

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

87TH MEETING

**Lima (Peru)
14-18 July 2014**

PROPOSAL IATTC-87 I-1A

SUBMITTED BY JAPAN

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

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Lima, Peru, on the occasion of its 87th Meeting;

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

Expressing grave concern for the latest stock assessment provided by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC):

- The current (2012) PBF biomass level is near historically low levels and experiencing high exploitation rates above all biological reference points;
- The recently adopted WCPFC CMM (2013-09) and IATTC resolution for 2014 (C-13-02), if continued in to the future, are not expected to increase SSB if recent low recruitment continues;
- If the low recruitment of recent years continues, the risk of SSB falling below its historically lowest level observed would increase; and
- Further substantial reductions in fishing mortality and juvenile catch over the whole range of juvenile ages should be considered to reduce the risk of SSB falling below its historically lowest level.

Affirming that it is necessary to take compatible and thorough management measures to reduce the juvenile mortality of Pacific bluefin tuna throughout the range of the resource to contribute to the stability of the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna;

Recognizing that the impact of the fishery for Pacific bluefin tuna in the Western and Central Pacific is much greater than in the EPO fisheries, and its rate of increase in recent years is greater (Document IATTC 83-05, page 75);

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 discussion 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 urging comparable action by 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 ISC and the IATTC scientific staff; and

Taking into account the IATTC scientific staff's conservation recommendation that the commercial catches in 2014 be limited below 3,154 t, which was the estimated commercial catch in 2013, and that the non-commercial catches in 2014 be limited below 208 t, which is based on the same method that was applied to commercial catch to determine that recommended limit;

Resolves as follows:

1. In the IATTC Convention Area, annual catch of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg by all the CPCs during 2015 and thereafter shall not exceed 1,885* metric tons. Any overage of the catch limit shall be deducted from the catch limit for the following year.
2. CPCs shall endeavor to take measures not to increase catches of Pacific bluefin tuna larger than 30 kg from the current level.
3. CPCs shall take the measures necessary to ensure that the total catch of Pacific bluefin tuna in the Convention Area in 2015 and thereafter does not exceed the catch limit. For this purpose, each CPC shall report its catches to the Director in a timely fashion, weekly. The Director will send a first notice to the CPCs when 50% of the limit is reached. He will likewise send similar notices when 60%, 70%, and 80% of the limit is reached. When 90% is reached, the Director will send the corresponding notice to all CPCs, with a projection of when the limit established in paragraph 1 will be reached, and the CPCs will take the necessary internal measures to avoid exceeding the limit.
4. CPCs shall cooperate to establish Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) to be applied to Pacific bluefin tuna as a matter of priority.
5. The Commission shall again ask the WCPFC to adopt appropriate and effective stock building targets, mandatory measures, and a definitive schedule for implementation of those measures, at its 2014 Regular Annual Session to address the impact of the fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific on the Pacific bluefin tuna stock.
6. Based upon actions and measures adopted by the WCPFC, as referenced in paragraph 5, and appropriate analysis thereafter by the ISC, the scientific staff of the IATTC shall assess, by means of projected simulations, the status of the Pacific bluefin tuna stock both with and without the adopted WCPFC and IATTC measures. These assessments shall be presented at the next meeting of the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee in 2015.
7. On the basis of the scientific reviews and advice referred to in paragraph 6, the Commission shall analyze the degree to which the adopted and implemented measures are sufficient to achieve a recovery of the Pacific bluefin tuna resource, and shall review and, if necessary, take further actions for the EPO for 2016 and thereafter as an equitable part of the total Pacific bluefin tuna conservation and management measure.
8. In the event that WCPFC fails to adopt a compatible measure at its Commission meeting in 2014, this resolution does not become effective in 2015, and, alternatively, the Resolution C-13-02 shall be extended in 2015. In this event, an alternative Resolution shall be adopted in 2015 for 2016 and thereafter.

* 3,770 t : 2002-2004 annual average catches of PBF (less than 30 kg) by all the CPCs in the IATTC Convention Area. Catch Limit = 3,770 t × 50% = 1,885 t