



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION**
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29 August – 2 September 2016

Report on CMM 2015-04 (Pacific bluefin tuna)

WCPFC-NC12-2016/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 26, 2016

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 2015-04 (Pacific Bluefin Tuna) with respect to calendar year 2015.

Paragraph 3: 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 or catches of juveniles in any of its fisheries.

Paragraph 4: The United States does not have any Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in the Convention Area.

Paragraph 6: The United States does not have vessels fishing for Pacific Bluefin tuna in the Convention Area north of 20° N. Please see attachment 1 for a table displaying catches of Pacific bluefin tuna in the Convention Area.

Paragraph 8: 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 9: 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 11: 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 12: 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 2015, 297 mt of bluefin tuna caught in the Pacific Ocean were imported to the United States, with 277 mt coming from Mexico and 20 mt from Japan. 150 mt of bluefin tuna caught in the Pacific Ocean in 2015 were exported from the United States.

Paragraph 14: At the IATTC annual meeting in June-July 2016, the United States along with Mexico proposed a resolution that included a long-term rebuilding plan for Pacific bluefin tuna, but the IATTC was unable to reach consensus on the proposal. However, the IATTC adopted a resolution regarding the structure and objectives of joint meetings on Pacific bluefin tuna between the IATTC and the WCPFC's Northern Committee. The first joint meeting is scheduled for August 2016 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Northern Committee. The IATTC also plans to hold a special session in October 2016 to continue discussions on Pacific bluefin tuna, among other matters. The United States plans to collaborate with Mexico and Japan and other interested parties during the upcoming meetings.

If you have any questions about this submission please contact Valerie Chan at +1 808-725-5034 or valerie.chan@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



Raymond Clarke
Fisheries Biologist

cc: William Gibbons-Fly, U.S. Department of State
Ruth Matagi-Tofiga, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
Arnold Palacios, CNMI Department of Lands and Resources
Joseph Cameron, Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources

Attachment 1. Catches (mt) of Pacific bluefin tuna¹ in the Convention Area

Fishery	2015	
	<30kg	≥30kg
American Samoa Longline	0	6
United States Longline	0	0

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