterized as bycatch rather than target catch for many years in the past NC meetings. Japan also stated that it welcomes the better management by Korean authorities and is willing to engage in future discussions on allocations.

62. Korea responded that while its purse seine catch had historically been bycatch, it had chosen roughly ten years ago to join the PBF management scheme as a targeted and managed fishery, and had since reduced its purse seine and set net numbers through buyback programs to meet national limits.

63. Co-Chair Miyahara thanked Korea and Japan, acknowledged the difficulty of having discussions on CMMs this year, and encouraged the two members to pursue bilateral discussions in advance of the next JWG, inviting Chinese Taipei to join the discussion.

AGENDA ITEM 8 NEXT JWG MEETING

64. The Co-Chairs will consult with Japan on the venue and time of JWG-12, and communicate with all the members on the progress of their work.

65. The JWG confirmed their intent to continue to advance the PBF long-term harvest strategy with intent to recommend a Management Procedure and implementing measures in 2027 for implementation in 2028.: The Co-Chairs encouraged JWG members to continue to work to advance the long-term harvest strategy, and included the draft MP for further consideration (**Attachment E**). The Co-Chairs confirmed their intention to consult with JWG members and consider additional opportunities to advance discussion on the long-term harvest strategy, including through intersessional work as needed.

66. The JWG noted the following requests and tasks to the ISC for 2027:

Requests to ISC to be presented at JWG-12:

- JWG requests that ISC provide the update stock assessment (health check) in 2027, including a limited future projection and impact analysis of only the current CMM and resolution.
- JWG requests that ISC conduct the MSE simulation for HCRs 17 and 18.
- JWG requests that ISC continue to improve the recruitment index (RTM) as a matter of priority and provide an update in 2027.

AGENDA ITEM 9 OTHER BUSINESS

67. There was no other business.

AGENDA ITEM 10 ADOPTION OF REPORT

68. The IATTC-NC JWG-11 adopted the report.

AGENDA ITEM 11 CLOSE OF MEETING

69. The meeting was brought to a close at 9:56 on 13 July 2026.

ANNEXES

Attachment A – List of participants

Attachment B – Agenda

Attachment C – Korea's opening statement

Attachment D – Australia's response to Japan's question

Attachment E – Interim PBF Management Procedure

Attachment F – Japan's statement

Attachment G – Korea's statement

Attachment H – Chair's Summary of 7th CDS Technical Meeting

Attachment I – Draft Conservation and Management Measure for Implementing the Pacific Bluefin Tuna Management Procedure

Attachment J – Korea's Proposed Amendments to Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
ELEVENTH SESSION (JWG-11)**

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**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
ELEVENTH SESSION (JWG-11)**

AGENDA

- AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**
- AGENDA ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND MEETING PROCEDURES**
- AGENDA ITEM 3. REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
MEASURES**
- AGENDA ITEM 4. SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA**
- 4.1 Review of conversion factors**
 - 4.2 Independent Review of stock assessment**
 - 4.3 Recruitment index**
 - 4.4 Reports from WCPFC-SC and IATTC-SAC**
- AGENDA ITEM 5. LONG-TERM HARVEST STRATEGY**
- 5.1 Development of a long-term harvest strategy**
 - 5.2 Scientific information related to the long-term harvest strategy**
 - 5.2.1 Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)**
 - 5.2.2 Review of criteria for exceptional circumstances**
 - 5.2.3 Other information relevant to the long-term harvest strategy**
 - 5.3 Recommendations on the long-term harvest strategy**
- AGENDA ITEM 6. CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME**
- AGENDA ITEM 7. REVIEW OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA**
- AGENDA ITEM 8. NEXT JWG MEETING**
- AGENDA ITEM 9. OTHER BUSINESS**
- AGENDA ITEM 10. ADOPTION OF REPORT**
- AGENDA ITEM 11. CLOSE OF MEETING**

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
ELEVENTH SESSION (JWG-11)**

**OPENING STATEMENT
Republic of Korea**

Co-Chairs, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Korean delegation, I would like to express my appreciation to the government of Japan for hosting this important meeting here in Nagasaki, and the Secretariat for organizing the meeting.

I thank the co-chairs for your strong leadership in this process, and also would like to thank the ISC for their tireless effort to provide the best available scientific information to the Joint Working Group.

This meeting comes at a pivotal moment. Our management of Pacific bluefin tuna is moving beyond measures designed primarily to rebuild the stock and toward a more stable, predictable, and enduring long-term framework.

The recovery we see today is one of the clearest examples of what regional cooperation can achieve. It was made possible because governments, fishing industries, and coastal communities accepted real and sustained constraints over many years.

Korea has borne its share of that burden, making significant sacrifices at considerable cost to its fishing industry and coastal communities. We introduced a two-month seasonal closure for our purse seine fishery specifically to avoid Pacific bluefin tuna catches. Fishing effort by that fleet has fallen to nearly half of the baseline level, while the number of set nets has also declined gradually over time.

Most Pacific bluefin tuna catches by Korean fisheries occur within Korea's territorial sea, outside the direct scope of the relevant WCPFC conservation measure. Nevertheless, Korea has applied in good faith the substance of the internationally agreed conservation measures to those fisheries in support of the common recovery effort under Korea's own authority and sovereignty. We did so because our commitment to rebuilding the stock was clear.

That collective effort has produced results. At the same time, the ocean in which we manage this stock is changing.

Pacific bluefin tuna eggs and larvae have now been repeatedly identified in Korean waters. These findings have been presented to both the PBF Working Group and the ISC Plenary, where it was recognized that they may represent one indication of stock recovery and a possible expansion of

spawning activity.

Sea temperatures and broader oceanographic conditions are also changing. It is undeniable that Fishing grounds are shifting, and the distribution of the stock is shifting with them.

We cannot navigate today's ocean with a map drawn twenty years ago.

It is now increasingly clear that the distribution of the stock is changing. If those changes are properly reflected in the allocation framework, information on actual catches and stock distribution can be captured more accurately within the management system. This, in turn, would allow stock assessments to be conducted on a basis that more closely reflects the reality on the water.

For this reason, incorporating changes in stock distribution into the allocation framework should be considered as an essential element in improving the scientific accuracy and credibility of Pacific bluefin tuna management.

If the underlying data do not adequately reflect the fishery as it actually operates, even the most sophisticated MSE or management procedure will rest on an incomplete picture.

The geographical scope of the WCPFC Convention, such as the distinct legal status of territorial seas, is already well established. Territorial seas fall under the sovereignty of the coastal State, and their management therefore remains a matter for that State, as has consistently been recognized in the Commission's treatment of other fisheries.

The measures applied within our territorial sea have been taken under Korea's own authority, in support of the shared conservation objective. They should therefore be understood as an exercise of coastal State responsibility, not as an extension of the Commission's mandate into territorial waters.

As we move toward a long-term management framework, we cannot ignore the history of the fisheries. But decisions made under very different biological and fishing conditions should not prevent us from responding to the ocean as it is today.

Historical catch remains an important point of reference. It should not become the only lens through which we view a stock whose abundance, distribution, and fisheries continue to change.

A system that discourages accurate reporting, or places those who manage and report more transparently at a disadvantage, cannot serve the long-term interests of this fishery. Better information strengthens the science. Stronger science supports better management. And better management protects both the stock and the communities that depend on it.

Korea will approach this meeting constructively, with the objective of securing an outcome that protects the recovery we have all worked hard to achieve, while ensuring that the future framework remains credible, workable, and responsive to present realities.

We must not place this hard-won recovery at risk.

But neither should we force a changing ocean into a framework built for another time.

We hope this meeting will allow us not simply to preserve an old map, but to draw a better one together.

Thank you.

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
ELEVENTH SESSION (JWG-11)**

AUSTRALIA'S EXPLANATORY NOTE ON ITS 2025 PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH

During the JWG11 meeting, Australia provided the following response to Japan's question:

Australia caught 44 tons of PBF in 2025, while its annual catch limit is 40 metric tons. Is this overshooted catch of 4 metric tons accommodated by the carry over from the 2024 catch limit?

Australia:

Apologies for the slow response and thanks to Japan for the question.

I will preface this by saying that we do not want to or intend to pre-empt TCC's consideration of this issue. However, upon reviewing the bluefin measure applicable for the 2025 reporting year (CMM 2024-01) and the notes from TCC last year, **yes we do believe that the 4t overcatch would be covered by carry forward from the previous year.**

- In 2025 (for the 2024 reporting year), Australia was subject to an **accumulated limit of 36t** (noting that the previous CMM 2023-02 allowed for accumulation of limits from 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022), whilst our **catch was 27t** resulting in Australia being 9t under our 2024 limit.
- Para 5 of CMM 2024-01 provides a general provision for up to 17% undercatch from the previous year to be transferred into the following year. 17% of Australia's 40t limit would be 6.8t. Noting that Australia's total undercatch in 2024 reporting year was 9t, we would have up to the full **6.8t available for transfer into 2025** reporting year.
- Hence Australia's catch of 44t is within the 46.8t limit available for Australia in the 2025 reporting year.

As noted, this is of course subject to TCC's review and we look forward to engaging in this discussion.

More broadly however, Australia does wish to raise that the treatment of Australia's (and we expect New Zealand's) fisheries needs further thought as the NC and the Commission consider a new Pacific bluefin measure. As flagged in the measure, Pacific bluefin is a bycatch species for Australia's longline fisheries – in line with our obligations under successive bluefin measures, Australia does not target this stock, and our overall effort in longline fisheries has declined through the life of successive bluefin measures. Despite this, Australia's incidental bycatch of Pacific bluefin has significantly increased in recent years, from 0-5t consistently for many years to ~27t in 2023 and 2024 and now 44t in 2025.

There are likely a few factors driving this increased catch, with the key one being the rapid recovery of the stock. I have previously described this as a "nice problem to have" – the recovery of the Pacific bluefin stock is a significant success story and a credit to the NC and the Commission. The result however for us is that we are seeing significantly increased availability of this fish in our waters. We also expect that there is a climate factor driving this as well.

The other significant factor that is likely influencing an increase in incidental catch of Pacific bluefin in Australian waters is a change in effort patterns in our fishery – whilst overall effort in Australia’s longline fisheries have declined, we are seeing more targeted longlining for southern bluefin tuna as a result of recovery of that stock. We expect that this is leading to increased incidental catch of Pacific bluefin (similar gear selectivity) when combined with the increase in biomass of the stock along with possible range changes driven by climate factors. We would be interested to hear from Japan and other CCMs if they are seeing similar increases associated with SBT fisheries?

All of this is to say that we do think that the NC and Commission will need to further consider whether the current management approach is appropriate, noting Australia is not currently targeting Pacific bluefin – if the existing limit for Australia isn’t sufficient to provide for incidental bycatch, we would welcome the NC’s/Commission’s advice on more appropriate limits or other management actions that may be considered.

I do apologise that Australia hasn’t been able to attend the JWG this week due to conflicting domestic priorities, however we will endeavour to attend the NC online next week and we would welcome the opportunity to engage in discussions on this issue in that forum. I am happy for this information to be distributed to JWG participants as required to inform discussions.

Kind regards

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
ELEVENTH SESSION (JWG11)**

**INTERIM PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE
(CMM 2026-XX/RESOLUTION C-26-XX)**

**IATTC-NC-JWG11-2026-WP02_Rev01
10 July 2026**

PBFJWG Co-Chairs

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, the following Conservation and Management Measure.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) adopts, in accordance with Article VII, paragraph 1(c) of the Antigua Convention, the following Resolution.

Objective and Implementation of the Interim Management Procedure (MP)

1. The objective of the MP for Pacific bluefin tuna is to ensure that:
 - a. fishing mortality (F) is maintained at or below F_{TARGET} with a probability of at least 50 percent;
 - b. spawning stock biomass (SSB) is maintained above the Limit Reference Point (LRP), with a probability of at least 90%; and
 - c. [an equitable balance in proportional fishery impact between the Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) is being achieved gradually];
 - d. [average annual catch across the WCPO and EPO is increased; and changes in overall catch limits between management periods are limited in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Annex 1 of this CMM]

~~with a view to maximizing yield over the medium (5-10 years) and long (10-30 years) terms, as well as average annual yield from the fishery and increasing average annual catch in all fisheries across WCPFO and EPO, in a manner that achieves relative stability in fishing levels between management periods and in the longer term.~~

2. The IATTC-WCPFC Northern Committee Joint Working Group on the Management of Pacific bluefin tuna (JWG) is held annually to provide recommendations on catch limits and other relevant measures to the WCPFC-NC and IATTC, respectively, to implement a CMM/ Resolution for each two-year period in the schedule as described in paragraph 7 below. Catch limits and other relevant measures may be adjusted for each two-year period ~~but~~ and shall be consistent with the MP output and the objectives of this CMM/ Resolution.

Reference Points

3. The reference points are:
 - a. [Target reference point (TRP): $F_{27.5\%SPR}$, which is the fishing intensity (F) level that results

in the stock producing 27.5% of spawning potential ratio (SPR).

~~b. Minimum allowed fishing intensity (F_{min}) equal to $F_{70\% SPR}$, which is the F level that results in the stock producing 70% of SPR.~~

~~c.~~ b. Threshold reference point ($SSB_{threshold}$): $20\%SSB_{F=0}$, which is 20% of the unfished SSB at equilibrium condition.

~~d.~~ c. Limit reference point (LRP): $7.7\%SSB_{F=0}$, which is 7.7% of the unfished SSB at equilibrium condition. 1

Scope and design of the MP

4. The MP applies to all fisheries taking Pacific bluefin tuna [in the IATTC Convention Area and within in EEZs and high seas in the WCPFC Convention Area both Commission areas.] The MP (and this CMM/ Resolution) determines the total annual catches of large Pacific bluefin tuna (30 kg or larger in body weight), and small Pacific bluefin tuna (less than 30kg in body weight) to be taken within the WCPFC Convention Area, as well as the total annual catch of Pacific bluefin tuna to be taken within the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), assuming the relative fishing mortality among fishery segments and ~~ages in~~ selectivity at age in 2015-2022.; ~~while the~~ The 2-year implementation CMM/ Resolution will establish the management arrangements for achieving this.

Elements of the MP

5. The MP includes:
- The Harvest Control Rule set out in Annex I;
 - The Estimation Model using the settings set out in Annex II; and
 - The exceptional circumstances set out in Annex III.

Schedule and Roles of the JWG, the Commissions, the Subsidiary Bodies and the ISC

6. The ISC shall run the MP, perform stock assessments, and support the JWG and relevant bodies of the WCPFC and the IATTC in monitoring, analysis and review of performance of the MP.

7. The JWG shall review the Pacific Bluefin Tuna Management Arrangements and make recommendations to the WCPFC Northern Committee and the IATTC for their ~~decisions~~ consideration in a repeating 2-year schedule as follows:

Year	ISC	JWG	WCPFC Northern Committee (NC)	WCPFC and IATTC Commissions
2026	Run the MP <u>Calculate the TAC based on MP run in 2025</u> for application to the period 2027-2028. Provide advice to the JWG and WCPFC/ IATTC subsidiary bodies¹ on the MP and implementing measures Management Arrangements CMM.	Provide recommendations to the WCPFC NC and the IATTC on the MP and implementing measures for 2027-2028 Management Arrangements CMM/Resolution.	Provide recommendations to the WCPFC Commission on the MP and implementing CMM for 2027-2028 measures and Management Arrangements CMM.	Review and adopt the MP and the implementing measures measures Management Arrangements CMM/Resolution for 2027-2028.
2027	Perform stock health check using updated data and the 2024 stock assessment model. <u>Evaluate the performance of the adopted MP through the formal MSE simulation</u>	Review implementation of CMM/Resolution and provide recommendations to the WCPFC NC and the IATTC. Review outputs of the health check		Apply the Management Arrangements CMM / Resolution.

¹ WCPFC and IATTC subsidiary bodies, including WCPFC SC and IATTC SAC, may provide input to the JWG and/or the WCPFC and IATTC, respectively, through existing consultation processes.

	Monitor performance of the MP. Examine Exceptional Circumstances			
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2028	Run the MP for application to the period 2029-2030 Examine Exceptional Circumstances Monitor the performance of the MP. Provide advice to the JWG and WCPFC/IATTC subsidiary bodies on the MP outputs for application to the period 2029-2030.	Review implementation of the implementing measures. Management Arrangements CMM/Resolution. Provide recommendations to the WCPFC NC and the IATTC on revised implementing measures, taking into account the output of the MP for application to the period 2029-2030.	Review implementation of the implementing CMM measures. Management Arrangements CMM. Provide recommendations to the WCPFC on a revised implementing CMM Commission, taking into account the output of the MP for application to the period 2029-2030.	Adopt a revised implementing CMM the revision of the implementing measures — Management Arrangements CMM — /Resolution for 2029-2030.
2029	Examine Exceptional Circumstances Monitor the performance of the MP.	Review implementation of the implementing measures ation of CMM/Resolution and provide recommendations to the WCPFC NC and the IATTC.	Review implementation of the implementing CMM	Continue to Apply the implementing measures. Management Arrangements CMM — /Resolution.
2030	Perform benchmark stock assessment. Run the MP for application to the period 2031-2032. Examine Exceptional Circumstances Monitor the performance of the MP. Provide advice to the JWG and WCPFC/IATTC subsidiary bodies on the MP outputs for application to the period 2031-2032.	Review implementation of the implementing measures. Management Arrangements CMM/Resolution. Provide recommendations to the WCPFC NC and the IATTC, taking into account the output of the MP for application to the period 2031-2032.	Review implementation of the implementing CMM measures. Management Arrangements CMM. Provide recommendations to the WCPFC Commission, taking into account the output of the MP for application to the period 2031 – 2032.	Adopt the revision of the implementing measures Management Arrangements CMM /Resolution for 2031-2032.

2031	Develop operating models for MP simulation based on the 2030 stock assessment. Examine Exceptional Circumstances Monitor the performance of the MP.	Review implementation of the implementing measures and provide recommendations to the WCPFC NC and the IATTC.	Review implementation of the implementing CMM	Continue to aApply the implementing measures.
2032	Run MP simulation based on the 2030 stock assessment. Run the MP for application to the period 2033-2034. Monitor the performance of the MP. Examine Exceptional Circumstances	Review outputs of the MP simulation. Review the PBF MP, and consider if changes are necessary. Provide recommendations to the WCPFC NC and the IATTC, taking into account the output of the MP for application to the period 2033-2034.	Review outputs of the MP simulation. Review if changes are needed to the MP. Provide recommendations to the WCPFC NC and the IATTC, taking into account the output of the MP for application to the period 2033-2034.	Review the PBF MP, and consider amending it if necessary MP. Adopt the revision of implementing measures for 2033-2034.

Management Strategy Evaluation

8. [The MP is established with reference to candidate MPs that have ~~has~~ been simulation tested to determine ~~its~~ their likely performance against a range of plausible scenarios.] These scenarios and the details of the testing procedure are provided in IATTC-NC-JWGI03-2026/IP-01. The results of the evaluations are outlined in the same document and are available online at: <https://connect.fisheries.noaa.gov/ISCPBF-MSE-tool/>. The ISC will evaluate the performance of the MP through the formal MSE simulation in 2027.

Allocation

8bis. Allocation is not included in or affected by the MP.

Review and Final Provisions

9. The WCPFC and IATTC Commissions shall review this MP in 2032 to ensure that the various provisions are having the intended effect. The Commissions may amend the MP based on the results of this review.

10. This measure replaces WCPFC HS 2023-03 and IATTC Resolution C-23-01. This measure shall come into effect on 1 January 2027, [\[and shall remain in effect until 31 December 2032 unless otherwise decided by both Commissions, in accordance with Paragraph 9 above\]](#).

ANNEX 1: HARVEST CONTROL RULE

1. The harvest control rule (HCR) as outlined in Figure 1 is defined by parameters related to stock status (the ratio of $SSB_{current}$ to $SSB_{F=0}$) and fishing intensity (SPR), (Fig. 1), as provided in Table 1. $SSB_{current}$ and $SSB_{F=0}$ refer to spawning stock biomass in the terminal year and unfished spawning stock biomass at equilibrium condition, respectively, both estimated by the estimation model. The output from the harvest control rule is an $F\%$ SPR that was-is used to calculate future TAC along with the age structures of PBF, and-the relative fishing mortality across fleets and ages fleet selectivity at age. Features of HCR include:

- If $SSB_{current}/SSB_{F=0}$ is above or equal to the 1st-control threshold reference point, fishing intensity shall be maintained at the F_{target} .
- If $SSB_{current}/SSB_{F=0}$ is below 1st-control threshold reference point, and is above the 2nd-control point LRP, fishing intensity shall be reduced to a level in accordance with following formula:

$$F = \frac{F_{target} - F_{min}}{\text{1st-control point Threshold reference point} - \text{2nd-control point LRP}} \times \left(\frac{SSB_{current}}{SSB_{F=0}} - \text{2nd-control point LRP} \right) + F_{min}$$
- If $SSB_{current}/SSB_{F=0}$ is at or below the 2nd-control point LRP, fishing intensity shall be set at F_{min} .

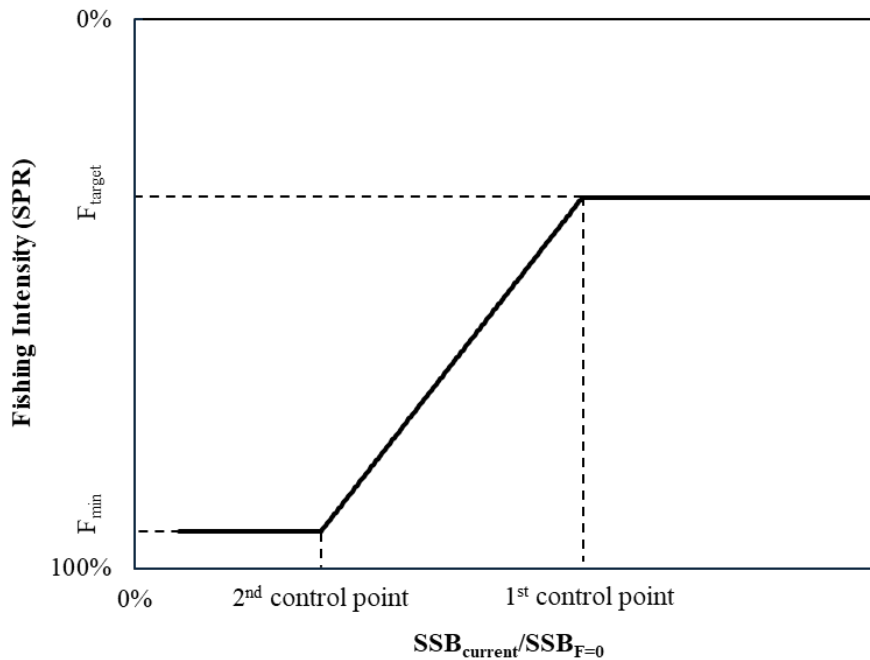


Figure 1: Illustration of the harvest control rule with target reference point (F_{target}), 1st-and-2nd-control points Threshold reference point and LRP, and the minimum allowed fishing intensity (F_{min}).

Table 1. Harvest Control Rule parameters

Parameter	TRP	1st Control Point (ThRP)	2nd Control Point (LRP)	Fmin
	F27.5%SPR	20%SSBF=0	7.7%SSBF=0	F70% SPR

2. The maximum changes in catch limits for each fishery segment indicated by the HCR between any 2-year management period shall be 25% relative to the catch limits specified by the MP for the previous 2-year period unless $SSB_{current}/SSB_{F=0}$ is below ~~2nd-control-point~~[LRP](#).

ANNEX 2: ESTIMATION MODEL

1. Stock status ($SSB_{current}/SSB_{F=0}$), age structure of PBF in the terminal year, and relative fishing mortality by fleet and [fleet selectivity at](#) age are estimated within the MP using a stock synthesis (SS3; Methot and Wetzel 2013) based quasi age-structured-production-model. The model takes into account annual recruitment variation and size selectivity of the key fleets (ASPM-R+; ISC 2025).

2. The ASPM-R+ estimation model adopts the same demographic assumptions as the 2024 PBF stock assessment base-case model. Input data include updated longline CPUE-based abundance indices, updated catch time series for all fleets, and size-composition data for fleets associated with the longline indices. The model estimates population scale, initial conditions, annual recruitment deviations, and longline fleet selectivity. Estimates of $SSB_{current}/SSB_{F=0}$, terminal-year age structure, and relative fishing mortality by fleet, and [fleet selectivity at](#) age for 2015–2022 are derived from the model outputs.

3. The ASPM-R+ [estimation model](#) first estimates the average fishing mortality over 2015–2022 and [then](#) the corresponding multiplier required to achieve the [F%SPR](#) specified by the HCR. ~~Using~~ these estimates, together with terminal-year numbers at age, natural mortality, and weight at age derived from the estimation model (~~EM~~), the future TAC for each fishery segment is then calculated.

ANNEX 3: CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Exceptional circumstances are defined as the occurrence of events that are outside the range of scenarios considered for testing the MP. In the case of such events, it may be necessary to re-evaluate the MP or, in severe cases where there is considered to be a risk to the stock, take remedial action. Exceptional circumstances are not a mechanism for making regular, small adjustments to the MP, but rather should be invoked where, through an agreed process, the operation of the MP has been demonstrated to be highly risky or inappropriate. This Annex provides guidance on the process for determining whether exceptional circumstances exist and the necessary actions but does not provide firm definitions of all possible exceptional circumstances.

Process to determine if exceptional circumstances exist:

2. The ISC will update CPUE every year, continue to update the estimation model for the scheduled MP run, and conduct stock assessments for the stock with updated data sources. The ISC will also conduct research to examine new evidence about the current stock status and environmental conditions.

3. Examples of what might constitute exceptional circumstances for PBF include, but are not limited to:

- a. Stock and Fleet Dynamics: Evidence from stock assessment estimates that the stock is in a state not previously simulated in the MSE (e.g., current SSB estimates are outside the range of uncertainty, or new evidence about the biology of the stock is presented). In addition, consider evidence that the fleet structure or fishing operations have changed substantially.
- b. Application: Data collection required to produce the stock assessment is no longer available and/or appropriate to apply the adopted MP.
- c. Implementation: The implementation of the management action is substantially different from what is prescribed by the MPs. For example, the total removals by the fishery differ substantially from what is prescribed by the MPs. TAC overage is not included here, as it is controllable through management actions.

4. Based on the general elements above, indicators are summarized in Table 1.

Process for action in the event of exceptional circumstances:

5. Having determined that there is evidence for exceptional circumstances, the ISC shall provide advice to the JWG, WCPFC NC and IATTC including, but not limited to:

- a. The nature, severity and potential impacts of the exceptional circumstances;
- b. Potential impacts on the performance of the MP;
- c. Potential actions to address the exceptional circumstances, such as a change in the MP, additional research, updates to the MSE framework for PBF or other recommendations as appropriate.

Table 1: Elements, indicators, and defined reference ranges used to evaluate whether the stock is experiencing exceptional circumstances beyond those considered in the Pacific bluefin tuna management strategy evaluation.

Element	Indicator	Range	Evaluation Schedule
Stock and Fleet Dynamics	Depletion of stock biomass	In any year estimates fall outside the range of uncertainty simulated by the operating models (OMs) used in the MSE.	EM update or stock assessment
	Fishing intensity ($F_{\%SPR}$) where SPR is the spawning potential ratio		
	Longline CPUE	In any year estimates fall outside the range of uncertainty simulated by the MSE.	Every year when CPUE is updated.
	Changes in fleet dynamics or selectivity	Any substantial differences from the structure and parameterization used in the OMs of the most recent MSE	As new evidence and research is presented and accepted by the PBFWG
	Biological parameters		
	Recruitment drop	Recruitment index shows a consistent low trend.	Every year when CPUE is updated.
Application	EM or Stock assessment	EM or Stock assessment is not producible or estimates are unreliable.	EM update or stock assessment
	Realized catch or effort	If there is evidence that catch or effort outside of management, such as discard mortality or by new fleets, is greater than assumed in the MSE.	As new evidence and research is presented and accepted by the PBFWG

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
ELEVENTH SESSION (JWG11)**

JAPAN'S STATEMENT

Thank you, Co-Chairs and participants in this meeting room for your interest and patience during this week. We spent a tremendous amount of time on the discussion on the Management Procedure in the small working group. We worked hard to find a compromise and we certainly made good progress until yesterday evening. Members tried to show their maximum flexibility, while holding a series of internal meetings with stakeholders. We also relayed the discussion and situation to our capital from time to time.

But, unfortunately, this morning, the final day of the JWG meeting, one member suddenly returned to its original position on the West and East impact balance 75% to 25%, saying "this is a strong instruction from the home government and this is the Red Line". That one member stuck to the extreme impact balance, insisting that there is no room for compromise nor negotiations. That one member did not show any compromise, while recognizing that it is impossible that western Members cannot accept the 75% to 25% impact balance.

JWG Members spent a lot of time and energy and resources for the establishment of the Management Procedure. We have had a series of meetings. Last year, we had two meetings in Monterey and Toyama. And this year, we had a meeting in Newport Beach to advance this important mission.

Until this morning, we were hopeful about the discussion since JWG Members were working together in a constructive and cooperative manner. But, at the last minute, that one member suddenly changed its attitude and returned to its extreme position and just stuck to it. Their position of the 75% to 25% impact balance is very extreme since the current impact ratio is 82% to 18%. That member insisted on the 7% drastic change just in a single year, while knowing that such a drastic allocation change is totally unacceptable for western Members.

We have to report back this very disappointing outcome to our stakeholders after this meeting. The PBF stock is continuously growing and migrating very abundantly in the coastal waters of Japan. Not only PBF target fisheries, but also fisheries for other fish species have been impacted by the abundant migration of Pacific Bluefin tuna. Fishermen have been making a lot of sacrifice to comply with the catch limits, but their patience is being exhausted. We have a number of fishermen throughout the Japanese archipelago, hoping to see some progress from this meeting. That one Member with just a couple of PBF farming companies used its right to block a consensus and spoiled all efforts and compromise made by other Members. This situation is totally unreasonable and unfair. Although Members tried hard to find compromise, that one Member just blocked the consensus.

We are not so hopeful towards the future if this situation continues. Our delegation needs to register our deepest disappointment at that Member's attitude.

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
ELEVENTH SESSION (JWG11)**

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA UNDER AGENDA 5.3 ON MP AT JWG 11

Thank you, Co-Chairs. Korea wishes to place the following on record.

Throughout these discussions, Korea has shown substantial flexibility and made significant compromises in an effort to reach an agreement /on the management procedure. Regrettably, despite those efforts, no consensus could be achieved.

Korea is facing increasingly serious practical difficulties arising from the dramatically changing distribution and availability of Pacific bluefin tuna in Korean waters. Under the existing framework and catch limits, it is becoming almost impossible to manage the increasing and largely unavoidable catches in our coastal fisheries in a responsible and workable manner.

In an effort to find at least a practical means of addressing these difficulties, Korea also requested that Members consider an updated conversion factor, even in the absence of agreement on the MP. Regrettably, no agreement could be reached even on that limited proposal. Korea has therefore reached the limit of what it can reasonably accommodate under the present framework.

Against this background, Korea is seriously considering the separate management of Pacific bluefin tuna catches taken within its territorial sea under its domestic authority. Such an approach would be contemplated only as a measure of last resort, after all reasonable alternatives have been exhausted and no workable solution remains available with the current limits under CMM2024-01.

Fisheries within the territorial sea are not subject to the direct regulatory application of the WCPFC. This is consistent with the Commission's established approach to the management of other stocks and fisheries, under which fisheries in waters subject to coastal State sovereignty remain under the authority of the coastal State.

Any such domestic management would be implemented under strict controls and in a highly precautionary and conservative manner, with effective monitoring, transparent catch accounting, reporting and appropriate safeguards/ to ensure that the conservation of the stock is not compromised.

This should not be understood as a retreat from Korea's commitment to conservation or regional cooperation. Rather, it reflects Korea's responsibility as a coastal State to manage fisheries in waters under its sovereignty where the current framework no longer provides a workable response to changing environmental and fishery conditions.

Korea remains committed to constructive engagement. At the same time, having exhausted the reasonable options available to us in this process, Korea has very little room left for further accommodation. Having said so, Korea looks forward to continued discussions to make progress with an MP going forward.

Thank you.

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP
SEVENTH CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME TECHNICAL MEETING
(CDS07)**

8 July 2026
Nagasaki, Japan (Hybrid)

**CHAIR'S SUMMARY OF THE
7TH CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME TECHNICAL MEETING**

IATTC-NC-CDS07-2026-00

1. OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 Welcome

1. Mr. Shingo Ota, Chair of the CDS Technical Meeting, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

1.2 Appointment of rapporteur

2. Mr. Samuel Coyle of Japan was appointed the rapporteur for the meeting.

1.3 Adoption of the agenda

3. The provisional agenda was adopted (**Appendix 1**).

1.4 Meeting arrangements

4. The Chair explained the meeting arrangements.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF A CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

2.1 Recap of the 6th CDS Technical Meeting and intersessional activities

5. The Chair recapped the results of the 6th CDS Technical Meeting.

6. Japan reported on intersessional activities in three areas: communication with the CCSBT Secretariat, communication with Shore Informatics, and further development of the working draft CMM/Resolution.

7. On the communication with the CCSBT Secretariat, Japan reported that developing the ePBCD system without replicating the CCSBT e-CDS structure is technically feasible, though cost and workload depend on the design adopted, and that the CCSBT Secretariat had indicated a single integrated catch-and-export form (rather than separate forms) remains workable; Japan suggested continuing to develop the draft CMM/Resolution on this basis absent strong objections. On Shore Informatics, Japan reported that the company remains positive about supporting ePBCD development and had suggested cost savings

if built on the CCSBT e-CDS, though no cost estimate has been requested pending finalization of the key components of the CMM/Resolution.

8. On the working draft CMM/Resolution, Japan reported that the Small Working Group had produced a revised draft through intersessional email exchanges, to be discussed under the next agenda item.

2.2 Review of the revised draft CMM/Resolution

9. Japan introduced the revised working draft CMM/Resolution, based on the draft discussed at the 6th CDS Technical Meeting.

10. Following the presentation, the participants reviewed the revised draft CMM/Resolution paragraph by paragraph, making modifications such as removing brackets around tentative language and clarifying terms and figures.

11. On the new paragraphs 30 and 31 proposed by Korea concerning the Specially Validated CDS, Korea clarified that it remained open to withdrawing the proposal if members did not wish to pursue it. Noting the planned three-year pilot testing phase, the participants agreed to delete both paragraphs, with Korea expressing the possibility to bring a more refined proposal to a future meeting.

12. On the annexes, the participants first reviewed Annex C as this lists information to be recorded in ePBCD. The participants agreed to several changes to Annex C and these changes would also be reflected in Annex A. Annexes D through F were reviewed without substantive comment.

13. On system cost, the participants agreed that Japan would seek a rough cost estimate from Shore Informatics, noting that costs would depend on whether a single system or two separate but compatible systems were developed. Mexico emphasized that it can agree to the draft text on the condition that it shall be subject to approval of the IATTC and for this purpose, clarity on costs would be very important. The IATTC Secretariat requested Japan to ask Shore Informatics to present the cost for both options, i.e., one single system for both organizations and two separate but compatible systems.

14. The participants tentatively agreed to the draft text in **Appendix 2** while noting that it shall be reviewed again particularly with the cost implication at the next meeting. In response to the question posed by the Chair, Japan, seconded by the USA, favored presenting the current status and text as a reference at both Commission meetings.

15. Cook Islands requested that any draft CMM should be explained to FFA members before it is submitted to the WCPFC annual meeting.

3. NEXT MEETING

16. The participants agreed to convene the 8th CDS Technical Meeting in conjunction with the 12th JWG meeting, with a duration of one day.

17. The participants agreed that the next meeting will mainly discuss three issues: (i) terms of reference for system development; (ii) cost sharing between the two organizations as well as among members of each organization; and (iii) instructions for completing the ePBCD and ePBRC.

18. The Small Working Group was tasked to produce a draft terms of reference for system development and the instructions for completing the ePBCD and ePBRC. The Chair encouraged the participants to submit a paper on cost sharing as otherwise it will be difficult to discuss this issue.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

19. There was no discussion under this agenda item.

5. CHAIR'S SUMMARY AND REPORT TO THE JWG

20. The Chair will provide his summary of the CDS technical meeting to the JWG as usual.

6. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

21. The Chair announced that the next meeting would be his last as Chair and expressed his wishes to complete all the work. The Chair then expressed his appreciation to all and closed the meeting.

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP
SEVENTH CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME TECHNICAL MEETING
(CDS-07)**

8 July 2026
Nagasaki, Japan (Hybrid)

ANNOTATED AGENDA

IATTC-NC-CDS07-2026-01

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 Welcome

Mr. Shingo Ota, Chair of the CDS Technical Meeting, will open the meeting.

1.2 Appointment of rapporteur

A rapporteur will be appointed.

1.3 Adoption of the agenda

An agenda will be adopted.

1.4 Meeting arrangements

The Chair will explain the meeting arrangements, process, and reporting to the JWG.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF A CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

2.1 Recap of the 6th CDS Technical Meeting and intersessional activities

The Chair will briefly review the results of the 6th CDS Technical Meeting and intersessional work.

2.2 Review of the revised draft CMM

For the review of the revised draft CMM, the CDS Technical Meeting is invited to consider the progress made by the Small Working Group in refining the draft Pacific Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) following discussions at previous CDS Technical Meetings.

3. NEXT MEETING

The participants will discuss the venue and timing of the next meeting.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Any other matters will be discussed here.

5. CHAIR'S SUMMARY AND REPORT TO THE JWG

The Chair will summarize the results of the CDS Technical Meeting to be reported to the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group.

6. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP
SEVENTH CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME TECHNICAL MEETING
(CDS-07)**

8 July 2026
Nagasaki, Japan (Hybrid)

WORKING DRAFT CMM RESOLUTION FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA CDS

IATTC-NC-CDS07-2026-02_Rev02

9 July 2026

Background

In 2019 and 2020, the virtual working group established under the CDS Technical Meeting discussed a draft CMM/Resolution for Pacific bluefin tuna Catch Documentation Scheme. The draft CMM/Resolution received many comments and suggestions from the members of the virtual working group. In June 2022, Japan, as the lead, circulated the 3rd draft of the CMM/Resolution among members of virtual working group, with all comments and suggestions tentatively incorporated. However, since the text became quite busy with those comments and suggestions, including provisions related to traceability and monitoring, controlling and surveillance measures, some of which were considered to be beyond the scope of the CDS, the 3rd draft was not directly discussed at the 3rd CDS Technical meeting.

The 3rd CDS Technical meeting in July, 2022 agreed that “the scope and functions of the draft CMM for the development of CDS would: i) not include seafood traceability and not go beyond the scope of the bluefin tuna CDSs utilized by the CCSBT and ICCAT, and ii) not include specific monitoring, controlling and surveillance measures.”

The 4th CDS Technical meeting in July 2023 tentatively agreed to use resources from the CCSBT e-CDS as the platform for the system development of ePBCD. This choice has some implication to the Draft CMM/Resolution. On the other hand, there were several pending issues that need further discussion, such as demarcation between IATTC and WCPFC.

In July 2024, the small working group submitted a working draft CMM/Resolution to the 5th CDS Technical meeting. This draft was developed based on the 3rd draft and by simplifying some of the text to reflect the agreement in 2022 to narrow the scope and functions of the draft CMM/Resolution. The 5th CDS Technical meeting tentatively agreed to take a stepwise approach to determine the scope of application and to initially set the scope as covering international transactions. The 5th CDS Technical meeting also agreed to task the small working group to produce an amended draft CMM and to present it at the next CDS Technical meeting.

Furthermore, at the 102nd meeting of the IATTC in September 2024 and the 21st regular session of the WCPFC in December 2024, the CPCs/CCMs agreed to consider the establishment of a CDS for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in the EPO/WCPPO by 31 December 2026.

In July 2025, the small working group submitted an amended working draft CMM/Resolution to the 6th CDS Technical meeting. Several revisions were discussed and incorporated during the meeting, and the

small working group was tasked with working intersessionally to further refine the draft CMM/Resolution.

In light of this progress, the small working group wishes to submit the revised working draft CMM/Resolution as attached for further discussions at the 7th CDS Technical meeting.

Part I: General Provisions and Application

1. The objective of the Pacific bluefin tuna Catch Documentation (PBCD) program is to identify the origin and movement of Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) in its processed or unprocessed form (wild capture or farmed) in order to support the implementation of Conservation and Management Measure (CMM)/Resolution for PBF, including by providing a tool to assist in combating IUU fishing.
2. This CMM/Resolution applies to PBF, except for those captured in sport and recreational fisheries when their sales are prohibited.
3. For the purpose of this CMM/Resolution:
 - (1) “Catch” means:
Commercial wild capture of PBF, except when the captured PBF is not retained.
 - (2) “Caging” means:
The relocation of live PBF from a fishing vessel, trap or transport cage to a farming cage, including a fattening cage.
 - (3) “Export” means:
Any movement of PBF from the territory of the Commission Member, Cooperating Non-member and participating Territory (hereinafter referred to as CCM)/Member and Cooperating Non-Member (hereinafter referred to as CPC) where the fishing vessel is flagged (hereinafter referred to as flag CCM/CPC) or where the trap or farm is established (hereinafter referred to as trap CCM/CPC or farm CCM/CPC, respectively) to the territory of another CCM/CPC or non-CCM/non-CPC of the Commission, or from the fishing grounds to the territory of a CCM/CPC which is not the flag CCM/CPC or to the territory of a non-CCM/non-CPC of the Commission.
 - (4) “Harvest from cages” means:
Removal of PBF from farming cages for consumption, processing, export or other purposes that result in the death of the animal.
 - (5) “Import” means:
Any introduction of PBF into the territory of a CCM/CPC or non-CCM/CPC from another CCM/CPC or non-CCM/CPC of the Commission, or from the fishing grounds to the territory of a CCM/CPC, which is not the flag CCM/CPC, trap CCM/CPC or farm CCM/CPC.
 - (6) “Re-export” means:
Any movement of PBF from the territory of a CCM/CPC where it was previously imported to the territory of another CCM/CPC or non-CCM/non-CPC.
 - (7) “Transshipment” means:
The unloading of all or any of PBF on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel either at sea or in port.
4. Export, import or re-export of PBF without a completed and validated electronic Pacific bluefin tuna Catch Documentation (ePBCD) or electronic Pacific bluefin tuna Re-export Certificate (ePBRC) shall be prohibited. Export, import or re-export of fish parts other than the meat or collars (i.e., heads, eyes, roes, guts and tails) shall be exempted from the requirement of this CMM/Resolution.
5. Development and implementation of ePBCD and ePBRC
 - (1) For the implementation of this CMM/Resolution, an interoperable ePBCD system that includes the ePBRC between IATTC and WCPFC will be developed. WCPFC and IATTC Secretariats should formulate the Terms of Reference for an open tender for the system development before the end of 20XX, or as soon as possible thereafter. Such Terms of Reference shall be approved

by both WCPFC and IATTC. The Secretariats shall report to their respective Commissions the result of tenders and progress on the system development thereafter.

- (2) A pilot testing phase will be undertaken at least for 3 years to implement ePBCD and ePBRC. The pilot testing will involve CCMs/CPCs on a voluntary basis and cover range of actions required in this CMM/Resolution. The JWG shall review the implementation of the scheme annually during the pilot testing phase and make suggestions for improvements, as appropriate.
 - (3) Use of the ePBCD system is mandatory for all CCMs/CPCs once the establishment of the ePBCD system is completed with necessary modifications as a result of the pilot testing phase.
 - (4) Notwithstanding paragraph 5 and subparagraph (3), paper PBCDs and PBRCs, whose formats are attached as Annex A and B, respectively, printed ePBCDs and ePBRCs may be used in cases falling under the exceptional arrangements specified in paragraph 27. The provisions of paragraph 4 and Parts II through VII shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to paper PBCDs and PBRCs or printed ePBCDs and ePBRCs.
 - (5) The ePBCD system will include a function that automatically detects any inconsistencies in the input data and notifies the relevant CCMs/CPCs of these inconsistencies. Such inconsistencies shall include the following:
 - a. The accumulated catch attributed to a CCM/CPC recorded in the ePBCD system exceeds that CCM/CPC's catch quota or catch limit for the relevant management year (notification will be sent to the CCM/CPC and the relevant Secretariat)
 - b. The amount of exported Pacific bluefin tuna recorded in the ePBCD system originating from a single vessel or trap on a single day exceeds the recorded amount of PBF caught by that vessel or trap on that day (notification will be sent to the exporting CCM/CPC).
6. Following the start of mandatory implementation of the program, the JWG shall review the implementation of the CMM/Resolution annually and make recommendations to the respective body for improvements, as appropriate.

Part II: Documents and Information Required

7. The following information shall be recorded in the ePBCD. Each item shall be in accordance with the specifications in Annex C.
- (1) Information on catch
 - (2) Information on transshipment
 - (3) Information on harvest from cages
 - (4) Information on first sale after catch
 - (5) Information on export and import
8. The following information shall be recorded in the ePBRC. Each item shall be in accordance with the specifications in Annex D.
- (1) Information on imported PBF, including information on related ePBCD(s)
 - (2) Information on re-export and import

Part III: Validation

9. Record in ePBCD and ePBRC
- (1) The master or operator of a vessel, the trap or farm operator, the exporter, their authorized representative, or the authorized representative of the flag CCM/CPC, trap CCM/CPC, farm CCM/CPC or the CCM/CPC where PBF is exported from (hereinafter referred to as export

CCM/CPC) shall record the information specified in paragraph 7 in the appropriate section of the ePBCD on each occasion it catches, transships, harvests from cages, first sells, or exports PBF.

- (2) For PBF that is not exported, catch and transshipment information must be recorded in the ePBCD, however, the other information required in sub-paragraph (1) is not required.
 - (3) Information on catch shall be recorded within 7 days of the landing. However, if the landing of PBF by one vessel or one trap at a time is less than 1 metric ton, or the PBF is tagged in accordance with Part IV, the information may be recorded within 45 days. When PBF is caged, information on catch shall be recorded within 60 days. Any transfer of the caged PBF shall be prohibited until the information on catch is recorded.
 - (4) Information on transshipment shall be recorded as close to the time of the event as possible, but within 7 days of the transshipment at the latest.
 - (5) The re-exporter, its authorized representative, or the authorized representative of the CCM/CPC where the PBF is re-exported from (hereinafter referred to as re-export CCM/CPC) shall record the information specified in paragraph 8 in the appropriate section of the ePBRC on each occasion they re-exports PBF.
10. Validation of ePBCD and ePBRC
- (1) The ePBCD and ePBRC must be validated by an authorized government official, or other authorized individual or institution, of the flag CCM/CPC, trap CCM/CPC, farm CCM/CPC, export CCM/CPC or re-export CCM/CPC that caught, harvested from cages, exported or re-exported PBF.
 - (2) The ePBCD shall be validated only when:
 - a. All the information provided in the ePBCD has been established to be accurate;
 - b. The accumulated catch attributed to a CCM/CPC is within that CCM/CPC's catch quota or catch limit for the relevant management year; and,
 - c. The PBF in the ePBCD was caught, transshipped, harvested from cages or sold in compliance with other applicable provisions of CMMs/Resolutions.
 - (3) The ePBRC shall be validated only when:
 - a. All the information provided in the ePBRC has been established to be accurate;
 - b. All the ePBCD numbers relating to the previously imported PBF products are included.
 - c. Each related ePBCD had been validated and accepted for the importation of the products declared on the ePBRC; and,
 - d. The products to be re-exported are wholly or partly the same product on the validated ePBCD(s).

Part IV: Tag

11. Notwithstanding paragraph 10, validation of ePBCD shall not be required when PBF is tagged by the flag CCM/CPC or trap CCM/CPC in accordance with the following criteria:
- (1) All PBF in the ePBCD concerned are individually tagged;
 - (2) The minimum information associated with the tag includes:
 - a. Identifying information on the vessel or trap that caught PBF;
 - b. The date of catch or landing;
 - c. The area of catch of the PBF;
 - d. The type of product and weight of the PBF;
 - e. Information on the exporter and importer (where applicable);
 - f. The point of export (where applicable).

- (3) Information on tagged fish is compiled by the responsible CCM/CPC and made available to the Secretariat upon its request.
12. CCMs/CPCs may require their vessels or traps to affix a tag to each PBF preferably at the timing of kill, but no later than the time of landing. The tags shall have unique CCM/CPC-specific numbers and be tamper proof. The tag numbers shall be linked to the ePBCD.
13. Such tags shall only be used when the accumulated catch attributed to a CCM/CPC is within that CCM/CPC's catch quota or catch limit for the relevant management year, including where appropriate individual quotas allocated to vessels or traps.

Part V: Verification for PBF trade

14. Each CCM/CPC shall ensure that its competent authorities, or other authorized individuals or institutions take steps to identify each consignment of PBF imported into or exported or re-exported from its territory and request and examine the validated ePBCD(s) and ePBRC(s) as well as other related documentation for each consignment of PBF when it is exported, imported or re-exported. These authorities, individuals or institutions may also examine the contents of the consignment to verify the information contained in the ePBCD and in related documents and, where necessary, shall carry out verifications with the importer or exporter concerned.
15. If as a result of examinations or verifications carried out pursuant to paragraph 14, questions arise regarding the information contained in an ePBCD or ePBRC, the final importing CCM/CPC and the CCM/CPC whose competent authorities validated the ePBCD(s) or ePBRC(s) shall cooperate to address such questions.
16. If a CCM/CPC involved in export, import or re-export of PBF identifies a consignment in violation of paragraph 4, it shall notify the findings to the relevant CCM/CPC. The relevant CCM/CPC shall take necessary measures, including investigations, and share the results with the informing CCM/CPC.
17. Pending the examinations or verifications under paragraph 14 to confirm compliance of PBF consignment with the requirements in this CMM/Resolution and any other relevant CCMs/Resolutions, the CCMs/CPCs shall not grant its release for export, import and re-export.
18. Where a CCM/CPC, as a result of examinations or verifications under paragraph 14 and in cooperation with the validating authorities concerned, determines that an ePBCD or ePBRC is invalid, import, export and re-export of the PBF consignment shall be prohibited.

Part VI: Communication

19. Each CCM/CPC shall notify the Secretariat of the name, title, organization and address of the government officials or other authorized individuals specified in paragraph 10(1), and the name and address of the other authorized institutions specified in the same paragraph and, where appropriate, the name and title of the officials who are individually empowered within those institutions. This notification shall indicate the date at which the authorization comes into force. Any changes to the content of the notification under this paragraph shall be promptly notified to the Secretariat.
20. Each CCM/CPC shall notify the Secretariat of the name, address and contact details of the

organization that will serve as the point of contact for questions related to ePBCDs or ePBRCs concerning the CCM/CPC. Any changes to the content of the notification under this paragraph shall be promptly notified to the Secretariat.

21. All CCMs/CPCs concerned shall, as soon as possible for the ePBCD system implementation, submit to the Secretariat the data necessary to ensure the registration of their users in the ePBCD system. The system shall not give access to and use of the system for those who fail to provide and maintain the data required by the ePBCD system.
22. The Commission shall request the non-CCMs/non-CPCs that are involved in export, import or re-export of PBF to cooperate with the implementation of the program and to provide to the Commission data obtained from such implementation.
23. Access to the ePBCD system shall be granted to non-CCMs/non-CPCs to facilitate trade of PBF. Until such time as the functionality is developed that allows non-CCMs/non-CPCs access to the system, this shall be accomplished through completion by the non-CCMs/non-CPCs of paper PBCD and PBRC consistent with the terms of paragraph 5(4) and submission to the Secretariat for entry into the ePBCD system. The Secretariat shall communicate without delay to those non-CCMs/non-CPCs known to import, export or re-export PBF to make them aware of the ePBCD system and the applicable provisions of this CMM/Resolution.

Part VII: Data Sharing and Confidentiality

24. The information notified under paragraph 19 shall be handled as non-public domain data and the Secretariat shall facilitate access to this information by authorized CCM/CPC users through the secure pages of the Commission website.
25. The Secretariat shall facilitate access to the information notified under paragraph 20 through the public pages of the Commission website.
26. All the data in ePBCD shall be processed in accordance with the Rules of Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission/Resolution on Confidentiality.

Part VIII: Exceptional Arrangements

27. Paper PBCDs and PBRCs, whose formats are attached as Annex A and B, respectively, or printed ePBCDs and ePBRCs may be used in accordance with paragraph 5(4), if any of the following circumstances apply:
 - (1) The landing or caging of PBF by one vessel or one trap at a time is less than 1 metric ton, or the PBF is tagged in accordance with Part IV. In this case, the logbook or the sales note may be used as a temporary PBCD. Such paper PBCDs, printed ePBCDs or temporary PBCDs shall be converted to ePBCDs within a period of 45 days or prior to the export, whichever is first;
 - (2) PBF is caught prior to the full implementation of the ePBCD system as specified in paragraph 5(3);
 - (3) Technical difficulties arise with the ePBCD system that preclude a CCM/CPC from using the system. In this case, the CCM/CPC shall follow the procedures set forth in Annex E. Delays by CCMs/CPCs in taking necessary actions, such as providing the data necessary to ensure the

registration of users in the ePBCD system or other avoidable situations, do not constitute technical difficulties in this subparagraph.

- (4) In the case of trade between CCMs/CPCs and non-CCMs/non-CPCs, where access to the ePBCD system by non-CCMs/non-CPCs through the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 23 is not possible or is not timely enough to ensure that trade is not unduly delayed or disrupted.
28. When a paper PBCD or PBRC, or a printed ePBCD or ePBRC is used in accordance with paragraphs 5(4) and 27, importing CCMs/CPCs, solely on the basis of the use of such paper or printed PBCD and PBRC, shall not be cited as a reason to delay or deny import of PBF.
29. Where requested by a CCM/CPC, the Secretariat shall facilitate the conversion of paper PBCDs or PBRCs, or printed ePBCDs or ePBRCs to ePBCDs or ePBRCs.
30. ~~[If a CCM/CPC has cause to sell or dispose of seized or confiscated PBF, it may issue a Specially Validated CDS⁺ (SVCDS) specifying the reasons for that validation. The SVCDS shall include a statement describing the circumstances under which confiscated fish are moving in trade. To the extent practicable, CCMs/CPCs shall ensure that the sale of seized or confiscated PBF does not result in any financial benefit accruing to those responsible for, or benefitting from, the activities that led to the seizure or confiscation of the catch (i.e. including operators, effective beneficiaries, owners, logistics and service providers). If a CCM/CPC issues an SVCDS, it shall immediately report all such validations to the Secretariat for conveying to all CCMs/CPCs and, as appropriate, recording in trade statistics.]~~
31. ~~[At its regular session, the WCPFC Technical and Compliance Committee and the IATTC Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measure Adopted by the Commission shall review all circumstances under which an SVCDS was issued in the period since the last annual meeting, and shall recommend to the Commission any further action that it deems appropriate.]~~

Annex A: Format of Paper PBCD

1. INFORMATION ON CATCH

Vessel/Trap Information		For Group Operation		
Name of Catching Vessel/Trap				
Flag/Trap CCM/CPC				
Registration Number				
Catch Description				
Date (dd/mm/yy)				
Gear				
Area				
Total Weight (kg)				
Tag numbers (if applicable)				
Validation				
Name of Authority				
Title				
Date (dd/mm/yy)				
Signature				
Seal				
Note				

2. INFORMATION ON TRANSSHIPMENT

Carrier/Receiving Vessel Information		Validation	
Name of Carrier/Receiving Vessel		Name of Authority	
Flag CCM/CPC		Title	
Registration Number		Date (dd/mm/yy)	
Transshipment Description		Signature	
Date (dd/mm/yy)		Seal	
Area/Name of Port			
Total Weight Transshipped (kg)			

3. INFORMATION ON HARVEST FROM CAGES

Farm Information		Validation	
Name		Name of Authority	
Farm CCM/CPC		Title	
Registration Number		Date (dd/mm/yy)	
Harvest Description		Signature	
Date (dd/mm/yy)		Seal	
Total Weight Harvested (kg)			
Total Number of Fish Harvested			

4. INFORMATION ON FIRST SALE AFTER CATCH

Seller/Exporter Information		Buyer/Importer Information	
Name		Name	
Address		Address	
Product Description			
Product Type			
Weight (kg)			

5. INFORMATION ON [EXPORT] and IMPORT**Product Description**

Product Type				
Weight (kg)				

Export Information

Export CCM/CPC	
Point of Export	
Name of Exporter	
Address of Exporter	

Validation

Name of Authority	
Title	
Date (dd/mm/yy)	
Signature	
Seal	

Destination Information

Destination	
Name of Importer	
Address of Importer	

Import Information

Point of Import	
Name of Importer	
Address of Importer	

Importer Certification

Date (dd/mm/yy)	
Signature	

☐ PBF derived from artificial fry

Annex B: Format of Paper PBRC

Pacific Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate (PBRC)				No. 	
1. INFORMATION ON IMPORTED PBF, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON RELATED PBCD(s)					
Description of Imported Product					
Product Type					
Weight (kg)					
Flag CCM/CPC					
Date of Import					
PBCD No.					
2. INFORMATION ON RE-EXPORT AND IMPORT					
Re-export Information			Destination Information		
Re-export CCM/CPC			Destination		
Point of Re-export			Name of Importer		
Name of Re-exporter			Address of Importer		
Address of Re-exporter					
Description of Product Being Re-exported					
Product Type					
Weight (kg)					
Corresponding PBCD No.					
* All relevant PBCDs shall be attached.					
Validation					
Name of Authority					
Title					
Date (dd/mm/yy)					
Signature					
Seal					
Imported Product					
Product Type					
Weight (kg)					
Import Information					
Point of Import					
Name of Importer					
Address of Importer					
Importer Certification					
			Date (dd/mm/yy)		
			Signature		

Annex C: Information to be Recorded in ePBCD (each ePBCD shall have a unique document number)

- (1) Information on catch
 - a. Vessel/Trap Information
 - Name of Catching Vessel/Trap¹
 - Flag/Trap CCM/CPC
 - Registration Number (VID/WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)/IATTC number/IMO number/CCM/CPC registration number)
 - b. Catch Description
 - Date
 - Gear
 - Area (WCPFC Convention Area/IATTC Convention Area/Overlap Area)
 - Total Weight (kg)
 - Tag numbers, if applicable
 - c. Validation
 - Name of Authority, Title, Date, Signature and Seal²
- (2) Information on transshipment
 - a. Carrier/Receiving Vessel Information
 - Name of Carrier/Receiving Vessel³
 - Flag CCM/CPC
 - Registration Number (VID/WCPFC Identification Number (WIN)/IATTC number/IMO number/CCM/CPC registration number)
 - b. Transshipment Description
 - Date
 - Area (WCPFC Convention Area/IATTC Convention Area/Overlap Area)/Name of Port
 - Total Weight Transshipped (kg)
 - c. Validation
 - Name of Authority, Title, Date, Signature and Seal²
- (3) Information on harvest from cages
 - a. Farm Information
 - Name²
 - Farm CCM/CPC
 - Registration Number (CCM/CPC registration number)
 - b. Harvest Description
 - Date
 - Total Weight Harvested (kg)
 - Total Number of Fish Harvested
 - c. Validation
 - Name of Authority, Title, Date, Signature and Seal²

³ The requirements for name may be fulfilled by a registration number.

(4) Information on first sale after catch

a. Seller/Exporter Information

- Name
- Address

b. Buyer/Importer Information

- Name
- Address

c. Product Description

- Product Type
- Weight (kg)

(5) Information on export and import⁴

a. Product Description

- Product Type
- Weight (kg)

b. Export Information

- Export CCM/CPC
- Point of Export
- Name of Exporter
- Address of Exporter

c. Destination Information

- Destination
- Name of Importer
- Address of Importer

d. Validation

- Name of Authority, Title, Date, Signature and Seal²

e. Import Information

- Port of Import
- Name of Importer
- Address of Importer

f. Importer Certification

- Date
- Signature

Annex D: Information to be Recorded in ePBRC⁵

(1) Information on imported PBF, including information on related ePBCD(s)

a. Description of Imported Product

- Product Type
- Weight (kg)
- Flag CCM/CPC
- Date of Import
- PBCD No.

(2) Information on re-export and import⁶

a. Re-export Information

- Re-export CCM/CPC
- Point of Re-export
- Name of Re-exporter
- Address of Re-exporter

b. Destination Information

- Destination
- Name of Importer
- Address of Importer

c. Description of Product Being Re-exported

- Product Type
- Weight (kg)
- Corresponding PBCD No.

d. Validation

- Name of Authority, Title, Date, Signature and Seal⁷

e. Import Information

- Port of Import
- Name of Importer
- Address of Importer

f. Importer Certification

- Date
- Signature

Annex E: Procedures for Technical Difficulties with the ePBCD system

1. Notwithstanding paragraph 9 of this CMM/Resolution, where technical difficulties with the ePBCD system prevent compliance with the requirements set out in that paragraph, a CCM/CPC may apply the procedures set out in this Annex in accordance with paragraph 27(3) of this CMM/Resolution.
2. The Secretariat shall prepare a set of document numbers dedicated to paper PBCDs and PBRCs prior to each calendar year and shall provide a portion of them to a CCM/CPC upon request. CCMs/CPCs may issue those numbers to their users and potential users of the ePBCD system either proactively, before they are needed, or upon request. Those numbers shall be recorded on the paper PBCDs and PBRCs. Each CCM/CPC shall ensure that each number is issued and used only once.
3. When a technical difficulty occurs, the CCM/CPC encountering it shall immediately notify the Secretariat that it is unable to use the ePBCD system, including an explanation of the technical difficulty encountered, before using paper PBCDs and PBRCs or printed ePBCDs and ePBRCs.
4. The Secretariat shall notify other CCMs/CPCs that paper PBCDs and PBRCs or printed ePBCDs and ePBRCs may be temporarily used by the CCM/CPC encountering the technical difficulty by posting the information provided in paragraph 3 of this Annex on the public page of the Commission website without delay.
5. For PBF that is not exported, catch and transshipment information may be recorded in the ePBCD system as soon as practicable following the resolution of the technical difficulty.
6. For PBF that is to be exported or re-exported, paper PBCDs and PBRCs or printed ePBCDs and ePBRCs shall be completed and validated in accordance with the applicable requirements, no later than the time of export or re-export, consistent with paragraphs 4 and 5(4) of this CMM/Resolution.
7. In the case of technical difficulties encountered by importing CCMs/CPCs, they may request the export CCM/CPC or re-export CCM/CPC concerned to issue a paper PBCD or PBRC, or a printed ePBCD or ePBRC, to support import.
8. When the technical difficulty is resolved, the CCM/CPC shall immediately notify the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall update the information posted in accordance with paragraph 4 of this Annex based on the notification from the CCM/CPC.
9. As soon as practicable after the resolution of the technical difficulty, CCMs/CPCs responsible for the recording and validation of the relevant information shall ensure that such information, namely information contained in paper PBCDs and PBRCs and information recorded in printed ePBCDs and ePBRCs that has not yet been entered into the ePBCD system, is recorded in the ePBCD or ePBRC, as applicable, with the assistance of the Secretariat where requested.
10. Paper PBCDs and PBRCs or printed ePBCDs and ePBRCs may continue to be used until such time as the technical difficulty is resolved and they are converted into ePBCDs and ePBRCs in accordance with paragraph 9 of this Annex.

Annex F: Artificial Fry

1. This Annex establishes interim measures applicable to PBF derived from artificial fry, pending further decisions by the Commission regarding the treatment of artificial fry.
2. PBF derived from artificial fry shall not be subject to the requirements of this CMM/Resolution, except as otherwise provided in this Annex.
3. Export CCMs/CPCs and re-export CCMs/CPCs shall ensure that information relating to the export of PBF derived from artificial fry is recorded in an ePBCD and that information relating to the re-export of such PBF is recorded in an ePBRC, no later than the time of export or re-export.
4. For the purpose of paragraph 3 of this Annex, the ePBCD for PBF derived from artificial fry shall contain only the information specified in paragraph 5 of Annex C.
5. Export CCMs/CPCs and re-export CCMs/CPCs shall ensure that ePBCDs and ePBRCs for PBF derived from artificial fry are clearly identified as such within the ePBCD system.
6. In the event of technical difficulties with the ePBCD system, the procedures set out in Annex E shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to PBF derived from artificial fry.
7. Where consignments contain both PBF derived from artificial fry and PBF not derived from artificial fry, export CCMs/CPCs and re-export CCMs/CPCs shall ensure that information relating to such products is clearly identified and recorded separately in the corresponding ePBCDs or ePBRCs, as appropriate, in accordance with this Annex and this CMM/Resolution.

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
ELEVENTH SESSION (JWG-11)**

8 – 11 July 2026
Nagasaki, Japan (Hybrid)

**Draft Conservation and Management Measure for Implementing the
Pacific Bluefin Tuna Management Procedure**

IATTC-NC-JWG11-2026-WP03³

19 June 2026

PBFJWG Co-Chairs

³ Both the draft WCPFC CMM and the draft IATTC Resolution are included in this proposal.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

Conservation and Management Measure ~~2026-xx~~2024-01

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Recognizing that WCPFC6 adopted Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM 2009-07) and the measure was revised ~~thirteen~~^{twelve} times since then (CMM 2010-04, CMM 2012-06, CMM 2013-09, CMM 2014-04, CMM 2015-04, CMM 2016-04, CMM 2017-08, CMM 2018-02, CMM 2019-02, CMM 2020-02, CMM 2021-02, ~~and~~ CMM 2023-02 ^{and CMM 2024-01}) based on the conservation advice from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) on this stock;

Noting the latest stock assessment provided by ISC in 2024, indicating the following:

- Spawning stock biomass (SSB) has increased substantially in the last 12 years, and achieved its second rebuilding target (20%SSB_{F=0}) in 2021;
- A substantial decrease in estimated F has been observed in ages 0-2 in 2020-2022 relative to 2002-2004 and 2012-2014;
- Since the early 1990s, the WCPO purse seine fisheries, in particular those targeting small fish (age 0-1) have had an increasing impact on the spawning stock biomass, but its impact has reduced in recent years;
- Harvesting small fish has a greater impact on future spawning stock biomass than harvesting large fish of the same amount;
- The projection results indicate that increases of catch limits are possible while maintaining SSB greater than 20%SSB_{F=0} with a 60% probability under several scenarios requested by JWG8, and while allowing SSB to steadily increase above the second rebuilding target under additionally requested certain scenarios ; and
- The projection results also indicate that the maximum allowable transfer from small fish catch limits to large fish catch limits utilizing the conversion factor has a positive effect on future SSB.

Recognizing that the Management Procedure for Pacific bluefin tuna, developed as the Conservation and Management Measures (CMM 2026-XX), provides the basis for determining total allowable catches for the WCPO small fish, WCPO large fish, and EPO;

Noting the conversion factors calculated by ISC to facilitate the transfer of catch among different fishing sectors while maintaining overall spawning potential ratio (SPR);

Further Noting the conservation advice from the ISC that research on a recruitment index for the stock assessment should be pursued, and maintenance of a reliable adult abundance index should be ensured;

Recalling that paragraph (4) of the Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention, which requires cooperation between the Commission and the IATTC to reach agreement to harmonize CMMs for fish stocks such as Pacific bluefin tuna that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Also recalling Article 10 (1) (a) of the WCPF Convention, which provides that the Commission may determine the total allowable catch or total level of fishing effort within the Convention Area for such highly migratory fish stocks and decide and adopt such other conservation and management measures and recommendations as may be necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of such stocks without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing highly migratory fish stocks within areas under national jurisdiction;

Conscious of the need to identify, analyze and respond to the impacts of climate change on the tuna and tuna-like species in the North Pacific Ocean in a timely manner to enhance the effectiveness of the conservation and management for the species;

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

General Provision

1. This conservation and management measure ~~has been prepared to implement~~ shall apply based on the [Management Procedure Harvest Strategy](#) for Pacific Bluefin Tuna Fisheries ([CMM 2026-xx Harvest Strategy 2023-02](#)), and the Northern Committee shall periodically review and recommend revisions to this measure as needed to implement the Harvest Strategy.

Management measures

2. CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that total fishing effort by their vessel fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of the 20° N shall stay below the 2002–2004 annual average levels.
3. [For 2027 and 2028](#), Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei shall, respectively, take measures necessary to ensure that its catches of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg and Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger shall not exceed the annual catch limits in the tables below, without prejudice to future agreement on allocation of TAC.

Pacific Bluefin tuna less than 30kg

	2002-2004 average annual level	Annual initial catch limit
Japan	8,015 metric tons	[4,407] metric tons
Korea	1,435 metric tons	[718] metric tons

Pacific Bluefin tuna 30kg or larger

	2002-2004 average annual level	Annual initial catch limit
Japan	4,882 metric tons	[8,421] metric tons
Korea	0 metric tons	[501] metric tons
Chinese Taipei	1,709 metric tons	[2,947] metric tons

4. CCMs with a base line catch (2002-2004 average annual level) of 10 tons or less of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger may increase their catch as long as it does not exceed 10 metric tons per year. [For 2027 and 2028](#), ~~the~~ the catch limit of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger for New Zealand shall be [\[200 \]](#) metric tonnes per year and for Australia [\[40 \]](#) metric tonnes per year, taking into account their nature as bycatch fisheries conducted in their waters in the Southern hemisphere.⁴

⁴ ~~New Zealand and Australia may carry forward up to 35 tonnes per year and 10 tonnes per year, respectively, from 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 to 2023 and 2024. This special arrangement does not create any precedent in future management.~~

5. Any overage or underage of the catch limit shall be deducted from or may be added to the catch limit for the following year. The maximum underage that a CCM may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 17% of its annual initial catch limit.
6. CCMs described in paragraph 3 may use part of the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg stipulated in paragraph 3 above to catch Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger in the same year. In this case, the amount of catch 30kg or larger shall be counted against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg.⁵ CCMs shall not use the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger to catch Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg.
7. CCMs are encouraged to conduct research activities to collect reliable indices of recruitment stock and adult spawning stock. Notwithstanding paragraph 3 and 4, setting a catch limit dedicated for research activities to develop and maintain indices may be considered by WCPFC through the Northern Committee based on research plans reviewed and supported by the ISC.
8. All CCMs except Japan shall implement the limits in paragraph 3 on a calendar-year basis. Japan shall implement the limits using a management year other than the calendar year for some of its fisheries and have its implementation assessed with respect to its management year. To facilitate the assessment, Japan shall:
 - a. Use the following management years:
 1. For its fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, use the calendar year as the management year.
 2. For its other fisheries, use 1 April – 31 March as the management year.⁶
 - b. In its annual reports for PBF, for each category described in a.1 and a.2 above, complete the required reporting template for both the management year and calendar year clearly identifying fisheries for each management year.
9. CCMs shall report to the Executive Director by 15 June each year their fishing effort and <30 kg and ≥30 kg catch levels, by fishery, for the previous 3 years, accounting for all catches, including discards. CCMs shall report their annual catch limits and their annual catches of PBF, with adequate computation details, to present their implementation for paragraph 5 and 6, if the measures and arrangements in the said paragraphs and relevant footnotes applied. The Executive Director will compile this information each year into an appropriate format for the use of the Northern Committee.
10. CCMs shall intensify cooperation for effective implementation of this CMM, including juvenile catch reduction. For this purpose, CCMs will make every effort to prevent their catch of age-0 fish (less than 2kg) from increasing beyond their 50% of 2002-2004 levels.
11. CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year.
12. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, and in accordance with domestic laws and regulations, CCMs shall, to the extent possible, take measures necessary to prevent

⁵ A CCM may count the amount of catch 30kg or larger adjusted with the conversion factor 0.68 (catch 30kg or larger multiplied by 0.68) against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg.

⁶ For the category described a.2 of paragraph 87, the TCC shall assess in year 20XX its implementation during the management year that starts 1 April 20XX-1 (e.g., in the 2020 compliance review, the TCC will assess Japan's implementation for its fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries during calendar-year 2019 and for its other fisheries during 1 April 2019 through 31 March 2020).

commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of this CMM, especially measures prescribed in the paragraph 3 above. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.

13. CCMs shall cooperate to establish a catch documentation scheme (CDS) to be applied to Pacific bluefin tuna in accordance with the **Attachment** of this CMM.
14. CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen monitoring and data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and farming in order to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting.
15. CCMs shall report to the Executive Director by 15 June annually measures they used to implement paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 17 of this CMM. CCMs shall also monitor the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna and report the results to the Executive Director by 15 June annually. The Northern Committee shall annually review those reports CCMs submit pursuant to this paragraph and if necessary, advise a CCM to take an action for enhancing its compliance with this CMM.
16. The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this CMM to the IATTC Secretariat and its contracting parties whose fishing vessels engage in fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in EPO and request them to take equivalent measures in conformity with this CMM.
17. To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties through the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna or bilaterally.
18. The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 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 Pacific bluefin tuna is limited, but that have a real interest in fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for Pacific bluefin tuna in the future.
19. The provisions of paragraph 18 shall not provide a basis for an increase in fishing effort by fishing vessels owned or operated by interests outside such developing coastal State, particularly 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.
20. This CMM replaces CMM [2024-01](#)~~2023-02~~. ~~On the basis of a new stock assessment conducted by ISC, the harvest strategy based on the management strategy evaluation expected to be completed in 2025, fair and equitable balance of fishing opportunities between the WCPO and the EPO as well as among Members, and other pertinent information such as the impact of climate change, as appropriate, this CMM shall be reviewed and may be amended as appropriate in 2026.~~

Development of a Catch Document Scheme for Pacific Bluefin Tuna

Background

At the 1st joint working group meeting between NC and IATTC, held in Fukuoka, Japan from August 29 to September 1, 2016, participants supported to advance the work on the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) in the next joint working group meeting, in line with the development of overarching CDS framework by WCPFC and taking into account of the existing CDS by other RFMOs.

1. Objective of the Catch Document Scheme

The objective of CDS is to combat IUU fishing for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) by providing a means of preventing PBF and its products identified as caught by or originating from IUU fishing activities from moving through the commodity chain and ultimately entering markets.

2. Use of electronic scheme

Whether CDS will be a paper based scheme, an electronic scheme or a gradual transition from a paper based one to an electronic one should be first decided since the requirement of each scheme would be quite different.

3. Basic elements to be included in the draft conservation and management measure (CMM)

It is considered that at least the following elements should be considered in drafting CMM.

- (1) Objective
- (2) General provision
- (3) Definition of terms
- (4) Validation authorities and validating process of catch documents and re-export certificates
- (5) Verification authorities and verifying process for import and re-import
- (6) How to handle PBF caught by artisanal fisheries
- (7) How to handle PBF caught by recreational or sport fisheries
- (8) Use of tagging as a condition for exemption of validation
- (9) Communication between exporting members and importing members
- (10) Communication between members and the Secretariat
- (11) Role of the Secretariat
- (12) Relationship with non-members
- (13) Relationship with other CDSs and similar programs
- (14) Consideration to developing members
- (15) Schedule for introduction
- (16) Attachment
 - (i) Catch document forms
 - (ii) Re-export certificate forms
 - (iii) Instruction sheets for how to fill out forms
 - (iv) List of data to be extracted and compiled by the Secretariat

4. Work plan

The following schedule may need to be modified, depending on the progress on the WCPFC CDS for tropical tunas.

- 2017 The joint working group will submit this concept paper to the NC and IATTC for endorsement. NC will send the WCPFC annual meeting the recommendation to endorse the paper.
- 2018 The joint working group will hold a technical meeting, preferably around its meeting, to materialize the concept paper into a draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.
- 2019 The joint working group will hold a second technical meeting to improve the draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.
- 20XX The joint working group will hold a third technical meeting to finalize the draft CMM. Once it is finalized, the joint working group will submit it to the NC and the IATTC for adoption. The NC will send the WCPFC the recommendation to adopt it.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

1042nd MEETING

Panama City Lisbon,

RESOLUTION C-264-XX02

MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

Co-Chairs' note: This draft includes track changes intended to align the resolution with the draft MP. The JWG must make a recommendation regarding whether this measure applies annually or biennially and make changes as appropriate. This draft text continues the current biennial approach (C-24-02), but that is not intended to prejudice any recommendations from JWG-11.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered, on the occasion of its 1042nd Meeting:

[Chapeau text to be updated at JWG-11]

Resolves as follows:

1. [Any future catch limits shall be considered in cooperation between the IATTC and the WCPFC taking into account the historical proportional fishery impacts on SSB between fisheries in the EPO and fisheries in the WCPO, and the IATTC shall consider a more equitable balance of catch among Members that is reflective of historical harvest in Members' respective EEZs in the EPO.]

~~The following paragraphs apply to 2021-2024:~~

2. The Commission shall implement this Resolution in accordance with the long-term management ~~objectives~~ procedure of Pacific bluefin tuna in ~~paragraph 1 of Resolution [C-26-XX]. C-21-01 [Amendment to Resolution C-18-02].~~
3. [Each CPC shall report its sport fishery catches annually by June 30. Each CPC shall ensure that catches of Pacific bluefin tuna by sportfishing vessels operating under its jurisdiction are managed in a manner consistent with commercial fisheries.]
4. ~~During 2025-2026, in~~ In 2027 – 2028, in the IATTC Convention Area, combined total commercial catches of Pacific bluefin tuna by all CPCs shall not exceed the catch limit of ~~[12,585[XX,XXX]]~~ metric tons.⁷ [The biennial catch limits for each CPC are specified below in paragraph 5. Within each biennium, CPCs also shall not exceed a one-year maximum catch limit, as specified below in paragraph 5.]

⁷ Notwithstanding paragraph 25, CPCs not referenced in paragraph 54 may catch Pacific bluefin tuna so long as their catch does not exceed 10 metric tons per year.

5.

	Mexico	United States
[Biennial limit] 2025-2026 <u>2027 - 2028</u>	[X,XXX 10,763 t]	[X,XXX 1,822 t]
[One-year maximum for 2027- 20262028]	[XXXX 6,296 t]	[XXXX 1,285 t]

- a. [During ~~2027 - 2028~~~~2025-2026~~, the United States may catch up to ~~[1,822-XXXX]~~ metric tons for both years combined (biennial limit), and up to ~~[1,285-XXXX]~~ metric tons in either year (one-year maximum). The catch limits for the United States will be subtracted and reserved from the total catch limits in paragraph 4 for the exclusive use of the United States.]
 - b. [During ~~2027 - 2028~~~~2025-2026~~, Mexico may catch up to ~~[10,763-XXXX]~~ metric tons for both years combined (biennial limit), and up to ~~[6,296-XXXX]~~ metric tons in either year (one-year maximum). The catch limits for Mexico will be subtracted and reserved from the total catch limits in paragraph 4 for the exclusive use of Mexico.]
6. Any over-harvest [by any CPC] shall be deducted from [the at CPC's] catch limit in the following year ~~in accordance with Paragraph 5 of Resolution C-23-01.~~ in accordance with the TAC provided in the MP (C-26-XX). ~~Over-harvest of the 2023-2024 biennial catch limits established in Resolution C-21-05 shall be deducted from 2025-2026 catch limits applicable to this Resolution.~~
- ~~7. Under harvest of 2023-2024 biennial catch limits established in Resolution C-21-05 shall be added to catch limits in this Resolution applicable to 2025-2026 in accordance with Paragraph 6 of Resolution C-23-01.~~
- ~~8.~~ 7. CPCs should endeavor to manage catches by vessels under their respective national jurisdictions in such a manner and through such mechanisms as might be applied, with the objective of reducing the proportion of fish of less than 30 kg in the catch toward 50% of total catch, taking into consideration the scientific advice of the ISC and the IATTC staff. At the annual meetings of the IATTC ~~in 2025 and 2026~~, the Scientific Staff shall present the results of the previous year's fishing season in this regard for the Commission's review.
- ~~9.~~ 8. ~~In each year in 2025-2026, each~~ Each CPC shall report its commercial catches to the Director ~~weekly~~ after 50% of its annual catch limit in each year is reached.
- ~~10.~~ 9. The Director will send out notices to all CPCs when 75% and 90% of the limits in Paragraphs 4 or 5 have been reached. The Director will send out a notice to all CPCs when the limits in Paragraphs 4 or 5 have been reached.
- ~~11.~~ 10. By 31 January of each year ~~in 2025-2026~~, the Director shall notify all CPCs of the catch limit for each year [in 2027 - 2028 in 2025-2026] established in Paragraphs 4 and 5 of this resolution that accounts for any over-harvest ~~or under harvest~~ in accordance with [Paragraphs 6 and 7] of this Resolution, ~~and Paragraphs 5 and 6 of Resolution C-23-01.~~

~~12. In each year in 2025-2026, the IATTC Scientific Staff shall present an assessment to the Scientific Advisory Committee of the effectiveness of this resolution also taking into consideration the results of the ISC's latest Pacific bluefin tuna stock assessment, harvest scenario projections performed by the ISC, and conservation and management measures for Pacific bluefin tuna adopted by the WCPFC. The Commission shall review and consider revising the management measures established in this Resolution based on the best available information, including the harvest strategy based on the management strategy evaluation expected to be completed in 2025, the latest assessment, recruitment information, projections or other relevant information, as well as outcomes of the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group on Pacific bluefin tuna.~~

~~13.~~ 11. This resolution replaces resolution C-~~21-05~~24-02.

**IATTC-WCPFC NC JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
ELEVENTH SESSION (JWG-11)**

8 – 11 July 2026
Nagasaki, Japan (Hybrid)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA (CMM 2024-01)**

IATTC-NC-JWG11-2026-DP01

24 June 2026

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Proposal by the Republic of Korea to Amend the Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna

1. Purpose

The Republic of Korea submits this proposal to establish a more equitable, transparent and workable framework for the allocation and implementation of Pacific bluefin tuna catch limits in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

The stock has recovered substantially through the collective conservation efforts of participating Members. The benefits arising from that recovery should be shared in a fair and equitable manner, while maintaining the long-term sustainability of the stock.

2. Fair and equitable allocation

Existing national catch limits were developed largely on the basis of catches during the 2002–2004 reference period and were expressly established without prejudice to a future agreement on the allocation of total allowable catch.

Historical fishing patterns remain relevant, but they should not constitute the sole or permanent basis for allocation. Applying the same percentage increase to substantially unequal national limits would reproduce and further widen existing disparities, with Members holding larger historical allocations receiving most of the additional fishing opportunities.

In Korea's view, achieving a genuinely fair and equitable balance would ultimately require a comprehensive reconsideration and redistribution of existing national catch limits, taking into account the full range of allocation criteria under the WCPF Convention and current fishery circumstances.

Nevertheless, recognizing the practical difficulty of reaching agreement on a comprehensive redistribution at this stage, and in the spirit of compromise, Korea proposes that existing national catch limits remain unchanged and that the increase in the WCPO catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger be allocated equally among the three CCMs currently subject to national large-fish catch limits.

This approach would:

- preserve existing national catch limits;
- apply only to newly available fishing opportunities;
- prevent the further widening of existing disparities; and
- provide a simple, transparent and workable basis for agreement.

The proposed equal allocation of the increase is therefore a pragmatic compromise and is without prejudice to a future comprehensive review of existing national allocations.

3. Coastal State interests

The proposal recognizes the sovereign rights, legitimate fishing interests and management responsibilities of coastal States in whose areas under national jurisdiction Pacific bluefin tuna occur.

Changes in the abundance and distribution of the stock have created significant challenges for coastal and non-target fisheries, particularly where existing national limits are insufficient to accommodate recurring or unavoidable catches.

The proposal does not seek to establish an exclusive entitlement based on the occurrence of the stock in national waters. It seeks to ensure that coastal State interests, management responsibilities and the needs of coastal communities are properly considered in future allocation reviews.

4. Conversion factor

The proposal seeks to adjust the conversion factor applied when a catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg is used to catch fish 30 kg or larger.

The current factor of 0.68 was established on a precautionary basis during the stock-rebuilding period. Recent information provided by the ISC indicates substantial differences in fishing impact per unit of catch among fishery sectors and provides an updated scientific basis for reconsidering the current factor.

Korea therefore proposes that the conversion factor be adjusted in light of the most recent ISC information, without specifying a particular numerical value at this stage. The revised factor should be agreed on the basis of the best available scientific information, while maintaining an appropriate level of precaution and ensuring that the overall fishing impact is not increased.

An updated conversion factor would better reflect current scientific understanding, encourage the harvest of larger fish and support more efficient use of existing catch limits without undermining the conservation objectives of the measure.

5. Fishing-effort limits

The proposal also seeks to address the application of the 2002–2004 fishing-effort baseline to a CCM that had no fishing activity using a particular gear type during that period.

A strict application of the historical baseline could permanently prevent such a CCM from introducing that gear type, even where all catches remain within its binding national catch limits. This would preserve historical differences in fleet structure regardless of subsequent changes in stock distribution, fishing practices, technology and domestic management needs.

Korea therefore proposes that a CCM with no fishing effort using a particular gear type during the baseline period be permitted to authorize a limited number of vessels using that gear type, subject to advance notification, effective monitoring and annual reporting.

This flexibility would not create additional catch entitlement or increase the CCM's applicable catch limit. All catches would remain subject to the same national catch limits under the measure.

The proposed approach would prevent the historical effort baseline from operating as a permanent prohibition on the development or diversification of a CCM's fisheries. It could also facilitate the introduction of fishing methods that improve size selectivity, reduce juvenile catch or respond more effectively to changes in stock distribution.

Where catches remain subject to effective and enforceable limits, limited flexibility in the composition of fishing effort can be provided without undermining the conservation objectives of the measure.

6. Management flexibility

The proposal includes measures to improve practical implementation while maintaining conservation effectiveness and accountability.

These measures include:

- allowing catch limits to be managed over a multi-year management period;
- allowing catches in individual years to vary within the total catch limit for that management period;
- carrying any unused portion of a management-period catch limit forward to the subsequent management period;
- providing greater carry-forward flexibility for CCMs with relatively small catch limits; and
- requiring continued annual monitoring, reporting and transparent calculation of all adjustments.

A CCM's total initial catch limit for a management period would be the sum of its annual initial catch limits for each year of that period. Where a conversion factor is applied, the applicable total catch limit would be adjusted accordingly. Each CCM would remain responsible for ensuring that its cumulative catch during the management period does not exceed its total catch limit for that period.

These arrangements would address interannual variability in the occurrence and catch of Pacific bluefin tuna and allow available fishing opportunities to be used more efficiently, without increasing the overall fishing impact authorized under the measure.

7. Conclusion

The long-term credibility and durability of the Pacific bluefin tuna management framework will depend not only on its biological performance, but also on whether Members consider the allocation and implementation of fishing opportunities to be fair, equitable and workable.

Korea remains committed to the conservation and sustainable use of Pacific bluefin tuna. Korea considers that a balanced outcome should:

- protect the recovery of the stock;
- provide a fair and equitable balance of fishing opportunities;
- avoid the further entrenchment of historical disparities;

- reflect the legitimate interests and responsibilities of coastal States; and
- provide sufficient flexibility for effective domestic implementation.

The proposal seeks to provide a practical basis for achieving these objectives and for securing broad and durable support for the future management framework.



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

Conservation and Management Measure 2026-01

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Recognizing that WCPFC6 adopted Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM 2009-07) and the measure was revised thirteen times since then (CMM 2010-04, CMM 2012-06, CMM 2013-09, CMM 2014-04, CMM 2015-04, CMM 2016-04, CMM 2017-08, CMM 2018-02, CMM 2019-02, CMM 2020-02, CMM 2021-02, CMM 2023-02 and CMM 2024-01) based on the conservation advice from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) on this stock;

Noting the latest stock assessment provided by ISC in 2024, indicating the following:

- Spawning stock biomass (SSB) has increased substantially in the last 12 years, and achieved its second rebuilding target ($20\%SSB_{F=0}$) in 2021;
- A substantial decrease in estimated F has been observed in ages 0-2 in 2020-2022 relative to 2002-2004 and 2012-2014;
- Since the early 1990s, the WCPO purse seine fisheries, in particular those targeting small fish (age 0-1) have had an increasing impact on the spawning stock biomass, but its impact has reduced in recent years;
- Harvesting small fish has a greater impact on future spawning stock biomass than harvesting large fish of the same amount;
- The projection results indicate that increases of catch limits are possible while maintaining SSB greater than $20\%SSB_{F=0}$ with a 60% probability under several scenarios requested by JWG8, and while allowing SSB to steadily increase above the second rebuilding target under additionally requested certain scenarios ; and
- The projection results also indicate that the maximum allowable transfer from small fish catch limits to large fish catch limits utilizing the conversion factor has a positive effect on future SSB.

Noting the conservation advice from the ISC that research on a recruitment index for the stock assessment should be pursued, and maintenance of a reliable adult abundance index should be ensured;

Recalling that paragraph (4) of the Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention, which requires cooperation between the Commission and the IATTC to reach agreement to harmonize CMMs for fish stocks such as Pacific bluefin tuna that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Also recalling Article 10 (1) (a) of the WCPF Convention, which provides that the Commission may determine the total allowable catch or total level of fishing effort within the Convention Area for such highly migratory fish stocks and decide and adopt such other conservation and management measures and recommendations as may be necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of such stocks without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing highly migratory fish stocks within areas under national jurisdiction;

Recalling further Articles 4, 7, 8 and 10 of the WCPF Convention, including that:

- the functions of the Commission are without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing highly migratory fish stocks within areas under national jurisdiction;
- coastal States apply conservation and management principles within areas under national jurisdiction in the exercise of those sovereign rights;
- compatible measures shall take into account the extent to which stocks occur and are fished in areas under national jurisdiction and the respective dependence of coastal States on the stocks concerned; and
- allocation criteria shall take into account, inter alia, present fishing patterns, contributions to conservation and management, compliance records, the needs of coastal communities and the fishing interests and aspirations of coastal States in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks occur;

Acknowledging that the national catch limits contained in CMM 2024-01 were expressly established without prejudice to a future agreement on the allocation of total allowable catch;

Conscious of the need to identify, analyze and respond to the impacts of climate change on the tuna and tuna- like species in the North Pacific Ocean in a timely manner to enhance the effectiveness of the conservation and management for the species;

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

General Provision

1. This conservation and management measure shall apply to implement the Management Procedure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (CMM 2026-XX).

Catch and Effort Management

2. CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that total fishing effort by their vessel fishing, except for recreational fishing vessels, for Pacificbluefin tuna in the area north of the 20° N shall stay below the 2002–2004 annual average levels, without prejudice to future consideration of baseline periods.
3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, where a CCM had no fishing effort using a particular gear type during the 2002-2004 baseline period, that CCM may authorize its vessels using that gear type to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna, provided that the CCM:

- a. ensures that all catches remain within its applicable catch limits under this measure;
 - b. notifies the Executive Director in advance of the number and gear type of the vessels concerned;
 - c. register the vessels to the WCPFC List of Authorized Vessels;
 - d. report annually on the fishing effort and catches of those vessels
4. For 2027 and 2028, Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei shall, respectively, take measures necessary to ensure that its catches of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg and Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger shall not exceed the annual catch limits in the tables below, without prejudice to future agreement on allocation of TAC.

Pacific Bluefin tuna less than 30kg

	2002-2004 average annual level	Annual initial catch limit in 2027	Annual initial catch limit in 2028
Japan	8,015 metric tons	4,407 metric tons	4,407 metric tons
Korea	1,435 metric tons	718 metric tons	718 metric tons

Pacific Bluefin tuna 30kg or larger

	2002-2004 average annual level	Annual initial catch limit in 2027	Annual initial catch limit in 2028
Japan	4,882 metric tons	9,410 metric tons	9,410 metric tons
Korea	0 metric tons	1,490 metric tons	1,490 metric tons
Chinese Taipei	1,709 metric tons	3,936 metric tons	3,936 metric tons

5. CCMs with a base line catch (2002-2004 average annual level) of 10 tons or less of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger may increase their catch as long as it does not exceed 10 metric tons per year. For 2027 and 2028, the catch limit of Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger for New Zealand shall be [200] metric tonnes per year and for Australia [40] metric tonnes per year, taking into account their nature as bycatch fisheries conducted in their waters in the Southern hemisphere.
6. CCMs are encouraged to conduct research activities to collect reliable indices of recruitment stock and adult spawning stock. Notwithstanding paragraph 4 and 5, setting a catch limit dedicated for research activities to develop and maintain indices may be considered by WCPFC through the Northern Committee based on research plans reviewed and supported by the ISC.

Multi-year Management

7. Within the two-year management period of 2027-2028, A CCM may use in either year any portion of the catch limit attributable to the other year, provided that its cumulative catch during the management period does not exceed its total catch limit for that two-year period.⁸.
8. Any overage in a CCM's applicable catch limit at the end of a management period shall be deducted from that CCM's catch limit for the immediately subsequent management period.
9. Any underage in a CCM's applicable catch limit at the end of a management period may be carried forward and added to that CCM's catch limit for the immediately subsequent management period.

⁸ Notwithstanding paragraph 7 and 9, Korea may add 323 metric tons of its unused 2025 catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg to its catch limit for 2027 or to its first biennial management period commencing in 2027. The amount carried forward under this paragraph may be used to catch Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger in accordance with paragraph 10. This special arrangement does not create any precedent in future management.

10. CCMs described in paragraph 4 may use part of the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg stipulated in paragraph 3 above to catch Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger in the same year. In this case, the amount of catch 30kg or larger shall be counted against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg.⁹ CCMs shall not use the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger to catch Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg.
11. All CCMs except Japan shall implement the limits in paragraph 4 and 5 on a calendar-year basis. Japan shall implement the limits using a management year other than the calendar year for some of its fisheries and have its implementation assessed with respect to its management year. To facilitate the assessment, Japan shall:
 - a. Use the following management years:
 1. For its fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, use the calendar year as the management year.
 2. For its other fisheries, use 1 April – 31 March as the management year.¹⁰
 - b. In its annual reports for PBF, for each category described in a.1 and a.2 above, complete the required reporting template for both the management year and calendar year clearly identifying fisheries for each management year.

Reporting, Monitoring and Cooperation

12. CCMs shall report to the Executive Director by 15 June each year their fishing effort and <30 kg and ≥30 kg catch levels, by fishery, for the previous 3 years, accounting for all catches, including discards. CCMs shall report their annual catch limits and their annual catches of PBF, with adequate computation details, to present their implementation for paragraph 7, 8, 9 and 10, if the measures and arrangements in the said paragraphs and relevant footnotes applied. The Executive Director will compile this information each year into an appropriate format for the use of the Northern Committee.
13. CCMs shall intensify cooperation for effective implementation of this CMM, including juvenile catch reduction. For this purpose, CCMs will make every effort to prevent their catch of age-0 fish (less than 2kg) from increasing beyond their 50% of 2002-2004 levels, without prejudice to future consideration of baseline periods.
14. CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year.
15. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, and in accordance with domestic laws and regulations, CCMs shall, to the extent possible, take measures necessary to prevent commercial transaction of Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of this CMM, especially measures prescribed in the paragraph 4 and 5 above. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.
16. CCMs shall cooperate to establish a catch documentation scheme (CDS) to be applied to Pacific bluefin tuna in accordance with the **Attachment** of this CMM.

⁹ A CCM may count the amount of catch 30kg or larger adjusted with the conversion factor [0.68] (catch 30kg or larger multiplied by [0.68]) against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30kg.

³ For the category described a.2 of paragraph 11, the TCC shall assess in year 20XX its implementation during the management year that starts 1 April 20XX-1 (e.g., in the 2020 compliance review, the TCC will assess Japan's implementation for its fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries during calendar-year 2019 and for its other fisheries during 1 April 2019 through 31 March 2020).

17. CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen monitoring and data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries and farming in order to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting.
18. CCMs shall report to the Executive Director by 15 June annually measures they used to implement paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 14 of this CMM. CCMs shall also monitor the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna and report the results to the Executive Director by 15 June annually. The Northern Committee shall annually review those reports CCMs submit pursuant to this paragraph and if necessary, advise a CCM to take an action for enhancing its compliance with this CMM.
19. The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this CMM to the IATTC Secretariat and its contracting parties whose fishing vessels engage in fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in EPO and request them to take equivalent measures in conformity with this CMM.
20. To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties through the Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna or bilaterally.
21. The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 4 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 Pacific bluefin tuna is limited, but that have a real interest in fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for Pacific bluefin tuna in the future.
22. The provisions of paragraph 21 shall not provide a basis for an increase in fishing effort by fishing vessels owned or operated by interests outside such developing coastal State, particularly 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.
23. The Northern Committee shall review the allocation of WCPO Pacific Bluefin Tuna catch limits no later than 2028 and at regular intervals thereafter.

The review shall take into account, inter alia:

- a. the status of the stock and the applicable management procedure;
- b. past and present fishing patterns and practices;
- c. the needs of coastal communities;
- d. changes in the distribution of Pacific bluefin tuna;
- e. the extent to which the stock occurs and is caught in areas under national jurisdiction;
- f. unavoidable catches in non-target coastal fisheries and the capacity of existing national catch limits to accommodate such catches; and
- g. the fishing interests, management responsibilities and aspirations of coastal States.

Development of a Catch Document Scheme for Pacific Bluefin Tuna

Background

At the 1st joint working group meeting between NC and IATTC, held in Fukuoka, Japan from August 29 to September 1, 2016, participants supported to advance the work on the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) in the next joint working group meeting, in line with the development of overarching CDS framework by WCPFC and taking into account of the existing CDS by other RFMOs.

1. Objective of the Catch Document Scheme

The objective of CDS is to combat IUU fishing for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) by providing a means of preventing PBF and its products identified as caught by or originating from IUU fishing activities from moving through the commodity chain and ultimately entering markets.

2. Use of electronic scheme

Whether CDS will be a paper based scheme, an electronic scheme or a gradual transition from a paper based one to an electronic one should be first decided since the requirement of each scheme would be quite different.

3. Basic elements to be included in the draft conservation and management measure (CMM)

It is considered that at least the following elements should be considered in drafting CMM.

- (1) Objective
- (2) General provision
- (3) Definition of terms
- (4) Validation authorities and validating process of catch documents and re-export certificates
- (5) Verification authorities and verifying process for import and re-import
- (6) How to handle PBF caught by artisanal fisheries
- (7) How to handle PBF caught by recreational or sport fisheries
- (8) Use of tagging as a condition for exemption of validation
- (9) Communication between exporting members and importing members
- (10) Communication between members and the Secretariat
- (11) Role of the Secretariat
- (12) Relationship with non-members
- (13) Relationship with other CDSs and similar programs
- (14) Consideration to developing members
- (15) Schedule for introduction
- (16) Attachment
 - (i) Catch document forms
 - (ii) Re-export certificate forms
 - (iii) Instruction sheets for how to fill out forms
 - (iv) List of data to be extracted and compiled by the Secretariat

4. Work plan

The following schedule may need to be modified, depending on the progress on the WCPFC CDS for tropical tunas.

- 2017 The joint working group will submit this concept paper to the NC and IATTC for endorsement. NC will send the WCPFC annual meeting the recommendation to endorse the paper.
 - 2018 The joint working group will hold a technical meeting, preferably around its meeting, to materialize the concept paper into a draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.
 - 2019 The joint working group will hold a second technical meeting to improve the draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.
 - 20XX The joint working group will hold a third technical meeting to finalize the draft CMM. Once it is finalized, the joint working group will submit it to the NC and the IATTC for adoption. The NC will send the WCPFC the recommendation to adopt it.
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**COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION TABLE TO IMPROVE MONITORING OF CATCH LIMITS FOR
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

WCPFC-NC22-2026-DP02_Rev01

WCPFC22 adopted the 2025 Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR 2025), covering Reporting Year 2024, as Attachment 28 to the WCPFC22 Provisional Outcomes.

With regard to paragraph 3 of CMM 2023-02 (currently paragraph 3 of CMM 2024-01), bullet point 5 of paragraph 28 of CMR 2025 *recommended that the Northern Committee and the Commission give consideration to improving the processes so that the information on carry over of catches and transfer of small and large fish is clearly identified to enable the Secretariat to more easily verify compliance with this obligation in future.*

In response to this recommendation, Japan submitted a draft implementation table to improve monitoring for Pacific bluefin tuna catch limits as attached below.

Catch limit implementation table for Pacific bluefin tuna

Catch limit for small fish (<30kg)

Year	2026	2027	2028
(a) Initial Catch Limit			
(b) Overage of the previous year's catch limit to be deducted			
Underage of the previous year's catch limit to be added ¹¹			
(c) Portion transferred to the catch limit for large fish			
(d) Adjusted catch limit (= (a) ± (b) - (c))			
(e) Actual Catch			
(f) Overage/Underage (= (d) - (e))			

Catch limit for large fish (≥30kg)

Year	2026	2027	2028
(A) Initial Catch Limit			
(B) Overage of the previous year's catch limit to be deducted			
Underage of the previous year's catch limit to be added ¹²			
(C) Portion transferred from the catch limit for small fish with conversion factor 0.68 (= (c) / 0.68)			
(D) Adjusted catch limit (= (A) ± (B) + (C))			
(E) Actual Catch			
(F) Overage/Underage (= (D) - (E))			

^{11, 12} The maximum underage that a CCM may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 17% of its annual initial catch limit ((a) and (A), respectively).

**COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE CATCH AND EFFORT REPORTING TEMPLATE

WCPFC-NC22-2026-WP04

For the compilation of the catch and effort tables for North Pacific albacore in line with CMM 2019-03, the NC requested the Secretariat to use the proposed template to report catch and effort data presented in its annual “UPDATED INFORMATION ON NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE FISHING EFFORT” paper (i.e., WCPFC-NC22-2026-WP01) to the NC. The NC also encouraged Members to use this template in their future report of implementation.

Table 1-1a. Total annual catch (metric tonnes) of NP albacore by [CCM/Fleet] from 2002-2025 for the North Pacific Ocean

Year	CCM 1	CCM 2	CCM 3	CCM 4	CCM 5	CCM 6	CCM 7	ETC	TOTAL Catch
2002									
2003									
2004									
2005									
2006									
2007									
2008									
2009									
2010									
2011									
2012									
2013									
2014									
2015									
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2018									
2019									
2020									
2021									
2022									
2023									
2024									
2025									
2002-2004 Avg									

Table 1-1b. Total annual catch (metric tonnes) of NP albacore by [CCM/Fleet] from 2002-2025 for the WCPFC CA

Year	CCM 1	CCM 2	CCM 3	CCM 4	CCM 5	CCM 6	CCM 7	ETC	TOTAL Catch
2002									
2003									
2004									
2005									
2006									
2007									
2008									
2009									
2010									
2011									
2012									
2013									
2014									
2015									
2016									
2017									
2018									
2019									
2020									
2021									
2022									
2023									
2024									
2025									
2002-2004 Avg									

Table 1-2a. Total annual catch (metric tonnes) of targeted NP albacore by [CCM/Fleet] from 2002-2025 for the North Pacific Ocean

Year	CAN PL	CHN LL	JPN LL Coastal	JPN LL DW	JPN PL DW	TWN LL	US Troll	VUT LL	Cook Islands Tr	Cook Island LL	Fiji LL	KOR PS	Phil HL	[Any missing CCM]	TOTAL Catch
2002															
2003															
2004															
2005															
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2023															
2024															
2025															
2002-2004 Avg															

Table 1-2b. Total annual catch (metric tonnes) of targeted NP albacore by [CCM/Fleet] from 2002-2025 for the WCPFC CA

Year	CAN PL	CHN LL	JPN LL Coastal	JPN LL DW	JPN PL DW	TWN LL	US Troll	VUT LL	Cook Islands Tr	Cook Island LL	Fiji LL	KOR PS	Phil HL	[Any missing CCM]	TOTAL Catch
2002															
2003															
2004															
2005															
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2018															
2019															
2020															
2021															
2022															
2023															
2024															
2025															
2002-2004 Avg															

Table 2. Total effort (in vessels and vessel days) for all [fisheries/CCMs/Fleets] that targeted NP albacore from 2002-2025

(TR: troll, LL: longline, PL: pole-and-line, PS: purse seine, HL: handline, Co: coastal, DW: distant water, V: no. of vessels, D: fishing days)

	CAN		CHN		JPN						TPE		USA		VUT		COK				FJI		KOR		PHL		CCM		TOTAL	
Year	TR V	TR D	LL V	LL D	LL Co V	LL Co D	LL DW V	LL DW D	PL DW V	LL DW D	LL V	LL D	TR V	TR D	LL V	LL D	TR V	TR D	LL V	LL D	LL V	LL D	PS V	PS D	HL V	HL D	[V]	[D]	V	D
2002																														
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2025																														
2002- 2004 Avg																														

COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN

NORTHERN COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION

DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE CMM FOR NP ALBACORE (CMM 2019-03)

WCPFC-NC22-2026-DP03_Rev02

Outstanding issues involved in the following document.

(1) Scope of application

- Area
- Fishery (Definition of “fishing for”)

(2) Management matrix

- Catch limits for all relevant fisheries _
Catch limit for LL/Effort limits for Surface fisheries
- Base line period



Western and
Central Pacific
Fisheries
Commission

NORTHERN COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION

13-14 July 2026
Nagasaki, Japan (Hybrid)

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

WCPFC-NC22-2026/DP-XX

July 14, 2026

Revised submission compiled by Canada and Japan at the request of the NC Chair

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC),

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.~~

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,

Recognizing that the ~~Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)~~ adopted, ~~at its 73rd 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:

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.~~

XX. The Measure implements components of HS 2023-01.

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] [2003-2005] annual average levels, in accordance with HS 2023-01.

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 [targeting] [fishing for] North Pacific albacore, [whether taken as target catch or as bycatch] [incidental catch] [except for fisheries with annual average catch of less than XXX metric tons over the most recent three years] in the ~~WCPFC~~ Convention Area is not increased beyond 2002-2004 annual average levels;

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.

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.

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

[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~~ ~~eter~~.]

[6bis. 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

Commented [HW1]: To reflect comment from the US

Commented [剛三2]: Suggesting to change the color of letter for Japan's proposal.

Commented [HW3]: Edit provided by US

Commented [HW4]: Comment from Vanuatu (tbc) supported by Chinese Taipei

Commented [剛三5R4]: The Chinese Taipei's suggestion to put pending on the baseline period should go to the catch limit provision that Japan suggested.

Commented [HW6]: Comment from China

Commented [HW7]: Comment from the US

Commented [剛三8]: Japan's new proposal on the floor, to address other CCMs concerns about the scope of this provision.

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Commented [HW13]: Comment from Cook Islands: seeking clarity on the allocation mechanism – needs to be agreed in advance rather than at the point a trigger occurs

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.]

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

[6ALT. 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.”]

6quincies. 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.

~~6sexies. 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.”~~

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.

Commented [剛三14]: Japan suggests to put a bracket on the entire paragraph because the concept of the core part, when the stock level is below the threshold reference point, has not been agreed in NC.

Commented [HW15]: Comment from China: "China seeks clarification on paragraph 6 ter. The draft converts allocations into catch limits for longline fleets, but effort limits for surface fleets. We would like to understand the reason for this difference. "

Commented [HW16]: Additional comment from China: "China's albacore longline fishery has traditionally been managed by effort. We therefore propose allowing each CCM to implement its allocation through catch, effort, or a combination of both, according to the characteristics of its fishery, rather than imposing a fixed approach by gear type. "

Commented [剛三17]: Japan inserted its proposal, the introduction of catch limit scheme when the stock status is below the SSB threshold with bracket in the entire paragraph, due to the same reason as Canada's proposal.

Commented [剛三18]: Comment from Chinese Taipei

Commented [剛三19]: Japan believes that the scheme of implementing plan should be applied only for cases which the stock status goes down to below the SSB threshold.

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

CC M	Ar ea ¹	Fish ery	2002-04 Average		Year			Year			Year			Year			Year		
			No. of ves sels	Ves sel day s	No. of ves sels	No. of ves sels	Ves sel day s	No. of ves sels	No. of ves sels	Ves sel day s	No. of ves sels	No. of ves sels	Ves sel day s	No. of ves sels	No. of ves sels	Ves sel day s	No. of ves sels	No. of ves sels	Ves sel day s

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

**COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

CANDIDATE INPUTS FOR NP SWORDFISH

WCPFC-NC22-2026-DP04_Rev01

**Candidate Inputs to Inform a Management Strategy Evaluation for
North Pacific Swordfish**

Introduction

In 2025, the WCPFC Northern Committee (NC) agreed to initiate a management strategy evaluation (MSE) for Western and Central North Pacific Swordfish (NP SWO). The NC tasked the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species (ISC) to develop a work plan for conducting the MSE for NC's review in 2026. The NC also tasked itself to discuss candidate operational management objectives in 2026. After NC21 concluded, the funding for a contractor to assist with the technical MSE work was secured. This funding, however, is time-limited so MSE work needs to be completed by 2028. To ensure the MSE can be completed within the time constraints of funding, ~~the NC provided the following United States believes that it is important for NC to provide ample~~ guidance on inputs to the MSE ~~for NP SWO~~ so that the ISC can begin work on preliminary analyses. ~~The United States has developed the following candidate inputs for consideration by NC22 for an MSE for NP SWO. The United States used some of the inputs used in the NP albacore and Pacific bluefin tuna MSEs as templates for the candidate inputs for NP SWO.~~

Candidate Management Objectives and Performance Indicators

The ~~NC identified United States proposes~~ the following candidate management objectives and candidate performance indicators for use in the NP SWO MSE evaluation (Table 1).

Table 1. Candidate management objectives and performance indicators by category for a NP SWO MSE.

Category	Management Objective	Label	Performance Indicator
Safety	Maintain SSB above the limit reference point with at least 80% probability	Probability SSB > LRP	Probability that SSB is greater than the LRP in any given year of the MSE evaluation period
Status	Maintain fishing intensity (F) at the target value with at least a 50% probability	F_{Target}/F	F_{Target}/F
Stability	Change in total allowable catch between years should be relatively gradual	Catch stability	Probability that change in TAC is <10% between consecutive management periods
		Probability of no management change	Probability of SSB > SSB _{threshold}
Yield	Maintain catches above average historical catch levels	Probability catch $\geq$ historical catch levels	Probability that catch in any given year of the MSE evaluation period is greater than or equal to average historical (2008-2018) catch.

Candidate Reference Points

Previously, the ISC has identified NP SWO as a Level 1 stock, and HS 2016-01 specifies the LRP for NP SWO at F_{MSY} .

The [NC identified](#) ~~United States proposes~~ the additional following candidate reference points for consideration as part of the WCNPO MSE evaluation:

- LRP = $SSB_{\text{MSY}} = 17\% SSB_{F=0}$
- TRPs = FSPR40%, FSPR35%, FSPR30%,
- ThRP = 35% $SSB_{F=0}$, 30% $SSB_{F=0}$, 25% $SSB_{F=0}$

Candidate Harvest Control Rules

The [NC requests the ISC to evaluate](#) ~~United States proposes evaluating~~ the candidate harvest control rules (HCRs) contained in Table 2 with the general HCR shape as depicted in Figure 1. Additionally, these HCRs should be evaluated with and without a meta-rule that limits TAC changes between management periods to 10%.

Table 2. Candidate Harvest Control Rules

HCR	F_{TARGET}	Control Point 1 (ThRP)	Control Point 2 (LRP)	F_{min}
1	F40%	35% $SSB_{F=0}$	17% $SSB_{F=0}$	F90%
2	F40%	30% $SSB_{F=0}$	17% $SSB_{F=0}$	F90%
3	F40%	25% $SSB_{F=0}$	17% $SSB_{F=0}$	F90%
4	F35%	30% $SSB_{F=0}$	17% $SSB_{F=0}$	F90%
5	F35%	25% $SSB_{F=0}$	17% $SSB_{F=0}$	F90%
6	F30%	25% $SSB_{F=0}$	17% $SSB_{F=0}$	F90%

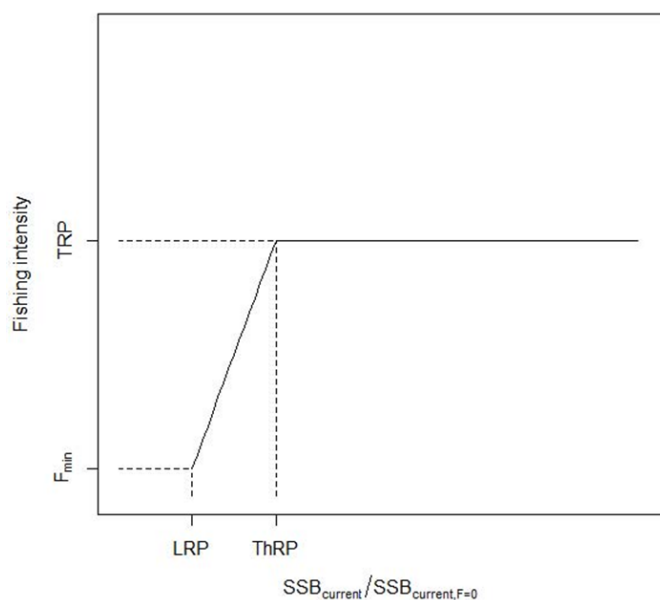


Figure 1. Generalized HCR shape

Other Operational Considerations

The ~~NC recommends that the United States suggests that the WCNPO~~ SWO MSE be designed such that the duration of the management periods be 3 years, ~~and. Additionally, the United States suggests~~ that the output controls of the MSE are total allowable catch (TAC).

The MSE should be designed to manage all ~~fishing mortality of fisheries harvesting~~ NP swordfish (Western and Central North Pacific Ocean SWO and North Eastern Pacific Ocean SWO) in the Pacific Ocean north of the equator.

Recognizing that WCPFC CMM 2023-03 applies to the high seas and EEZ in the WCPFC Convention Area north of 20N, and limits fishing effort for fisheries harvesting over 200 mt of NP SWO, the NC requests the MSE to identify average catch levels for those fisheries that are not included within the WCPFC CMM for the WCPFC Convention Area to inform future considerations related to implementation.

Attachment 8

**COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE NORTHERN COMMITTEE

Work areas	Objectives	Annual tasks		
	2027–2029	2027	2028	2029
1. Northern stocks				
a. Monitor status; consider management action	Review status and take action as needed for:			
	<u>North Pacific albacore</u> Tasks (A) Review members' reports on their implementation of CMM 2019-03. (B) Implement the Harvest Strategy, including: (1) monitor if LRP is breached; (2) continue to work on other elements of harvest strategies, if appropriate based on MSE; (3) recommend any changes to CMM.	Review the compiled members' reports and identify or make recommendations to rectify shortcomings. Continue to further development of the harvest strategy to complete Task (B)(2). Complete review of CMM and amend it if necessary, based upon 2026 stock assessment.	Review the compiled members' reports and identify or make recommendations to rectify shortcomings. Continue to further development of the harvest strategy to complete Task (B)(2).	Review the compiled members' reports and identify or make recommendations to rectify shortcomings. Continue to further development of the harvest strategy to complete Task (B)(2). Review the 2029 stock assessment results and recommend any necessary changes to CMM.

	<u>Pacific bluefin tuna</u> Tasks (A) Review members' reports on their implementation of CMM on Pacific bluefin tuna. (B) Complete the development of the Harvest Strategy including: (1) continue to work to establish LRP, TRP and other elements of harvest strategy; (2) recommend any changes to CMM; (C) Improve MCS; (D) Complete the work of CDS.	Review the compiled members' reports and identify or make recommendations to rectify shortcomings. Review the 2027 stock assessment/update results and recommend any necessary changes to CMM. (Task (C)). Complete tasks (B), (C), and (D).	Review the compiled members' reports and identify or make recommendations to rectify shortcomings. .	Review the compiled members' reports and identify or make recommendations to rectify shortcomings.
	<u>Swordfish</u> Further develop the harvest strategy consistent with CMM 2023-03 through MSE process.	Review the progress of the MSE process.	Review the progress of the MSE process.	Review the progress of the MSE process. Review the new stock assessment and recommend changes to CMM if necessary.
c. Scientific support	Provide support for scientific studies.			
2. Non-northern stocks				
	<u>Striped marlin</u>	Review the 2027 stock assessment results.		
	<u>Blue shark</u>	Review the 2027 stock assessment results.	Review information from ISC that may inform management advice	Review information from ISC that may inform management advice
3. Non-target, associated, dependent				

species				
a. Sea turtles	Consider appropriate implementation of methods to minimize catch and mortality.	Review mitigation research results and consider management action.	Review mitigation research results and consider management action.	Review mitigation research results and consider management action.
b. Sharks	Consider appropriate implementation for CMM 2024-05 in the northern area.	Review scientific advice from ISC, if any, and consider management options as necessary.	Review scientific advice from ISC, if any, and consider management options as necessary.	Review scientific advice from ISC, if any, and consider management options as necessary.
		Encourage submission of all shark data to ISC.	Encourage submission of all shark data to ISC.	Encourage submission of all shark data to ISC.
4. Review effectiveness of decisions	Annually review effectiveness of conservation and management measures and resolutions applicable to fisheries for northern stocks.	Review effectiveness of North Pacific albacore measure (CMM 2019-03), including members' reports on their interpretation and implementation of fishing effort control. Review effectiveness of Pacific bluefin tuna measure. Review effectiveness of North Pacific swordfish measure.	Review effectiveness of North Pacific albacore measure (CMM 2019-03), including members' reports on their interpretation and implementation of fishing effort control. Review effectiveness of Pacific bluefin tuna measure. Review effectiveness of North Pacific swordfish measure.	Review effectiveness of North Pacific albacore measure (CMM 2019-03), including members' reports on their interpretation and implementation of fishing effort control. Review effectiveness of Pacific bluefin tuna measure. Review effectiveness of North Pacific swordfish measure.
5. Cooperation with other organizations				
a. ISC		Review the progress.	Review the progress.	Review the progress.
b. IATTC	Following Article 22.4, consult to facilitate consistent management measures throughout the respective ranges of the northern stocks.	Have consultation to maintain consistent measures for North Pacific albacore, Pacific bluefin tuna, and swordfish. Hold a joint working group meeting on Pacific bluefin tuna	Have consultation to maintain consistent measures for North Pacific albacore, Pacific bluefin tuna, and swordfish. Hold a joint working group	Have consultation to maintain consistent measures for North Pacific albacore, Pacific bluefin tuna, and swordfish. Hold a joint working group

		management. Encourage IATTC participation in the NP SWO MSE process.	meeting on Pacific bluefin tuna management. Encourage IATTC participation in the NP SWO MSE process.	meeting on Pacific bluefin tuna management. Encourage IATTC participation in the NP SWO MSE process.
6. Climate Change	Develop a framework for how to include climate change analyses into NC processes.	Review the progress of climate change studies by the Commission and improve NC works.	Review the progress of climate change studies by the Commission and improve NC works.	Review the progress of climate change studies by the Commission and improve NC works.