



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

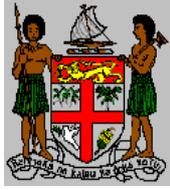
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**Report on CMM 2015-04 (Pacific bluefin tuna)**

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**WCPFC-NC12-2016/DP-04**

**FIJI**



**Ministry of Fisheries and Forests.**

**Department of Fisheries.**

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**Mr Feleti P Teo, OBE.**

21 August, 2016.

**The Executive Director,**

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission,

P.O Box 2356, Kolonia.

Pohnpei 96941, Federated States of Micronesia.

**Subject : Fiji Annual Report on the Conservation and Management of the Pacific Bluefin Tuna (CMM 2015-04).**

Dear Sir,

This is to inform your office of the above subject matter.

In accordance with paragraph 12 of the Conservation and Management Measure to establish a multi-annual Rebuilding Plan for the Pacific Bluefin tuna (CMM 2015-04), this communication is to provide a Report of the Annual measures that Fiji has undertaken to implement paragraph 3,4,6,8,9,11 and 14 of this CMM for the year 2015, and thus also provide any other relevant information pertinent to the trade and management of this species.

Sincerely yours,

*A T Batibasaga*.....

**Aisake T Batibasaga (Mr)**

Chief Fisheries Officer- R, A &D.

Annual Report on the implementation of the Conservation and Management Measure to establish a Multi-annual Rebuilding Plan for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (CMM 2015-04) Fiji Islands.

1. The two requirements that is mandated within paragraph 3 of CMM 2015-04 are deemed to be covered under the following measures.

(a) To ensure the total fishing effort by our vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of the 20 degrees north would not exceed the 2002-2004 levels, Fiji has voluntarily imposed a policy since January 2012 that both the local and foreign long-line tuna fleets operating within the given ocean area, would adhere to the policy that no vessel flagged to Fiji should be targeting or fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna, and all fishing vessels are to report all by-catch (juveniles or subadults) for this species. Fiji is mainly targeting three (3) main tuna species in its waters, which are (i) South Pacific Albacore, (ii) Yellow-fin and (iii) Big-eye tunas.

(b) For the requirement of reducing the catch of Pacific Bluefin tuna less than 30 kg, we would advise that all catches of larger or smaller than 30 kg fish would be reported on an annual basis –but as within the by-catch category; if they are caught within Fijian waters. Fiji is currently looking at the possibility to include the regulation to prohibit vessels from retaining on board, trans-shipping, storage on-board, or landing, any Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg within the next review of its current fisheries regulations.

2. To implement paragraph 4 of CMM 2015-04, which aims to ensure that the catches of Pacific Bluefin (PBF) tuna which are 30 kg or larger would not increase from the 2002-2004 annual average catch levels, the Fiji Long-line fleets currently do not target Pacific Bluefin tuna within our national waters, as there has also been a scarcity in this PBF tuna catches for the last 30-40 years. Please note that no PBF tuna were caught and reported from within the Fiji Fishing fleets for 2015.

3. For the reporting requirements as given in paragraph 6 of CMM 2015-04, the information are given on Table 1 below:

**Table 1:** Catches (mt), of Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Convention Area for 2015.

Fishery	Less than 30kg	More or equal to 30kg
Long-line	0	0
Other coastal fisheries	0	0

4. For paragraph 9 of CMM 2015-04, to prevent illegal trade of the Pacific Bluefin tuna and its products from undermining the effective of CMM 2015-04, the Fiji fisheries regulation requires the importer to get prior approval from the Director of Fisheries. The importer would need to provide the catch documentation proof that was issued by the exporting countries or copy of the documentation validated by the country of last re-export if the catch or product is not imported from country of origin.

5. For paragraph 11 of CMM 2015-04, the following measures have been taken to ensure the data quality of Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries, and a catch documentation system shall be undertaken for each individual PBF tuna fish- if caught in Fiji waters or by the Fiji fishing fleets. The catch documentation at sea shall

include information such as the location, time, estimated weight ,and length of the fish caught, and this shall be immediately reported by the vessel captain to the Offshore Fisheries Division.