



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR PACIFIC SAURY

The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC),

Reaffirming the General Principles, Article 3 of the Convention, in particular, paragraph (b) stipulating that measures are adopted, based on the best scientific information available, to ensure that fisheries resources are maintained at or restored to levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, and paragraph (f) stipulating that preventing or eliminating overfishing and excess fishing capacity and ensuring that levels of fishing effort or harvest levels are based on the best scientific information available and do not exceed those commensurate with the sustainable use of the fisheries resources;

Recognizing that the special meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC) in January, 2021 provided consensus stock assessment results, including Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and relevant reference quantities, and recommended that “the Commission: (h) Consider further management measures for avoiding an increasing trend in the exploitation rate of Pacific saury to sustain biomass”;

Adopts the following conservation and management measure in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention:

[EFFORT MANAGEMENT]

1. Members of the Commission, not described under Paragraph 2, and that are currently fishing for Pacific saury shall refrain from expansion, in the Convention Area, of the number of fishing vessels entitled to fly their flags and authorized to fish for Pacific saury from the historical existing level.

2. Members fishing for Pacific saury in areas of their jurisdiction that are adjacent to the Convention Area shall refrain from rapid expansion, in the Convention Area, of the number of fishing vessels entitled to fly their flags and authorized to fish for Pacific saury from the historical existing level.¹

¹ Paragraph 2 applies to Russia and Japan

3. Members of the Commission participating in Pacific saury fisheries in areas under national jurisdiction adjacent to the Convention Area are, in accordance with relevant provisions of Article 3 of the Convention, requested to take compatible measures in paragraph 2.

[CATCH MANAGEMENT]

4. For 2021 and 2022, Members of the Commission agree, having regard to the advice of the Scientific Committee, that the annual catches of Pacific saury in the entire area (the Convention Area and the areas under their jurisdiction adjacent to the Convention Area) should not exceed 333,750 metric tons.

5. In 2021 and 2022, the annual total allowable catch (TAC) of Pacific saury in the Convention Area shall be limited to 198,000 metric tons.

6. As a provisional measure until the Commission decides allocation of the TAC, each Member of the Commission shall reduce the annual total catch of Pacific saury by the fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag in 2021 and 2022 by 40% from its reported catch in 2018 so that the total catch in the Convention Area will not exceed 198,000 metric tons.

7. To comply with the provisional measures above, Members of the Commission shall report to the Executive Secretary, in the electronic format, weekly catches of Pacific saury in the Convention Area by fishing vessels flying their flags by Wednesday of the next week. The Executive Secretary shall make available the compiled catch of Pacific saury in the Convention Area on the Commission's website without delay.

8. In the event that a Member reaches 70% of its catch limit set out in paragraph 6, the Executive Secretary shall inform that Member of that fact, with a copy to all other Members. That Member shall close the fishery for its flagged vessels when the total catch of its flagged vessels is equivalent to 100% of its catch limit. Such Member shall notify promptly the Executive Secretary of the date of the closure, except as described in paragraph 9.

9. Members fishing for Pacific saury in areas of their jurisdiction² that are adjacent to the Convention Area may divert part of their catch limit for areas under their jurisdiction to their own catch of Pacific saury in the Convention Area by vessels entitled to fly their flags and authorized to fish for Pacific saury.

10. At the 8th Commission annual meeting or earlier, the Commission shall review and revise, as

² Paragraph 9 applies to Russia and Japan

appropriate, this CMM based on the advice and recommendations from the SC.

[OTHER MEASURES]

11. Development of new fishing activity for the Pacific saury fishery in the Convention Area by Members without documented historical catch for Pacific saury in the Convention Area shall be determined in accordance with relevant provisions, as appropriate, including but not limited to Article 3, paragraph (h) and Article 7, subparagraphs 1(g) and (h) of the Convention.

12. Members of the Commission shall ensure that fishing vessels flying its flag operating in the Convention Area to fish Pacific saury be equipped with an operational vessel monitoring system that is activated at all times.

13. In order to prevent discards and contribute to the proper stock assessment, Members of the Commission shall take necessary measures to ensure that fishing vessels flying their flags in the Convention Area retain all the catch of Pacific saury on board.

14. In order to protect juvenile fish, Members of the Commission are encouraged to take measures for fishing vessels flying their flags to refrain from fishing for Pacific saury in the areas east of 170°E from June to July. The SC and its subsidiary Small Scientific Committee on Pacific Saury will submit to the Commission relevant scientific information on geographical distribution of juvenile fish in the Convention Area, and its migration patterns.

15. The Commission shall establish a joint SC-TCC-COM Small Working Group in 2021 toward the establishment of harvest control rules for Pacific saury as an interim measure as soon as possible, preferably at the 8th Commission annual meeting. The Working Group shall also consider establishment of a management procedure to be formulated through an MSE process. The Secretariat shall recruit an external expert to support the development process.

16. This CMM shall in no case be a basis for any future CMM for Pacific saury.

17. Consideration should be given to development aspirations of small island developing States in accordance with international law in revising this CMM.

18. This CMM shall enter into force on May 1st, 2021, replacing CMM 2019-08 and will be reviewed on a regular basis.