



TENTH REGULAR SESSION
Cairns, Australia
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CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE

Conservation and Management Measure ~~2010-05~~2013-XX¹rev3

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

In accordance with the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean:

Recalling that the Scientific Committee notes that there are critical biological uncertainties for South Pacific albacore;

Noting that while current catch levels from the South Pacific albacore stock appear to be sustainable, given the age-specific mortality of the longline fleets, any significant increase in effort would reduce CPUE to low levels with only moderate increases in yields. CPUE reductions may be more severe in areas of locally concentrated fishing effort.

Further noting that while future increases in albacore catch are likely to be sustainable, estimates of MSY are highly uncertain because of the extrapolation of catch and effort well beyond any historical levels. Projections demonstrated that longline exploitable biomass, and hence CPUE, would fall sharply if catch and effort were increased to MSY levels. Therefore, the economic consequences of any such increases should be carefully assessed beforehand.

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

1. Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and participating Territories (CCMs) shall not increase the number of their fishing ~~vessels~~ catching ~~actively fishing for~~ South Pacific albacore in the Convention Area south of the equator~~20°S~~ above current (2005) levels or recent historical (2000-2004) levels.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations under international law of small island developing State and Territory CCMs in the Convention Area for whom South Pacific albacore is an important component of the domestic tuna fishery in waters under their national jurisdiction, and who may wish to pursue a responsible level of development of their fisheries for South Pacific albacore.

3. In order not to undermine the effectiveness of these measures, CCMs shall not transfer longline fishing effort and capacity to areas within the Convention Area north of the equator on the high seas in ways that would undermine measures of the Commission.

4. CCMs that catch~~CCMs that actively fish for~~ South Pacific albacore in the Convention Area south of the equator shall cooperate to ensure the long-term sustainability and economic viability of the fishery for South Pacific albacore, including cooperation and collaboration on research to reduce uncertainty with regard to the status of this stock.

¹ By adoption of this CMM (CMM 2013~~0-xx~~⁰⁵) the Commission rescinds CMM 2010-05-02 which has been revised and replaced.

² [Fleets that have caught more than 10% south Pacific albacore by weight of their target catch over the last 10 years (2006-2012).]

5. In order to facilitate this cooperation for 2014 interim longline catch limits shall be implemented as follows³:

a) Non-SIDS-CCMs excluding SIDS and participating Territories shall limit longline catch of South Pacific albacore by their flagged vessels in the high seas to their average recorded catch in 2006-10 as per Attachment 1.

b) CCMs with EEZs wholly south of the equator shall, as a matter of priority, continue to establish zone based longline catch limits for south Pacific albacore in their EEZs, which apply to all catch of south Pacific albacore within their EEZ. For 2014 CCMs with EEZs wholly south of the equator with historical annual longline catch levels in excess of 2500 tonnes within their EEZs shall limit catch within their EEZs to no more than their highest historical catch or any agreed interim catch limit that may be lower. CCMs with historical catch less than 2500 tonnes of south Pacific albacore will not exceed 2500 tonnes in 2014.

b) bis In order to allow flexibility and not unnecessarily dampen efficiency in fishing operations, a CCM with EEZs wholly south of the equator can execute the limit outlined in 5b may combine in its EEZ and high seas catch limits; that is, it may implement the two limits with respect to its own vessels without regard to the boundary between its EEZ and the adjacent high seas.

[b)ter.]

c) Members of the Commission, particularly those who are members of both WCPFC and IATTC shall work with the IATTC to encourage relevant IATTC members to limit catch of south Pacific albacore in the IATTC area to the average recorded catch between 2006-10 (5,532 metric tonnes).

5-6. CCMs shall report annually to the Commission by April 30, the following: (1) total albacore catches by longline and troll separately in its EEZ south of the Equator; (2) total albacore catches by its longline and troll separately vessels on the high seas south of the Equator; and (3) the number of its troll and longline fishing vessels that catch South Pacific albacore south of the Equator; and (4) the number of its troll and longline fishing vessels that caught any albacore south of the Equator the catch levels of their fishing vessels that have taken South Pacific Albacore as a bycatch as well as the number and catch levels of vessels actively fishing for South Pacific albacore in the Convention area south of the equator 20°S. Initially this information will be provided for the period 2006-2010 and then updated annually.

7. This measure will be reviewed annually on the basis of advice from the Scientific Committee on South Pacific albacore.

³ These limits on catch This allocation of catches for 2014 will not prejudice limits allocations to be made for future years.

Attachment 1 High seas longline catch limit for 2014ⁱ

	<u>Longline catch limit</u>
<u>Australia</u>	
<u>Belize</u>	
<u>China</u>	
<u>Chinese Taipei</u>	
<u>EU</u>	
<u>Japan</u>	
<u>Korea</u>	
<u>New Zealand</u>	
<u>USA</u>	

ⁱ These limits on catch This allocation of catches for 2014 will not prejudice allocations limits to be made for future years.