



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
West Coast Region  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
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January 6, 2015

Mr. David Hogan  
Acting Director, Office of Marine Conservation  
Bureau of Oceans and International  
Environmental and Scientific Affairs  
U. S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Hogan,

At the November 2014 meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), the Council requested that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) prepare two white papers summarizing anecdotal information about particular international fisheries. For reference, this discussion occurred during agenda item I.2.f. on November 17, 2014, when the Council considered reports on international activities – see Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Subpanel Report on International Agreements<sup>1</sup> and Council Decision Summary Document.<sup>2</sup>

The two main concerns raised by the Council include:

- Japan and several other Pacific-fishing nations claim that their fishers only catch Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) commercially and for subsistence (i.e., no recreational or incidental catch) and therefore do not need to implement additional reductions in catch beyond the limits recently adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (CMM2013-09).<sup>3</sup> However, anecdotal information suggests recreational and incidental catch of PBF by Japan and other Pacific-fishing nations is occurring. U.S. stakeholders are concerned that these impacts have not been adequately accounted for in the development of current conservation and management measures.
- Anecdotal information suggests that China has not been reporting complete and timely catch data, and in the last five years has greatly expanded its PBF-fishing fleet.

In an effort to be responsive to the Council, NMFS requests that the Department of State (DOS) assist in communication with the appropriate authorities of China, Chinese Taipei, Korea, and

<sup>1</sup> [pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/I2d\\_Sup\\_HMSAS\\_Rpt\\_NOV2014BB.pdf](http://pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/I2d_Sup_HMSAS_Rpt_NOV2014BB.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/1114decisions.pdf](http://pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/1114decisions.pdf)

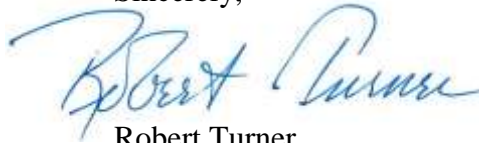
<sup>3</sup> [wcpfc.int/system/files/CMM%202013-09%20CMM%20for%20Pacific%20Bluefin%20Tuna.pdf](http://wcpfc.int/system/files/CMM%202013-09%20CMM%20for%20Pacific%20Bluefin%20Tuna.pdf)



Japan to solicit information on: (1) their definitions of commercial, subsistence, and recreational fisheries, as well as incidental catches; (2) which of the aforementioned methods result in catch of PBF, both currently and historically; and (3) the amount of catch and effort associated with each method, if applicable. NMFS also requests that the DOS solicit from China information on the size of its fleet each year since 2005, the number of vessels expected to join the fleet in the near future, and China's data reporting protocols (i.e., what, how, and when is the information collected).

NMFS intends to use any relevant information collected from this effort in development of the white papers, which we hope to submit to the Council by mid-February for inclusion in the advance Briefing Book for the meeting beginning March 6, 2015. Thank you very much for your assistance with this matter. If you have questions, please contact Heidi Taylor at [Heidi.Taylor@noaa.gov](mailto:Heidi.Taylor@noaa.gov) or (562) 980-4039.

Sincerely,



Robert Turner  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Sustainable Fisheries Division

Cc: Donald McIsaac, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Jean-Pierre Plé, Acting Director, Office of International Affairs  
Barry Thom, Deputy Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service

