

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

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 extends 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 2010 is 36.995 tons.
2. Authorized Vessels - Three (3) Fishing Vessels are authorized to fish SBT for the year 2011.
3. Quota Allocation - The Philippine is using olympic system for fishing vessels catching SBT during the period covered, and is within the Philippines 45 tons quota allocation.
4. Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) - The Philippines Fisheries Code provides for the establishment of a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) 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 from Philippine vessels.. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) required commercial fishing vessel owners to submit vessel tracking agreements, authorizing BFAR to monitor and track their respective vessels.
5. Other operational controls instituted are:
 - 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; and
- d. Ensuring compliance by thru the following the rules promulgated and 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 the number of fishing vessel registered to CCSBT are twenty five (25) vessels. It should be noted however that for the year 2010 only one (1) vessel has been active as indicated in the report. For economical reasons and other circumstances other vessels are fishing in the ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC convention areas. For 2011, a review of the vessel listing will be done and update CCSBT for Philippines active fishing vessels.

Trade

In 2010 the total Philippines catch is to 36.995 tons were transshipped at sea. Market destination is Japan.

Reporting of Quota Allocations

The quota allocation for the 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, the 2011 allocation were given to three (3) 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 are strictly enforced.
2. The Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System (MCS) of the Philippines are imposed to all Philippine vessels.
3. The Philippines is complying with the management measures, rules and regulation of all RMFOs, where 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 a total of 80 graduated as 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 to operate in other RFMOs convention areas are complying with the management and conservation strategies to mitigate and avoid such mortalities.