

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**85<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

**Veracruz Veracruz (Mexico)  
10-14 June 2013**

**PROPOSAL IATTC-85 K-1**

**SUBMITTED BY JAPAN**

**IATTC RESOLUTION FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT  
MEASURES FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN  
PACIFIC OCEAN**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

**Goal:** Pacific bluefin tuna, which are caught not only in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) but also in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), comprise a single stock. In order to ensure a long-term conservation and sustainable use of this single stock, application of preventative measures throughout the range of the resource is essential. Since the current measure in EPO (Resolution C-12-09) expires this year, this draft resolution would extend the current measure two years with some modifications.

**New elements:** The commercial catch of Pacific bluefin tuna in the commercial fishery in the Convention Area exceeded the catch limit of 5,600 metric tons in 2012. In order to prevent a recurrence, the draft resolution require more frequent catch report for commercial catches: monthly basis before 70% of catch limit is exhausted; weekly basis when 70-90% of catch limit is exhausted; and daily basis after 90% of catch limit is exhausted. A new paragraph for the consideration of strengthening management actions including introduction of Catch Documentation Scheme is also added to this draft resolution.

**Rationale:** The ISC stock assessment for Pacific bluefin tuna in 2012 advised that recently WCPFC and IATTC conservation and management measures combined with additional Japanese voluntary domestic regulations aimed at reducing mortality, if properly implemented and enforced, are expected to contribute to improvements in Pacific bluefin tuna stock status.

## **IATTC RESOLUTION FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Veracruz, Mexico, on the occasion of its 85<sup>th</sup> Meeting:

*Taking into account* that the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna is caught in both the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

*Affirming* that it is necessary to take preventive measures throughout the range of the resource to contribute to the stability of the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna;

*Recognizing* that the impact of the fisheries in the WCPO is much greater than the EPO fisheries and their rate of increase in recent years is greater (Document IATTC 83-05, page 76);

*Noting* that, consequently, conservation measures that are adopted in the WCPO are more important for the conservation of these stocks, and those that are currently in force may not be sufficient to reduce the fishing mortality of juveniles;

*Encouraging* both Commissions to take complementary and effective measures to reduce the mortality of bluefin tuna throughout the entire spectrum of ages, especially juveniles;

*Urging* all IATTC Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) involved in this fishery to participate in a fair and equitable manner, and without exceptions, in the discussions and adoption of conservation measures applicable to the stock throughout its entire range;

*Mindful* that these measures are intended as an interim means for exercising caution towards assuring sustainability of the Pacific bluefin tuna resource and motivating comparable action on the part of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), and that future conservation measures should be based not only on these interim measures, but also on development of future scientific information and advice of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) and the IATTC scientific staff;

*Taking into account* the IATTC scientific staff's conservation recommendation for the Convention Area (Document IATTC 83-05c) as well as those adopted by the WCPFC, and committed to maintaining fishing activity at sustainable levels;

*Recognizing* that WCPFC 10 adopted Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM 2012-06);

*Also recognizing* that IATTC adopted Conservation and Management Measure for bluefin tuna (Resolution C-12-09) at its 83<sup>rd</sup> Meeting in 2012;

*Noting* that the ISC stock assessment for Pacific bluefin tuna in 2012 advised that the current (2010) Pacific bluefin tuna biomass level is near historically low levels but advised that recently WCPFC and IATTC conservation and management measures combined with additional Japanese voluntary domestic regulations aimed at reducing mortality, if properly implemented and enforced, are expected to contribute to improvements in Pacific bluefin tuna stock status; and

*Recognizing* that the commercial catch of bluefin tuna in the commercial fishery in the Convention Area exceeded the catch limit of 5,600 metric tons in 2012;

*Resolves as follows;*

1. In the IATTC Convention Area, the commercial catches of bluefin tuna by all the CPCs during the two-year period of 2014-2015 shall not exceed 10,000 metric tons.
2. The commercial catch of bluefin tuna in the commercial fishery in the IATTC Convention Area shall not exceed 5,600 metric tons in 2014.
3. Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2, any CPC with a historical record of Eastern Pacific bluefin catches may take a commercial catch of up to 500 metric tons of Eastern Pacific bluefin tuna annually.
4. CPCs shall take the measures necessary to ensure that the total catch of Pacific bluefin in the Convention Area for each year does not exceed the catch limit for that year. For this purpose, each CPC and the Director shall follow the following reporting procedures:
  - a. Each CPC shall report its catches to the Director in a timely manner, but on a monthly basis as a minimum. The Director shall communicate this information to all the CPCs on a monthly basis.
  - b. When 70 percent of the total annual catch limit has been exhausted, the Director shall notify the CPCs with a prospective date upon which the catch limit is likely to be reached. Each CPC shall make a weekly report of its commercial catches to the Director from the date of such notification.
  - c. When 90 percent of the total annual catch limit has been exhausted, the Director shall notify the CPCs with an updated prospective date upon which the catch limit is likely to be reached. Each CPC shall make a daily report of its commercial catches to the Director from the date of such notification.
  - d. The Director shall notify the CPCs without delay when the total annual catch limit is reached.
5. The Commission shall consider strengthen management actions including introduction of Catch Documentation Scheme.
6. Taking into account the recommendations of the IATTC scientific staff formulated in consultation with Scientific Advisory Committee, the new ISC stock assessment for Pacific bluefin tuna, and the measures taken by the WCPFC, the Commission shall review this resolution at its meeting in 2015 and take appropriate actions, for juveniles in particular.
7. The Commission shall ask the WCPFC to take measures comparable to the measures in this Resolution.