



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

CMM 2026-07

(Entered into forced 1 June 2026)

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR CHUB MACKEREL

The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC),

Recognizing that outcomes of the small ad hoc workshop for the scientific analysis of chub mackerel stock were presented to the Scientific Committee (SC) in April 2017 and the SC recommended to establish the Technical Working Group on Chub Mackerel Stock Assessment (TWG CMSA);

Noting that CMM 2016-07 states the SC will complete the stock assessment of chub mackerel as soon as practicable, even if such assessment is provisional, and provide advice and recommendations to the Commission in accordance with Article 10, paragraph 4(b) of the Convention;

Reaffirming the General Principles provided in Article 3 of the Convention, in particular, paragraph (h) stipulating that any expansion of fishing effort does not proceed without prior assessment of the impacts of those fishing activities on the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources;

Noting paragraph 1(a) of Article 7 of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of 4 December 1995 (hereinafter, “1995 Agreement”), stipulating that the relevant coastal States and the States whose nationals fish for straddling fish stocks in the adjacent high seas area shall seek to agree upon the measures necessary for the conservation of these stocks in the adjacent high seas area;

Recognizing paragraph 2(a) of Article 7 of the 1995 Agreement stipulating that the conservation and management measures adopted and applied in accordance with article 61 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in respect of the same stocks by coastal States within areas under national jurisdiction and ensure that measures established in respect of such stocks for the high seas do not undermine the effectiveness of such measures;

Reaffirming paragraph (i) of Article 3 of the Convention, stipulating in accordance with Article 7 of the 1995 Agreement, that conservation and management measures established for straddling fish stocks on the high seas and those adopted for areas under national jurisdiction are compatible in order to ensure conservation and management of these fisheries resources in their entirety;

Recalling that concern was expressed on an adverse impact on the stock of chub mackerel given the rapid increase in vessels that appear to be fishing for chub mackerel in the Convention Area, as articulated in paragraphs 9 and 10 of Report of the 1st Meeting of the Technical and Compliance Committee;

Noting that the NPFC Catch/Effort statistics shows a significant fall in chub mackerel catch in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 from those in previous years;

Recognizing that the 10th meeting of the Scientific Committee in December 2025 recommended the reduction of fishing mortality to recover SSB to the interim reference levels, 25th percentile, 50th percentile, and 70th percentile of estimated historical SSB, based on the stock assessment of Chub mackerel conducted by the Technical Working Group on Chub Mackerel Stock Assessment and the advice of the Scientific Committee of NPFC;

Recognizing that chub mackerel is often harvested mixed with blue mackerel in fishing operations the Convention Area.

Further recognizing that urgent needs to take responsible actions to prevent further degradation and to ensure recovery of the chub mackerel stock:

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

1. Members of the Commission and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs) with substantial harvest of chub mackerel in the Convention Area shall refrain from expansion, in the Convention Area, of the number of fishing vessels entitled to fly their flags and authorized to fish for chub mackerel from the historical existing level.

2. Members of the Commission and CNCs without substantial harvest of chub mackerel in the Convention Area are encouraged to refrain from expansion, in the Convention Area, of the number of fishing vessels entitled to fly their flags and authorized to fish for chub mackerel from the historical existing level.

3. As a provisional measure, Members shall take necessary measures to ensure that the fishing activities for chub mackerel in the Convention Area shall be undertaken in accordance with the following provisions:
 - (a) The annual total allowable catch of chub mackerel and blue mackerel in the Convention Area, excluding the amount in paragraph 13, shall be set at 47,940 tonnes for 2026 and at 42,300 tonnes for 2027.
 - (b) Of this annual total allowable catch, the catch for trawlers shall not exceed 5,703 tonnes for 2026 and 5,032 tonnes for 2027.
 - (c) Of this annual total allowable catch, the catch for purse seiners shall not exceed 42,237 tonnes for 2026 and 37,268 tonnes for 2027.
 - (d) An unused portion of the catch limit in subparagraphs (b) and (c) for 2026 may be carried over to the catch limit for 2027, up to 10% of the original catch limit for 2026.
 - (e) An unused portion of the original catch limit in a single year for the EU in paragraph 13 may be transferred to the catch limit in that year in subparagraphs (b) and (c) of this paragraph. For this, the EU shall notify the Executive Secretary 30 days in advance of the intended transfer, specifying the tonnage and effective date of the transfer. The Executive Secretary shall promptly notify Members and CNCs of the transfer. This transferred portion may not be used for carry over in subparagraph (d) of this paragraph.
 - (f) China shall not authorize more than 3 trawlers to conduct fishing operations at the same time.

(g) The EU shall not authorize more than 1 trawler to conduct fishing operations at the same time.

4. Members of the Commission participating in chub mackerel fisheries in areas under national jurisdiction adjacent to the Convention Area are requested to take compatible measures in paragraph 1 and 3. Such Members¹ may divert part of their catch limit for areas under their jurisdiction to their own catch of chub mackerel in the Convention Area by vessels entitled to fly their flags and authorized to fish for chub mackerel provided that: (i) the Member has established a catch limit for chub mackerel in its jurisdiction; (ii) the Member has notified promptly the Executive Secretary of the starting date of the diversion and annually reported the catch limit that they diverted in accordance with this paragraph in their Annual Report; and (iii) the total catch of the Member in the Convention Area and the areas under their jurisdiction adjacent to the Convention Area will not exceed the Member's total catch limit for its jurisdiction.
5. Members of the Commission and CNCs shall prohibit fishing vessels over 10,000 Gross Tonnage that are flying their flag and authorized to fish for chub mackerel, from fishing in the Convention Area.
6. Members of the Commission and CNCs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag that fish for chub mackerel in the Convention Area record their catches, including incidental catches of other NPFC species, and any discards and report them to the relevant flag state authorities in accordance with their national data recording and reporting requirements.
7. Members and CNCs shall take necessary measures to ensure that their fishing vessels that catch chub mackerel using trawl gear transmit electronically to the Secretariat via its FMC, and keep on board the vessel and available for inspection, an accurate and unaltered original copy of the following report in accordance with the content prescribed in Annex 1:
 - a. catch on entry (COE): quantity of all catch and bycatch of species currently managed by the NPFC, as well as bycatch of shark and salmon, on board or contained by a vessel's fishing gear, by species FAO code upon entry into the Convention Area, transmitted before or at the time of the vessel's entry.

¹ Paragraph 4 applies to Russia and Japan.

8. Without prejudice to its responsibility as a flag Member, a Member or CNCP may require its fishing vessels to transmit COE directly to the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 7.
9. To comply with the provisional measure stipulated in paragraph 3, Members of the Commission shall report to the Executive Secretary, in electronic format, monthly catches of chub mackerel and blue mackerel in the Convention Area by fishing vessels flying their flags, as follows:
 - a) For trawlers: By the 10th of the next month, until the total accumulated catch by Members in a year reaches 60% of the catch limit set out in paragraph 3 (b). After the total accumulated catch by Members reaches 60% of the annual catch limit set out in paragraph 3 (b), Members of the Commission shall report to the Executive Secretary, in electronic format, weekly catches of chub mackerel and blue mackerel in the Convention Area by trawlers flying their flags, by Wednesday of the next week.
 - b) For purse seiners: By the 10th of the next month, until the total accumulated catch by Members in a year reaches 60% of the catch limit set out in paragraph 3 (c). After the total accumulated catch by Members reaches 60% of the annual catch limit set out in paragraph 3 (c), Members of the Commission shall report to the Executive Secretary, in electronic format, weekly catches of chub mackerel and blue mackerel in the Convention Area by purse seiners flying their flags, by Wednesday of the next week.
10. The Executive Secretary shall make publicly available the compiled catch of chub mackerel and blue mackerel in the Convention Area on the Commission's website, as well as each Member's catch of chub mackerel and blue mackerel in the Convention Area, on the Member's page of Commission website without delay.
11. In the event that the total accumulated catch by Members reaches 95% of the annual catch limit set out in paragraph 3 (b) or (c), the Executive Secretary shall notify Members of that fact without delay, and each Member participating in the chub mackerel fishery in the Convention Area shall close the fishery for its flagged vessels within 2 days from the above notification by the Secretariat until the end of the year.
12. Development of new fishing activity for the chub mackerel fishery in the Convention Area by Members of the Commission without documented historical catch for chub mackerel in the Convention Area shall be determined in accordance with relevant provisions, including but not

limited to, as appropriate, Article 3, paragraph (h) and Article 7, subparagraphs 1(g) and (h) of the Convention.

13. In accordance with paragraph 12, and in addition to the fishing opportunities under paragraph 3 (b), once the annual total allowable catch under 3 (b) has been exhausted the EU shall be entitled to fish an additional 3,060 tonnes of chub mackerel and blue mackerel for 2026 and 2,700 tonnes of them for 2027, without prejudice to future discussions on chub mackerel and blue mackerel allocation in the Convention Area. In case the EU does not harvest any chub mackerel and blue mackerel in the Convention Area by the end of May in 2026, 2,500 tonnes shall be carried over to the catch limit in this paragraph for 2026. An unused portion of the catch limit in this paragraph for 2026 may be carried over to the catch limit for 2027, up to 10% of the original catch limit for 2026.
14. Members of the Commission and CNCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag operating in the Convention Area to fish chub mackerel are to be equipped with an operational vessel monitoring system that is activated at all times.
15. Members of the Commission and CNCPs shall provide their data on chub mackerel and blue mackerel separated by the Convention Area and the areas under national jurisdiction adjacent to the Convention Area in accordance with the data requirements adopted by the Commission in the Annual Report every year. The Commission shall review such information at the annual meeting every year.
16. Members of the Commission and CNCPs shall cooperate to take necessary measures including sharing information, in order to accurately understand the situation and eliminate IUU fishing for chub mackerel.
17. After the chub mackerel stock assessment has been completed, the provisions in Paragraph 1, 3 and 13 shall be reviewed by the Commission and those provisions shall not be a precedent to hinder those Members who are not harvesting substantial amounts of chub mackerel in the Convention Area to develop their own chub mackerel fisheries in the Convention Area, noting the Commission shall regularly review chub mackerel harvests in the Convention Area by all

Members.

18. The Commission tasks the TWG CMSA and SC to annually update their advice in accordance with Annex T of NPFC-2025-COM09-Final Report.
19. This management measure enters into force on 1 June 2026. The Commission shall review and revise, as appropriate, this CMM based on the advice and recommendations from the SC, but no later than at the 12th Commission meeting.
20. This CMM is an amendment of the NPFC CMM 2025-07.

ANNEX 1

Minimum standards for Catch on Entry (COE) Report

#	Fishing Information	Format / Notes	Details
1	Date of entry into Convention Area	YYYY-MM-DD	
2	Time of entry into the Convention Area	HH:MM UTC (24 hour clock)	
3	Area where reported catch was harvested	National waters/other jurisdiction	

4- List all species, including bycatch, onboard at time of entry into the Convention Area					
FAO Code					Total weight (kg)