



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

CMM 2023-08

(Entered into force 1 May 2023)

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;

Gravely concerned that, according to the latest stock assessment provided by the 7th meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC7) in December 2022, stock biomass of Pacific saury remains at historically low levels in recent years,

Recognizing that SC7 recommended that the Commission consider the advice, in particular “a reduction to the TAC for 2021-22 would increase the probability of higher biomass and catch levels in the Pacific saury stock” and “an HCR that reduces the target harvest rate and TAC when biomass falls below its target level may be appropriate for Pacific saury”;

Further recognizing the urgent needs to take responsible actions to prevent further degradation and to ensure recovery of the Pacific saury stock;

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

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.
4. Each Member of the Commission participating in Pacific saury fisheries shall implement either of the following measures;
 - (a) to reduce the number of fishing vessels flying its flag and fishing for Pacific saury in the Convention Area by 10% from the number of its fishing vessels that fished for Pacific saury in the Convention Area in 2018; or
 - (b) to prohibit fishing vessels flying its flag from engaging in fishing for Pacific saury in the Convention Area outside its designated fishing period of no longer than 180 consecutive days each year.

Each Member shall notify the Secretariat of the measure it implements and its designated fishing period in case of (b). above no later than May 1st each year. The Secretariat shall summarize the notifications from Members and make them available to all Members and CNCs. This Paragraph does not apply to Members whose fishing vessels that fished for Pacific saury in the Convention Area in 2018 were less than five (5).

[CATCH MANAGEMENT]

5. For 2023 and 2024, 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 250,000 metric tons.
6. In 2023 and 2024, the annual total allowable catch (TAC) of Pacific saury in the Convention Area shall be limited to 150,000 metric tons.
7. 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 2023 and 2024 by 55% from its reported catch in 2018 so that the total catch in the Convention Area will not exceed the TAC set out in paragraph 6.

¹ Paragraph 2 applies to Russia and Japan

8. 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 publicly available the compiled catch of Pacific saury in the Convention Area on the Commission's website without delay.
9. Members of the Commission and CNCPs shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag that fish Pacific saury record their catches and report them to the relevant flag state authorities in accordance with their national data recording and reporting requirements.
10. In the event that a Member reaches 70% of its catch limit set out in paragraph 7, 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 11.
11. 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.

[OTHER MEASURES]

12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. In order to protect juvenile fish, Members of the Commission shall 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

² Paragraph 11 applies to Russia and Japan

to the Commission relevant scientific information on geographical distribution of juvenile fish in the Convention Area, and its migration patterns.

16. Based on advice and recommendations from the Joint SC-TCC-COM Small Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation for Pacific Saury (SWG MSE PS), the Commission shall establish harvest control rules for Pacific saury as an interim measure as soon as possible, preferably at the 8th Commission annual meeting. The SWG MSE PS shall also consider establishment of a management procedure to be formulated through an MSE process. The Commission shall continue to fund an external expert to support the process.
17. This CMM shall in no case be a basis for any future CMM for Pacific saury.
18. Consideration should be given to development aspirations of small island developing States in accordance with international law in revising this CMM.
19. The Commission shall review and revise, as appropriate, this CMM based on the advice and recommendations from the SC and the SWG MSE PS, but no later than at the 9th Commission meeting.
20. This CMM shall enter into force on May 1st, 2023, replacing CMM 2021-08 and will be reviewed on a regular basis.