



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

**ELECTRONIC MEETING
2020**

Report on CMM 2019-02 (Pacific bluefin tuna)

WCPFC-NC16-2020/DP-09

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
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July 17, 2020

Mr. Feleti Teo
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 2356
Kolonia
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Mr. Teo:

The following information is provided to satisfy the reporting requirements of WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2018-02 (Pacific Bluefin Tuna) with respect to calendar year 2019.

Paragraph 2: The United States does not have any vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the Convention Area north of 20 degrees north, so it does not need to limit fishing effort in any of its fisheries. The U.S. did not catch any Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg in 2019.

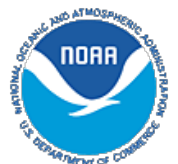
Paragraph 3: The U.S. 2002-2004 annual average levels of Pacific bluefin catch 30 kg or greater was less than 10 mt. Footnote 1 of paragraph 3, states that, "CCMs with a base line catch of 10 t or less may increase its catch as long as it does not exceed 10 t. In 2019, the U.S. catch of Pacific bluefin 30 kg or greater was less than 10 mt.

Paragraph 4: Please see attachment 1 for tables displaying fishing effort by vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin and catches of Pacific bluefin tuna in the Convention Area.

Paragraph 6: The United States does not have any Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in the Convention Area, and has not established any mechanisms to monitor recruitment of juveniles into fisheries.

Paragraph 7: The United States has laws and regulations in place to ensure that fish and fish product that is harvested in violation of foreign laws or treaties cannot be lawfully imported into the United States and entered in to commerce. These laws and regulations could apply to commercial transactions in Pacific bluefin tuna and its products that undermine the effectiveness of this CMM.

Paragraph 9: Although the United States does not have any Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in the Convention Area, it does have a system in place that collects data on the few incidentally caught Pacific bluefin tuna in its other fisheries (e.g. longline) in a timely and consistent manner.



Paragraph 10: The United States monitors the international trade of Pacific bluefin tuna through its Highly Migratory Species International Trade Permit (HMS ITP) program. All importers, exporters and re-exporters of Pacific bluefin tuna products are required to hold an HMS ITP. Domestic regulations (50 CFR 300 Subpart M) require that each import, export or re-export of Pacific bluefin tuna be accompanied by a bluefin tuna catch document (BCD) (please see attachment) containing information on area of harvest, product information, and trade information. Copies of BCDs and re-export certificates are required to be submitted to NOAA Fisheries within 24 hours of a trade. NOAA Fisheries maintains a database with information on imports, exports, and re-exports of Pacific bluefin tuna. For calendar year 2019, 667 mt of bluefin tuna caught in the Pacific Ocean were imported to the United States, with 616 mt coming from Mexico and 51 mt from Japan. 47 mt of bluefin tuna caught in the Pacific Ocean in 2019 were exported from the United States.

Paragraph 12: The United States plans to collaborate with Mexico, Japan and other interested parties during the upcoming meetings of the IATTC and WCPFC's Northern Committee.

If you have any questions about this information please contact Valerie Post at +1 808-725-5034 or valerie.post@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Tom Graham
Chief, International Fisheries Division

Attachment

cc: Michael Brakke, U.S. Department of State
Henry Seseasara, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
Anthony Benavente, CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources
Chelsa Muna-Brecht, Guam Department of Agriculture

Attachment 1. Fishing Effort by vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin and catches of Pacific bluefin in the Convention Area.

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 (e.g., sets, fishing days, vessels)	2002	2003	2004	2016	2017	2018	2019
Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Table 2. Catches (mt), including discards, of Pacific bluefin tuna¹ in the Convention Area

Fishery	2002		2003		2004		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg	<30kg	≥30kg
American Samoa Longline	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
United States Longline	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

¹ Pacific bluefin tuna catches have been reported on longline logsheets for the American Samoa fishery, however the species may be misidentified.

