

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

87TH MEETING (RESUMED)

**La Jolla, California (USA)
27-29 October 2014**

PROPOSAL IATTC-87 I-1B

SUBMITTED BY JAPAN

**MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN TO
ESTABLISH A MULTI-ANNUAL REBUILDING PLAN**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA), on the occasion of its 87th Meeting (resumed):

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.

Recognizing the importance of development of reference points for conservation and management of Pacific bluefin tuna;

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;

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; 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. All the CPCs shall implement a provisional Multi-Annual Rebuilding Plan for Pacific bluefin tuna starting in 2015, with the initial goal of rebuilding the SSB to the historical median (42,592 metric tons) within 10 years with at least 60% probability. Implementation and progress of this plan shall be reviewed based on the results of stock assessment and SSB projections to be conducted by ISC in 2016 and every three years thereafter. For this purpose, the ISC is requested to update the SSB projections for the harvest scenarios. This Resolution shall be amended if necessary upon such review.
2. In the IATTC Convention Area, annual commercial catch of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30 kg by all the CPCs during 2015 and thereafter shall not exceed 1,744* metric tons. Any overage of the catch limit shall be deducted from the catch limit for the following year.
3. CPCs shall take every possible measure not to increase catches of Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger from the current level (1,438 metric tons).
4. In the IATTC Convention Area, non-commercial catches of Pacific bluefin tuna less than 30kg by all the CPCs during 2015 and thereafter shall not exceed 142** metric tons. CPCs shall take every possible measure not to increase non-commercial catches of Pacific bluefin tuna 30kg or larger from the current levels (110 metric tons).
5. 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 2 and 4 will be reached, and the CPCs will take the necessary internal measures to avoid exceeding the limit.
6. CPCs shall cooperate to establish Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) to be applied to Pacific bluefin tuna as a matter of priority.
7. To enhance effectiveness of this measure, CPCs are encouraged to communicate with and, if appropriate, work with the concerned WCPFC contracting parties bilaterally.

* 3,488 t : 2002-2004 annual average commercial catches of PBF (less than 30kg) by all the CPCs in the IATTC Convention Area

Catch Limit for commercial fishery = 3,488 t × 50% = 1,744 t

** 283 t : ~~2002~~ 2002 annual average non-commercial catches of PBF (less than 30 kg) by all the CPCs in the IATTC Convention Area

Catch Limit for non-commercial fishery = 283 t × 50% = 142 t