

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
SOUTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES REPORT

STOCK ASSESSMENTS

ISC9 Meeting: The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC9) met in Kaohsiung, Taiwan from July 15 – 20, 2009. This meeting reviewed stock assessment progress in the past year and developed conservation advice on Pacific bluefin tuna, North Pacific albacore, striped marlin, and swordfish.

- **Pacific bluefin tuna:** ISC noted that current F (2002-2004) is greater than most commonly used biological reference points (BRP) that may serve as potential target reference points. However, ISC failed to adopt a consensus advice on adjustment to F required for conservation of the stock. The next assessment is planned for 2012.
- **Albacore tuna:** Because an assessment for albacore tuna was last conducted in 2006, ISC provided no new conservation advice and maintained its 2007 advice. ISC9 concluded that a full albacore assessment should occur as soon as possible. The next assessment is planned for 2011.
- **Striped marlin:** For striped marlin, no new assessment has been completed and ISC maintained its existing conservation advice, adopted in 2007, that F should be reduced from current (2003) levels.
- **Swordfish:** For swordfish, ISC concluded that the WCPO and EPO stocks in the North Pacific Ocean are healthy and well above the level required to sustain recent catches and provided no conservation advice for these stocks.