

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

8 – 11 July 2026  
Nagasaki, Japan (Hybrid)

---

**REPORT ON CMM 2024-02 (MCS FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA)**

---

**IATTC-NC-JWG11-2026-DP06-1**

**JAPAN**

## Japan's Report on CMM 2024-02 (MCS of Pacific bluefin tuna)

### 2(1) Monitoring and control measures for fisheries

CMM 2024-02 Requirement	Japan's Implementation
<p>a. Registration of commercial fishing vessels that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including the WCPFC RFV in accordance with CMM 2018-06 on WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorization to Fish)</p>	<p>Japanese commercial fishing vessels targeting PBF are required to be authorized and registered under the licensing system by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the prefectural governments, or the Wide Sea-area Fisheries Adjustment Commission.</p> <p>The number of fishing vessels authorized to fish for PBF in 2025 was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- purse seine vessels: 56</li> <li>- longline (distant and offshore) vessels: 353</li> <li>- longline coastal vessels: 338</li> <li>- artisanal vessels: 19,661</li> </ul> <p>The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) has registered all vessels authorized to fish PBF on the high seas in the Convention Area in the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, in accordance with CMM 2018-06.</p>
<p>b. Registration of set nets that are authorized to fish for Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered set nets)</p>	<p>Set nets for PBF are required to obtain a license from the prefectural governments. The number of set nets licensed in 2025 was 1,688.</p>

c. Allocation of catch limits by fishery within the CCMs, where such allocation exist	<p>Most of the catch limits for PBF are divided into two sectors:</p> <p>(1) fisheries managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- purse seine fishery: 5,064.7mt (large fish), 708.9mt (small fish)</li><li>- longline fishery (distant and offshore): 1,157.1mt (large fish), 44.9mt (small fish)</li><li>- others : 75.7mt (large fish), 23.6mt (small fish)</li></ul> <p>(2) fisheries managed by prefectural governments: 3,634.2mt (large fish), 3,317.7mt (small fish)</p> <p>The remaining catch limits are retained by FAJ as reserves.</p>																																		
d. Reporting requirements for catches for fisheries (targeted, incidental, and discards)	<p>All fisheries are required to report their PBF catch to the FAJ, including bycatch and discards. The following table shows the reported catch by fisheries in the 2025 management year:</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2" rowspan="2">Fishery</th><th colspan="2">2025</th></tr><tr><th>&lt;30 kg</th><th>≥30 kg</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</td><td>Purse Seine</td><td>589</td><td>4,721</td></tr><tr><td>Longline Dist.&amp;Off.</td><td>0</td><td>1,104</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="4">Other fisheries</td><td>Longline Coastal</td><td>129</td><td>1,138</td></tr><tr><td>Artisanal fisheries</td><td>1,302</td><td>488</td></tr><tr><td>Set Net</td><td>1,390</td><td>1,191</td></tr><tr><td>Others</td><td>320</td><td>638</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Recreational fishing</td><td>0</td><td>71</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Total</td><td>3,730</td><td>9,350</td></tr></table>	Fishery		2025		<30 kg	≥30 kg	Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Purse Seine	589	4,721	Longline Dist.&Off.	0	1,104	Other fisheries	Longline Coastal	129	1,138	Artisanal fisheries	1,302	488	Set Net	1,390	1,191	Others	320	638	Recreational fishing		0	71	Total		3,730	9,350
Fishery				2025																															
		<30 kg	≥30 kg																																
Fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Purse Seine	589	4,721																																
	Longline Dist.&Off.	0	1,104																																
Other fisheries	Longline Coastal	129	1,138																																
	Artisanal fisheries	1,302	488																																
	Set Net	1,390	1,191																																
	Others	320	638																																
Recreational fishing		0	71																																
Total		3,730	9,350																																
e. Measures to monitor catch (e.g. landing receipts, landing inspection, observer program, etc.)	<p>FAJ established a new division in the agency that dedicates itself to the monitoring of catches and landings by fisheries. This division is assigned the task to monitor catch records of and conduct on-site inspections to not only large-scale fisheries managed by the Minster but also small-scal fisheries managed by prefectural governments. A total of 588 vessels were inspected for their landings from January to December 2025. In addition, FAJ conducted at-sea boarding inspections. Also, fishing vessels authorized to fish in the high seas are subject to the WCPFC Regional Observer Program.</p> <p>A port designation scheme has been introduced to PBF fisheries licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, under which fishing vessels are permitted to land PBF only at the Ministry-designated ports.</p>																																		

<p>f. Measures to monitor landings (including CMM 2017-02 on Minimum Standards for Port State Measures)</p>	<p>FAJ established a new division in the agency that dedicates itself to the monitoring of catches and landings by fisheries. This division is assigned the task to monitor catch records of and conduct on-site inspections to not only large-scale fisheries managed by the Minister but also small scall fisheries managed by prefectural governors. Further, since October 2023, FAJ has been conducting a pilot project for further enhanced monitoring of PBF fisheries, including the tagging to individual fish, installation of monitoring cameras at major landing sites, and random patrolling by a private company entrusted by FAJ for PBF landing activities. FAJ intends to further enhance its management and control measures for the PBF fisheries on the basis of the outcomes of the pilot project.</p> <p>Based on the Regulation of Fishing Operations by Foreign Nationals related laws and regulations, Japan has taken national binding measures to prohibit landing at its ports or transshipment to vessels flying its flag of tuna and tuna-like species caught in the Convention Area by vessels not on the RFV, in accordance with Minimum Standards for Port State Measures in CMM 2017-02.</p>
<p>g. Measures to monitor domestic transactions</p>	<p>On June 19, 2024, the National Diet of Japan adopted proposed amendments to the Fishery Act and the Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants for the improved management of PBF fisheries. These amendments aim at enhanced and strengthened monitoring and control on catch and distribution (traceability) for large PBF (30kg or larger). The measures that have been introduced through these amendments include:</p> <p>(Amendment of Fishery Act)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Requirement for fishers to report the number of fish in addition to the weight;</li> <li>(b) Requirement for fishers to maintain the information used for PBF catch reporting (e.g. name of fishing vessel) to enable the tracing and investigation of catch; and</li> <li>(c) Strengthened penalties for violation of catch reporting;</li> </ul> <p>(Amendment of Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants for the improvement of PBF fisheries)</p>

	<p>(a) Requirement for sellers to transfer the catch information the buyers;</p> <p>(b) Requirement for the sellers and the buyers to maintain the catch information; and</p> <p>(c) Requirement for exporters to acquire a legal harvest certificate at the time of export.</p>
--	--

## (2) Monitoring and control measures for farming

<b>CMM 2024-02 Requirement</b>	<b>Japan's Implementation</b>
a. Registration of farms that are authorized to farm Pacific bluefin tuna (including registration scheme, number of registered farms, number of registered 'holding pens' or 'cages')	Farming sites of PBF are required to obtain a license by prefectural governments. All farming sites for PBF are registered with the prefectural governments. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has instructed the prefectural governments to separate the licenses of PBF farming from those for other fish species. PBF farming sites are required to report the necessary information to the FAJ, such as the number of cages and the license numbers.
b. Reporting requirements for caging of fish	PBF farming sites are required to report their farming activities, such as information on number, average weight and source of PBF they caged, and number and average weight of PBF harvested.
c. Reporting requirements for harvest of farmed fish	
d. Measures to monitor farming activities (including Rules, standards, and procedures to monitor transfer and caging activities)	FAJ has instructed purse seine fishing vessels to record their caging activities of PBF by a stereo video camera or by an observer from an independent source.