HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON YELLOWFIN TUNA STATUS

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) recommends that the Council send a letter to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Department of State (DOS) indicating that it will defer action (such as an fishery management plan (FMP) amendment) addressing yellowfin overfishing until after the June 2007 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) meeting. The Council should emphasize to NMFS/DOS that the U.S. Section vigorously seek a solution to the overfishing problem through action at the June 2007 IATTC meeting. This will allow the Council to include in any FMP amendment to address yellowfin overfishing measures based on action taken by the IATTC that are sufficient to end overfishing. In the interim, the Council may wish to develop recommendations to the U.S. Section of the IATTC for their position at the 2007 IATTC meeting.

PFMC
11/08/06