



COMMISSION
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Proposed Amendments to Conservation and Management Measure for the North Pacific Striped Marlin (CMM 2010-01)

WCPFC21-2024-DD23
33 December 2024

Submitted by the United States

Draft Recommendations

The Commission adopts CMM 2024-XX Conservation and Management Measure for North Pacific Striped Marlin (WCPFC21-2024-DP08.Rev02).

The Commission requested the SC22 to review any existing or develop guidelines for safe handling and live release for North Pacific striped marlin and more generally billfishes.

The Commission also requested the SC22 to review the statistical methodologies used to estimate dead and live discards of North Pacific striped marlin.

The Commission tasks the ISC in 2025 to conduct updated projections for North Pacific striped marlin, incorporating the catch allocations described in paragraph 4bis of CMM 2024-XX. These projections should evaluate whether the adopted allocations are consistent with achieving the rebuilding target outlined in the rebuilding plan.



TWENTY FIRST REGULAR SESSION
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR NORTH PACIFIC
STRIPED MARLIN

Conservation and Management Measure 2024-0X

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean:

Noting that WCPFC16 adopted an interim rebuilding plan for North Pacific striped marlin that details an interim rebuilding target for North Pacific striped marlin of 20%SSB_{F=0}, to be reached by 2034, with at least 60% probability.

Noting with concern that the latest stock assessment for North Pacific striped marlin provided by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) in 2023, indicates that the stock is overfished and likely to be subject to overfishing relative to 20%SSB_{F=0} and MSY-based reference points;

Noting the advice from the ISC that catch should be kept at or below the recent level (2018-2020) average catch;

Further noting that the ISC conducted a rebuilding analysis demonstrating that rebuilding of North Pacific striped marlin can be achieved within the parameters of the WCPFC interim rebuilding plan;

Also noting that the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Members will be adopting a system of zone-based longline limits to replace the current system of flag-based arrangements within their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs);

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPF Convention:

1. This Measure shall apply in high seas and EEZs within the convention area north of the equator.
2. For the purposes of this measure, vessels operated under charter, lease or other similar mechanisms as an integral part of the domestic fleet of a coastal State, shall be considered to be vessels of the host State or Territory. Such charter, lease or other similar mechanism shall be conducted in a manner so as not to charter known IUU vessels.
3. Nothing in this measure shall prejudice the legitimate rights and obligations of Small Island Developing State Members and participating territories in the Convention Area seeking to develop their own domestic fisheries.
4. CCMs shall ensure that the total catch limit will not exceed 2400 metric tons of catch for each year between 2025 - 2027, which is based on a 60% reduction from the highest catch between 2000 and 2003. If CCMs cumulatively catch in excess of 2400 mt in any given year, the

measure will be reviewed the following year.

4bis. Japan, Chinese Taipei, Korea, United States, and China shall, respectively, ensure their annual catches of North Pacific striped marlin shall not exceed the annual catch limits in the table below, without prejudice to future agreements on allocation of TAC. Any CCM not included in the table below shall also ensure that its catch of North Pacific striped marlin does not result in an exceedance of the overall total catch limit of 2400 mt.

| CCM | Annual Catch Limit |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Japan | 1454.4 |
| Chinese Taipei | 358.4 |
| Korea | 214.8 |
| United States | 228.4 |
| China | 68.8 |
| TOTAL | 2324.8 |

5. Any unused TAC from a given year will be placed in a reserve and be available for use by the CCMs in table above in future years, as described in paragraphs 5bis and 5ter. Each CCM will be able to use up to an additional 165 mt over its annual catch limit, so long there is available catch in the reserve.¹

5bis. In 2023, there was an 826 mt underage of the TAC of 2400 mt that will be available to CCMs fishing in 2025. Any underage from 2024 will be available to CCMs in 2026, and any underage from 2025 will be available to CCMs in 2027.

5ter. CCMs whose domestic authorities would require that they shut down their target fishery as a result of this measure shall receive preference in access to any available reserve.

5squad. Each flag/chartering CCM shall decide on the management measures required to ensure that its flagged/chartered vessels operate under the catch limits specified in paragraph 4bis, noting that previous examples of such measures have included effort reductions, gear modification and spatial management.

6. Each year CCMs shall report in their Part 2 annual reports their implementation of this measure, including the measures applied to flagged/chartered vessels to reduce their catch, which may include, but is not limited to catch limits, gear modifications, size restrictions and/or spatial management, and the total catch taken against the limits established under paragraph 4bis.

6bis. After their respective catch limits are reached, CCMs shall require their flagged vessels to promptly release to the extent possible NP MLS specimens that are alive and haulback in a manner that maximize post release survival while giving due consideration to the safety of crew and members.

7. Any excess of the annual catch limits for North Pacific striped marlin established above shall be deducted from the respective catch limits during the adjustment year (i.e., the year following the CMR that identified an overharvest).

8. CCMs shall provide their catch, effort, and estimates of total live and dead discards of North Pacific striped marlin in accordance with the Commission's requirements to support

¹ The United States, based on historical fishing levels, may, for management purposes, presume an underage and the availability of the additional 165mt of catch.

the future work of the ISC and SC, including for improving the robustness of stock assessments as soon as possible, but no later than 2027.

9. This CMM replaces CMM 2010-01. This CMM shall be reviewed and shall be amended in 2027, pending the completion of a new stock assessment conducted by ISC.