

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE  
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA  
EIGHTH SESSION (JWG-08)**

Fukuoka, Japan  
3 – 5 July 2023

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**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT  
MEASURE FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA(CMM 2021-02)**

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**IATTC-NC-JWG08-2023/DP-12**

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

## **Proposed Amendments to Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (CMM 2021-02)**

### **I. Explanatory Note**

As some Members of JWG may recall, Korea had several incidents of discard by set net of unintended Pacific Bluefin tuna catches in its territorial waters last year as explained in the document WCPFC-NC18-2022/IP-04. Against this backdrop, Korea submitted a proposal to NC18 meeting, which was not discussed fully due to procedural concerns as the proposal had not gone through the JWG considerations. Therefore, Korea submits this proposal once again for the deliberation of the JWG and then subsequently NC19. The proposed changes in this proposal seek to continue to address the issue in consultation with interested Members of JWG.

The first change relates to the application of the conversion factor in footnote 2. While ISC came up with the conversion factor of 0.68, there was no specific scientific advice on the optimum percentage of the catch limit for the small PBF that could be utilized to catch large PBF using the conversion factor. The current rule, 10% for CCMs other than Korea and 25% for Korea, was set on a trial basis through negotiation, and we believe it has performed well in the context of the stock rebuilding process. In light of this and the recent upward trend in the stock, we would like to explore the possibility of increasing those figures from 10% to 20% and from 25% to 35% respectively, taking into account of the good pace of PBF stock rebuilding that has been observed in recent years. This still follows the scientific advice that the catches of large fish have less impact than the catches of small fish, and does not change the catch limits of the individual CCMs.

The second change, new footnote 4, suggests that the discards in certain fisheries which do not target PBF should not be required to be counted against the catch limit. The main purpose of this proposed change is to improve the data collection on discards, which would in turn contribute to the reduction of uncertainties in the stock assessment.

### **II. Consideration of CMM 2013-06**

**a. Who is required to implement the proposal?**

*The Republic of Korea is required to implement the proposal.*

**b. Which CCMs would this proposal impact and in what ways and what proportion?**

*This proposal may have some impact on the CCMs who have substantial interest in Pacific Bluefin tuna fisheries in the Pacific area but it is unlikely that it would impact SIDS. Nevertheless, we will have necessary consultations with SIDS before the*

*Commission meeting if this proposal is to submitted to the Commission meeting for discussion.*

- c. Are there linkages with other proposals or instruments in other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations or international organizations that reduce the burden of implementation?**

*No, there aren't.*

- d. Does the proposal affect development opportunities of SIDS?**

*No, this proposal does not affect development opportunities of SIDS.*

- e. Does the proposal affect SIDS domestic access to resources and development aspirations?**

*No, this proposal does not affect SIDS domestic access to resources or development aspirations.*

- f. What sources, including financial and human capacity, are needed by SIDS to implement the proposal?**

*No resources are required for SIDS to implement this CMM.*

- g. What mitigation measures are included in the proposal?**

*No mitigation measures are included.*

- h. What assistant mechanisms and associated timeframe, including training and financial support, are included in the proposal to avoid a disproportionate burden on SIDS?**

*This proposal does not place a disproportionate burden on SIDS.*



## **NORTHERN COMMITTEE**

### **Eighteenth Regular Session**

Electronic Meeting

4 – 6 October 2022

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## **CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

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### **Conservation and Management Measure 2021-02**

*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 ten times since then (CMM 2010-04, CMM 2012-06, CMM 2013-09, CMM 2014-04, CMM 2015-04, CMM 2016-04, CMM2017-08, CMM 2018-02, CMM 2019-02 and CMM 2020-02) 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 Plenary Meeting in July 2020, indicating the following:

- (1) spawning stock biomass (SSB) fluctuated throughout the assessment period (fishing years 1952-2018), (2) the SSB steadily declined from 1996 to 2010, (3) the slow increase in the stock biomass has been continuing since 2011, (4) total biomass in 2018 exceeded the historical median with an increase in immature fish; and (5) fishing mortality (F%SPR) declined from a level producing about 1% of SPR in 2004-2009 to a level producing 14% of SPR in 2016-2018;
- A substantial decrease in estimated F has been observed in ages 0-2 in 2016-2018 relative to the previous years;
- 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, and in 2016 had a greater impact than any other fishery group;
- 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, under all the examined scenarios, the initial goal of rebuilding the stock to SSBMED by 2024 with at least 60% probability, is reached with 99% or 100% probability, and that the risk of SSB falling below SSBloss is negligible; and
- The projection results also indicate that, under all the examined scenarios, the estimated probability of achieving the second biomass rebuilding target (20% of SSBF=0) 10 years after the achievement of the initial rebuilding target or by 2034, whichever is earlier, is greater than 90%.

*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;

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

#### **General Provision**

1. This conservation and management measure has been prepared to implement the Harvest Strategy for Pacific Bluefin Tuna Fisheries (Harvest Strategy 2017-02), 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. 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. The basis for the limits is as follows; annual catch limits for Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg are 50% of the 2002-2004 average annual levels and annual catch limits for Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger are 115% of the 2002-2004 average annual levels or 30 metric tons for a CCM who does not have an initial catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger before 2022.

*Pacific Bluefin tuna less than 30kg*

	2002-2004 average annual level	Annual initial catch limit
Japan	8,015 metric tons	4,007 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	5,614 metric tons
Korea	0 metric tons	30 metric tons
Chinese Taipei	1,709 metric tons	1,965 metric tons

4. CCMs, not described in paragraph 3, may increase their catch of Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger by 15% above their 2002-2004 annual average levels. CCMs with a base line catch 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.

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 5% of its annual initial catch limit<sup>1</sup>.

6. CCMs described in paragraph 3 may use part of the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg stipulated in paragraph 3 above to catch Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger in the same year. In this case, the amount of catch 30 kg or larger shall be counted against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg<sup>2</sup>. CCMs shall not use the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger to catch Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg.

<sup>1</sup> Notwithstanding paragraph 5, a CCM may carry over up to 17% of its initial catch limits in 2021, 2022 and 2023, which remain uncaught, to 2022, 2023 and 2024, respectively.

<sup>2</sup> In 2022, 2023 and 2024, a CCM may count the amount of catch 30 kg or larger adjusted with the conversion factor 0.68 (catch 30 kg or larger multiplied by 0.68) against the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg up to [120]% of its initial catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg. Notwithstanding the first sentence of this footnote, a CCM who does not have an initial catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger before 2022 may apply the conversion factor 0.68 up to [235]% instead of [120]% of its initial catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30kg for the same period.

7. 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<sup>3</sup>.

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.

8. CCMs shall report to the Executive Director by 31 July each year their fishing effort and <30 kg and >=30 kg catch levels, by fishery, for the previous 3 year, accounting for all catches, including discards<sup>4</sup>. 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.

9. CCMs shall intensify cooperation for effective implementation of this CMM, including juvenile catch reduction.

10. CCMs, in particular those catching juvenile Pacific bluefin tuna, shall take measures to monitor and obtain prompt results of recruitment of juveniles each year.

11. 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 3 above. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. CCMs shall report to Executive Director by 31 July annually measures they used to implement paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11 13 and 16 of this CMM. CCMs shall also monitor the international trade of the products derived from Pacific bluefin tuna and report the results to Executive Director by 31 July 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.

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<sup>3</sup> For the category described a.2 of paragraph 7, 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).

<sup>4</sup> [For the purpose of paragraph 8, discards in certain fisheries which do not target Pacific bluefin tuna, such as set net fisheries, are not required to be counted against the annual catch limit of a CCM. However, any such discards shall be included in the report.](#)

15. 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.

16. To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CCMs are encouraged to communicate with and, if appropriate, work with the concerned IATTC contracting parties bilaterally.

17. 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.

18. The provisions of paragraph 17 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.

19. This CMM replaces CMM 2020-02. On the basis of stock assessment conducted by ISC in 2022, and other pertinent information, this CMM shall be reviewed and may be amended as appropriate in 2022.

## **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.