



**COMMISSION
SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
5 – 11 December 2019

**COMPILED INFORMATION ON PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
(FISHING EFFORT AND CATCH)**

**WCPFC16-2019-IP10¹
30 September 2019**

SECRETARIAT

¹ Earlier versions of this paper were posted to NC15 meeting as **NC15-2019/WP-02** and to TCC15 meeting as **TCC15-2019-IP12_rev1**



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Portland, WA, USA
3 – 6 September 2019

**COMPILED INFORMATION ON PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
(FISHING EFFORT AND CATCH)**

WCPCFC-NC15-2019/WP-02

Secretariat

According to Paragraph 2-4 of the CMM 2018-02, fishing effort and catch of Pacific bluefin tuna are compiled based on Member's reports, which are annexed as Table 1 and 2, respectively.

2. *CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that:*
 - (1) *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.*
 - (2) *All catches of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg shall be reduced to 50% of the 2002–2004 annual average levels. 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.*

3. *CCMs shall take measures necessary to ensure that all catches of Pacific Bluefin tuna 30kg or larger shall not be increased from the 2002-2004 annual average levels². 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. However, in 2018, 2019, and 2020 CCMs may use part of the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg stipulated in paragraph 2 (2) 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. CCMs shall not use the catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna 30 kg or larger to catch Pacific bluefin tuna smaller than 30 kg. The ISC is requested to review, in its work referred to in Section 5 of Harvest Strategy, the implications of this special provision in terms of PBF mortality and stock rebuilding probabilities in 2020. Based on that review, in 2020 the Northern Committee will determine whether it should be continued past 2020, and if so, recommend changes to the CMM as appropriate.*

4. *CCMs shall report their 2002–2004 baseline fishing effort and <30 kg and >=30 kg catch levels for 2013 and 2014, by fishery, as referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3, to the Executive Director by 31 July 2015. CCMs shall also 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. The Executive Director will compile this information each year into an appropriate format for the use of the Northern Committee.*

The information in the Tables below will be modified subject to any further updates from Members.

² CCMs with a base line catch of 10 t or less may increase its catch as long as it does not exceed 10 t.

**Compiled Information on Pacific Bluefin Tuna
(Fishing Effort and Catch)**

Table 1. Fishing effort by vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of 20° N in the Convention Area

Fishery	Unit of fishing effort ³	Baseline fishing effort (Para 2, CMM 2018-02)				Fishing effort (Para 4, CMM 2018-02)		
		2002	2003	2004	2002-2004 Average	2016	2017	2018
Canada								
Not applicable								
China							0	0
Cook Islands								
Longline		Unknown	Unknown	0		0	0	0
Fiji								
Longline	No. of vessels	0	0	0		0	0	0
Japan								
Purse Seine	No. of vessels	69	60	59	63	37	42	37
LonglineDist.&Off.	No. of vessels	654	632	613	633	536	514	484
Longline Coastal	No. of vessels	399	422	386	402	316	325	335
Pole & Line	No. of vessels	146	140	137	141	89	89	81
Artisanal fisheries	No. of vessels	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		24,044	22,557	18,147
Set Net	No. of licenses	1,876	1,956	1,956	1,929	1,816	1,816	1,816 (P)
Others	No. of vessels	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		Unknown	Unknown	
Korea								
large-scale purse seiners	No. of vessels	32	29	29	30	24	24	23
Philippines								
Not applicable								
Chinese Taipei								
Longline	No. of vessels	684	659	632	658	504	559	480
U.S.A.								
Not applicable								
Vanuatu								
Not available	sets					0		
Australia								
Eastern tuna and billfish fishery	No. of hooks					12,086		

³ e.g., sets, fishing days, vessels

Table 2. Catches (mt), including discards, of Pacific bluefin tuna in the Convention Area (include all the fisheries in the previous table, plus all other fisheries that catch any Pacific bluefin tuna)

Fishery	All catches (Para 4, CMM 2018-02)								All catches (Para 4, CMM 2018-02)					
	2002		2003		2004		2002-2004 Average		2016		2017		2018	
	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg
Canada														
N/A														
China														
											0	0	0	0
Cook Islands														
Longline	0	1,789	0	2,94	0	1,35	0	2	0	0,70	0	0	0	0
Fiji														
Longline	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,271	0	0,695
Japan⁴														
Purse Seine	5,174	3,730	4,995	774	3,466	4,792	4,545	3,099	2,068	3,027	1,266	3,274	1,010	3,040
Longline Dist.&Off.	0	52	0	97	0	240	0	130	1	16	0	27	3	18
Longline Coastal	0	794	0	1,152	0	1,616	0	1,187	181	463	264	616	96	583
Pole & Line	99	0	44	0	132	0	92	0	44	0	86	0	8	0
Artisanal fisheries	2,607	0	2,060	0	2,445	0	2,371	0	755	23	569	34	308	63
Set Net	1,008	92	648	191	660	235	772	173	654	574	1,717	538	260	385

⁴Catch limit for purse seine fishery is managed on a calendar year basis, while that for coastal fisheries is managed on a fishing year basis (1 July – 30 June). Catches on a fishing year basis is as follows.

- 1st management period (January 2015 – December 2015 for purse seine fishery, January 2015 – June 2016 for coastal fisheries)
 <30kg: 3,096t;
 ≥30kg: 3,871t
- 2nd management period (January 2016 – December 2016 for purse seine fishery, July 2016 – June 2017 for coastal fisheries)
 <30kg: 4,341t;
 ≥30kg: 4,368t
- 3rd management period (January 2017 – December 2017 for purse seine fishery, July 2017 – June 2018 for coastal fisheries)
 <30kg: 3,405t
 ≥30kg: 4,940t
- 4th management period (January 2018 – December 2018 for purse seine fishery, July 2018 – March 2019 for coastal fisheries)
 <30kg: 2,277 t
 ≥30kg: 3,810 t

Fishery	All catches (Para 4, CMM 2018-02)								All catches (Para 4, CMM 2018-02)					
	2002		2003		2004		2002-2004 Average		2016		2017		2018	
	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg
Others	422	210	205	241	82	432	236	294	239	270	290	375	173	258
Total	<u>9,310</u>	<u>4,878</u>	<u>7,952</u>	<u>2,455</u>	<u>6,785</u>	<u>7,315</u>	<u>8,016</u>	<u>4,883</u>	<u>3,941</u>	<u>4,372</u>	<u>4,191</u>	<u>4,863</u>	<u>1,859</u>	<u>4,347</u>
Korea														
Purse seiner	932		2,601		773		1,435	0	554.7	469.1	661.0	72.86	498.9	24.5
Set net									1.7	0.05	3.39	0.06	1.9	0
Others									3		5.81		4.6	
Reserved													5.1	
Total	932		2,601		773		1,435	0	<u>559.4</u>	<u>469.1</u>	<u>670.2</u>	<u>72.92</u>	<u>510.5</u>	<u>24.5</u>
Philippines														
Artisanal Handline or Hook-and-Line fisheries						0				1 pc (~215 kg)	0	2 pcs (~350 kgs, ~215 kgs)		
Chinese Taipei														
Longline	0	1,523	0	1,863	0	1,714	0	1700	0	454	0	415	0	381
Other coastal fisheries	0	4	0	21	0	3	0	9	0	+	0	+	0	+
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>1527</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1884</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1717</u>	-	<u>1,709</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>454</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>415</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>381</u>
U.S.A.⁵														
American Samoa LL	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1
USA LL	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Vanuatu														
Longline ⁶	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.109	0	0.105	0.183	0	0
Australia														
Eastern tuna and billfish fishery									0.781	0.924				

⁵ Pacific bluefin tuna catches are reported on longline logsheets for the American Samoa fishery, however the species may be misidentified.

⁶ These small catches are bycatch only. Vanuatu does not target PBF at all.