

## NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

### **Outcomes from the Resumed 90<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)**

The IATTC met from October 10 to October 14, 2016, in La Jolla, California. The U.S. delegation included U.S. Commissioners Donald Hansen, Bill Fox, and Edward Weissman, members of the U.S. government, non-governmental organizations, and the fishing industry. Barry Thom, U.S. Commissioner for NOAA, and David Hogan from the U.S. Department of State were heads of the delegation.

The IATTC adopted one resolution regarding Pacific bluefin tuna: *Measures for the Conservation and Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean*. This resolution set a 600 metric ton (mt) biennial catch limit applicable to the U.S. commercial fleet in 2017 and 2018 (i.e., the same catch limit in the previous Pacific bluefin tuna resolution, [Resolution C-14-06](#)). The Resolution also set an initial rebuilding target—the point estimate of the spawning stock biomass historical median for 1952-2014—to be achieved by 2024, which is similar to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) rebuilding target. Furthermore, the IATTC agreed to adopt a second rebuilding target in 2018 that shall be achieved by 2030. NMFS is seeking input from the Pacific Fishery Management Council on the domestic implementation of the new resolution on Pacific bluefin tuna. Specifically, the Council may want to consider providing comment on whether the current trip limits<sup>1</sup> (i.e., 25 mt trip limit until catch is within 50 mt if the annual limit, at which time a 2 mt trip limit will be imposed) should remain the same in 2017 and 2018.

The IATTC did not, however, adopt a new resolution pertaining to tropical tunas (yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack). Consequently, the current tropical tuna measure ([Resolution C-13-01, Multiannual Program for the Conservation of Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean During 2014-2016](#)), and the domestic regulations that implemented it, will expire, and no management measures for these species will be in force on January 1, 2017. The IATTC agreed to extend the resumed 90th Meeting during the week of February, 7 2017, in La Jolla, California to take up the issue of conservation of tropical tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

### **Notice of Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Annual Meeting**

As described in the Situation Summary (Agenda Item I.2, November 2016), the 13th Regular Session of the WCPFC will meet from December 5 through December 9, 2016, in Nadi, Fiji. NMFS is soliciting comments and recommendations ahead of the WCPFC meeting at this time.

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<sup>1</sup> Final rule implementing Resolution C-14-06 ([80 FR 38986, July 8, 2015](#))