



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

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Busan, Republic of Korea

**(Draft) Expected Outcomes at the 2nd Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC working group on the
management of Pacific bluefin tuna**

WCPFC-NC13-2017/DP-11

Japan

(Draft)

**Expected Outcomes at the 2nd Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC working group
on the management of PBF**

1. Recruitment scenario used in Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) projection

- (1) The low recruitment scenario (resampling from the relatively low recruitment period (1980-1989)) shall be used for the ISC's SSB projections until 2024 or the SSB reaches the historical median (the median point estimate for 1952-2014 as specified by ISC), whichever is earlier.
- (2) The recruitment scenario to be used for the SSB projections after 2024 or the SSB has reached the historical median shall be tentatively the average recruitment scenario (resampling from the entire recruitment period).
- (3) ISC will be requested to evaluate the validity of the scenarios in paragraph (1) and (2) above from time to time and make recommendation on whether a different scenario should be used. If ISC recommends a different scenario, this shall be used.

2. Management until reaching the historical median

- (1) The management objective shall be to rebuild the SSB to the historical median by 2024 with at least 60% probability.
- (2) For this purpose, interim harvest control rules below shall be applied based on the results of stock assessments and SSB projections to be conducted by ISC.
 - (a) If the SSB projection indicates that the probability of achieving the historical median by 2024 is less than 60%, management measures shall be modified to increase it to at least 60%. Modification of management measures may be (i) a reduction (in %) in the catch limit for fish smaller than 30 kg (hereinafter called "small fish") or (ii) a transfer of part of the catch limit for small fish to the catch limit for fish 30 kg or larger (hereinafter called "large fish"). For this purpose, ISC will be requested, if necessary, to provide different options of the management measure so as to achieve 60% probability.
 - (b) If the SSB projection indicates that the probability of achieving the historical median by 2024 is more than 65%, the catch limit for small fish may be increased (in %) as long as the probability is maintained at 65% or larger. For this purpose, ISC will be requested, if necessary, to provide the catch limit increase (in %) for small fish so as to achieve 65% probability. If the catch limit for large fish instead of small fish is increased, the increase ratio may be X times as much as that for small fish. For this purpose, ISC will be requested to recommend X as a scientifically justifiable figure.

3. Management after reaching the historical median

- (1) The management objective after reaching the historical median shall be to rebuild the SSB to $20\%SSB_{F=0}$ ¹ within 10 years with at least 60% probability. However, if ISC recommends a recruitment scenario lower than the average recruitment scenario and the SSB projections indicate that the next rebuilding target will not be achieved within 10 years with at least 60% probability under the rebuilding plan in place at that time, the rebuilding plan should be modified. Also, if $20\%SSB_{F=0}$ is considered not to be appropriate as the target, taking into account biological characteristics of PBF and socioeconomic factors, another objective may be established.
- (2) Harvest control rules to be applied during this period shall be decided, taking into account the implementation of the interim harvest control rules referred to in paragraph 2. (2).

4. Management after reaching $20\%SSB_{F=0}$

- (1) Target reference point (TRP) shall be decided before the SSB reaches $20\%SSB_{F=0}$.
- (2) Limit reference point (LRP) shall be the historical median
- (3) Harvest control rules to be applied during this period shall be decided, taking into account the implementation of the harvest control rules referred to in paragraph 3. (2), but shall at least have a provision that if the stock assessment detects that the SSB is below LRP, management measures shall be taken to recover the SSB to TRP within X years with at least Y% probability.

5. Emergency Rule

In order to cope with the adverse effects on the rebuilding of the stock due to drastic drops of recruitment, the following rules shall be applied in addition to the interim harvest control rules referred to in paragraph 2. (2):

- (1) ISC has already scheduled a stock assessment and SSB projection in 2018 and 2020. In 2019 ISC will be requested to conduct an additional stock assessment and SSB projection to check whether the recruitment has drastically dropped in 2017 enough to prevent the achievement of the management objective in paragraph 2. (1).
- (2) If the SSB projection indicates that the probability of achieving the historical median by 2024 is less than 60%, ISC shall recommend a management measure so as to achieve 60% probability. Management measures of the following year shall be modified in accordance with the recommendation.

¹ $SSB_{F=0}$ are calculated with the recruitment scenario prescribed in paragraph 1. (2)

Draft Concept Paper on Catch Document Scheme for Pacific Bluefin Tuna

Background

At the 1st joint working group meeting between NC and IATTC, held in Fukuoka, Japan from August 29 to September 1, 2016, participants supported to advance the work on the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) in the next joint working group meeting, in line with the development of overarching CDS framework by WCPFC and taking into account of the existing CDS by other RFMOs. In order to do so, participants welcomed the offer by Japan to submit a draft document describing objectives, the basic elements and work plan of CDS to the next joint working group meeting. Japan hereby submits the draft concept paper for this purpose.

1. Objective of the Catch Document Scheme

The objective of CDS is to combat IUU fishing for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) by providing a means of preventing PBF and its products identified as caught by or originating from IUU fishing activities from moving through the commodity chain and ultimately entering markets.

2. Use of electronic scheme

Whether CDS will be a paper based scheme, an electronic scheme or a gradual transition from a paper based one to an electronic one should be first decided since the requirement of each scheme would be quite different.

3. Basic elements to be included in the draft conservation and management measure (CMM)

It is considered that at least the following elements should be considered in drafting CMM.

- (1) Objective
- (2) General provision
- (3) Definition of terms
- (4) Validation authorities and validating process of catch documents and re-export certificates
- (5) Verification authorities and verifying process for import and re-import
- (6) How to handle PBF caught by artisanal fisheries
- (7) How to handle PBF caught by recreational or sport fisheries
- (8) Use of tagging as a condition for exemption of validation
- (9) Communication between exporting members and importing members
- (10) Communication between members and the Secretariat

- (11) Role of the Secretariat
- (12) Relationship with non-members
- (13) Relationship with other CDSs and similar programs
- (14) Consideration to developing members
- (15) Schedule for introduction
- (16) Attachment
 - (i) Catch document forms
 - (ii) Re-export certificate forms
 - (iii) Instruction sheets for how to fill out forms
 - (iv) List of data to be extracted and compiled by the Secretariat

4. Work plan

The following schedule may need to be modified, depending on the progress on the WCPFC CDS for tropical tunas.

2017

The joint working group is expected to agree on the draft concept paper and submit it to the NC and IATTC for endorsement. NC will send the WCPFC annual meeting the recommendation to endorse the paper.

2018

The joint working group will hold a technical meeting, preferably around its meeting, to materialize the concept paper into a draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.

2019

The joint working group will hold a second technical meeting to improve the draft CMM. The joint working group will report the progress to the WCPFC via NC and the IATTC, respectively.

2020

The joint working group will hold a third technical meeting to finalize the draft CMM. Once it is finalized, the joint working group will submit it to the NC and the IATTC for adoption. The NC will send the WCPFC the recommendation to adopt it.