

CMM 2018-08

(Entered into force on 17 November 2018)

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR PACIFIC SAURY

The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC),

Recognizing that Small Scientific Committee (SSC) on Pacific Saury and the Scientific Committee (SC) completed the provisional stock assessment including Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) in accordance with the timeframe specified in CMM 15-02;

Following the recommendation by the SC in 2017 that CMM 15-02 is maintained in its current form and fishing efforts in 2018 will not be expanded, or that the Commission develop a new management measure based on the stock status and MSY mentioned in the SC and SSC reports, with a consideration of the uncertainties, and the recommendation by the TCC in 2017 that there is a need to improve the precision of the assessment of compliance with CMM 15-02, and such work should be done intersessionally to allow discussion at the 3rd TCC meeting;

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;

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

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.

¹ Paragraph 2 applies to Russia and Japan

4. 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, including but not limited to Article 3, paragraph (h) and Article 7, subparagraphs 1(g) and (h) of the Convention.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. In order to protect juvenile fish, Members of the Commission are encouraged to take necessary measures for fishing vessels flying their flag to refrain from fishing in areas where juvenile fish are greater than 50% of the Pacific saury catch during fishing operation². The SC and its subsidiary Small Scientific Committee on Pacific Saury will submit to the Commission relevant scientific information on geographical distribution of juvenile fish in the Convention Area, and its migration patterns.
8. The SC and its subsidiary SSC on Pacific Saury shall work to provide the Commission with a consensus stock assessment result beginning in 2019 and scientific guidance necessary for the development of harvest control rules for Pacific saury sufficient to prevent a declining trend of the stock.
9. The Commission shall request that CNCPs abide by the terms of this CMM in order to achieve and maintain CNCP status.
10. This CMM replaces CMM 2017-08 and will be reviewed on the regular basis.

² Fishing operation means short-term fishing activities