

**NATIONAL REPORT OF THE PHILIPPINES AS A COOPERATING NON-MEMBER
OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTHERNBLUEFIN TUNA
(CCSBT) FOR 2012**

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 promulgated by the Commission. Our commitment towards the conservation and management of tunas extend to other Commissions where the Philippines are also members of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

1. Catch Report-The Philippines catch reported for 2011 totalled to 39,127 tons.
2. Active Vessels -There were only two (2) active Fishing vessels to fish SBT in the Convention Area for the year 2012.
3. Quota Allocation -The Philippines has a 45 tons quota allocation and is using the Olympic system for fishing vessels catching SBT during the period covered.
4. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance - The Philippines has established a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System as provided for in the Philippine Fisheries Code 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 are able to comply with the requirements of RFMOs where the Philippines is a member. The MCS System of the Philippines has the capability to track Philippine flagged vessels operating in IOTC, ICCAT, and 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 instituted by the Philippines
 - a. Timely submission of catch monitoring reports of authorize fishing vessels
 - b. The Philippines Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources undertake strict validation of catch reports.
 - c. Installation of VMS in the vessel
 - d. Ensuring discipline thru the imposition of penalties such as suspension and cancellation of fishing licenses, and other applicable laws under the Philippine Fisheries Code.

Authorized Vessels List

To date, twenty five (25) Philippine vessels are registered and are authorized to fish the CCSBT Convention Area. Although 25 Philippine vessels are authorized to fish, only one (1) vessel had been active as indicated in the report. This is for economic reasons and other circumstances considering our other vessels are fishing in the ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC convention areas. For 2013, a review of the vessel listing shall be done and update CCSBT for active fishing vessels.

Trade

The total catch report for 2011 totalled to 39,127 tons but no transshipment at sea. Market destination is Japan.

Reporting of Quota Allocations

The quota allocation for Philippines shall not exceed 45 tons. However, in order to ensure that active fishing vessels are compliant with all the obligations and management measure of CCSBT only two (2) fishing vessels were authorized to fish in the Convention Area for 2012.

Controls

1. Under the Philippine Fisheries Code, Philippine Commercial fishing vessels are required get an international fishing permit, aside from the Commercial Fishing and Gear License (CFGVL). These requirements are strictly being implemented.
2. The Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System (VMS) of the Philippines are imposed to all vessels.
3. The Philippines shall be compliant to the management measures, rules and regulation of all RFMOs, where the Philippines is a member and/or cooperating non-member.

Observer Coverage

The Philippine Fisheries Observer Program, conducted five (5) batches of training with financial and technical assistance from WCPFC in view of the requirements of the RFMO's. A total of one hundred thirty five (135) fisheries observers trained (2009-2011). This year Tuna Migration Study hired six (6) fisheries observers to cover the fishing grounds of Region 1 (Ilocos Norte, West Philippines Sea), Region 3 (Zambales, Pangasinan and West Philippines Sea) and Region 8 (Guiuan E. Samar). For FAD Closure Deployment (July- September) to cover the fishing grounds of Eastern Pacific (Mati Area), Celebes Sea, Moro Gulf, Tawi-Tawi and Palawan/West Philippines Sea, a total of ninety (90) fisheries observers deployed since 2009-2011. To date an initial of thirty three (33) fisheries observers are being deployed.

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. Fishing vessels authorized in other RFMOs convention areas, complies with the provisions and applicable strategies to mitigate and avoid such mortalities of sharks, turtles and other species.

