

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING U.S.-CANADA ALBACORE TREATY AREA FISHERY UPDATE

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) discussed the international activities mentioned in the situation summary and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reports under Agenda Item F.4. Below are the comments and recommendations resulting from the discussion.

North Pacific Albacore Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)

The HMSMT believes a Council recommendation to the U.S. Delegation at the MSE workshop to be held in May 2016 would be valuable. Considering the limited time available to fully develop recommendations stemming from [Agenda Item F.4 Attachment 2](#), the HMSMT suggests convening a webinar of the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) and HMSMT. Discussion via webinar in advance of the MSE workshop would allow the HMSMT and HMSAS to advise the Council's representatives to the MSE workshop on U.S. West Coast perspectives for the future albacore MSE.

Recommendations on Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Activities

Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) Conservation and Management

Dr. Gerard DiNardo provided an update on the on-going activities of the Pacific Bluefin Tuna Working Group (PBFWG) of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean. The PBFWG is just concluded a meeting to develop a new PBF stock assessment and while the results are not formally available, PBFWG will make an effort to provide an executive summary of the stock assessment to the IATTC in advance of their annual meeting. Dr. DiNardo informed the HMSAS and HMSMT that the status of PBF is not changing (i.e., remaining in overfished state and experiencing overfishing).

Considering the above, as well as the timeline of various international meetings ([Supplemental NMFS Report, Agenda Item F.4.b](#)), the HMSMT suggests the U.S. negotiate a new resolution to rebuild the stock as quickly as possible, while maintaining fishing opportunity for the U.S. fleet. If the newest stock assessment results are not available, the HMSMT suggests the U.S. negotiate a measure that is at least as precautionary as the current measure (Resolution C-14-06).

Tropical Tuna Conservation and Management

The HMSMT recommends informing changes to the conservation and management of bigeye tuna with a new stock assessment as it becomes available in 2016. In the event the stock status remains unchanged, the HMSMT recommends maintaining current management (i.e., provisions of Resolution C-13-01).

Observer Safety at Sea

The HMSMT supports improving the safety standards for observers in international observer programs.

Council Response to NMFS' Swordfish Overfishing Determination

As indicated in the Situation Summary for F.4., the Council is required to provide a response to National Marine Fisheries Service after the June Council meeting. The HMSMT anticipates making recommendations at the June meeting.

PFMC
03/12/16