

**NATIONAL REPORT OF THE PHILIPPINES AS A COOPERATING NON-MEMBER
OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTHERN
BLUEFIN TUNA (CCSBT)**

The Philippines as a cooperating non-member in the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) is committed to comply with the management measures established by the Commission. Our commitment towards the conservation and management of tunas expands where the Philippines are also members of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

1. Catch report- The Philippine catch reported for 2009 amounted to 40.537 t.
2. Authorized vessels - Three (3) other vessels authorized for the Philippines concentrated fishing operations in the ICCAT and WCPFC conventions areas, therefore have not submitted any CCSBT report.
3. Quota allocation -The Philippine fishing vessels catch report during the period covered, is within the Philippines 45 tons quota allocation.
4. Monitoring control and surveillance - The Philippines Fisheries Code provides for the establishment of a Monitoring, control and surveillance system to ensure that the fisheries and aquatic resources in the Philippine waters and also in other oceans where our fishing vessels are operating, are judiciously managed on a sustainable basis, and able to comply with the requirements of RFMOs. The Philippine Fisheries Administration formally operationalized the Philippine vessel monitoring system. It has the capability to track Philippine flagged vessels operating in IOTC, ICCAT, WCPFC. It has negotiated with VMS providers for automatic sending/receiving VMS data of various systems. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources required commercial fishing vessel owners to submit

vessel tracking agreements, authorizing BFAR to monitor and track their respective vessels.

5. Other operational controls to be instituted
 - a. Timely submission of catch monitoring reports of authorize fishing vessels
 - b. Philippines, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to undertake strict validation of catch reports.
 - c. Installation of VMS in the vessel
 - d. Ensuring discipline thru the following rules to be imposed (penalties such as suspension and cancellation of fishing licenses, and other applicable laws under the Philippine fisheries code.

Authorized Vessels List

To date the number of fishing vessels registered to CCSBT are 26 vessels, as originally submitted. It should be noted however that for 2009 only One (1) vessel has been active as indicated in the report. For economic reasons and other circumstances other vessels are fishing in the ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC convention areas. For 2010 a review of the vessel listing shall be done and update CCSBT for active fishing vessels.

Trade

The total catch report amounting to 40.537 t, were transshipped at Cape Town Port, South Africa on the following transshipments; April 09, July 09, and August 09, 2009. Market destination Japan.

Reporting of quota allocations

The quota allocation for Philippines has been considered by-catch. It was previously monitored in such a manner that the total catch of all authorized vessels shall not exceed 40 t. however, in order to ensure that active fishing vessels be compliant with all the obligations and management measures of CCSBT, 2010 allocation shall be allocated to authorized fishing vessels.

Controls

1. Philippine Commercial fishing vessels are required an international fishing permit, aside from the Commercial fishing license and fishing gear license. These requirements shall be strictly observed.
2. The Monitoring, control and surveillance system (VMS) of the Philippines shall be imposed to all vessels.
3. The Philippines shall be compliant to the management measures, rules and regulation of all RFMOs, thru which it is a member and/or cooperating non-member.

Observer coverage

The Philippines is building up its Observer development program, thru trainings with financial and technical assistance from WCPFC. To date it has graduated 80 observers which are ready for deployment. The Philippines is compliant to the observers requirement in all RFMOs.

Ecologically related species

The Philippines under its Fisheries Code and other subsequent issuances recognizes the prohibition in the catching of Sharks, turtles and other species under CITES, except particularly on birds which are not applicable in the Philippines, however, fishing vessels authorized in other RFMOs convention areas, complies with the provisions and applicable strategies to mitigate and avoid such mortalities.