

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Thirteenth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) was held December in Nadi, Fiji, December 5-9, 2016. Dr. Kit Dahl, Council Staff, and Ms. Dorothy Lowman, as U.S. Commissioner, attended the meeting. Attachment 1 is a letter from Mr. Michael Tosatto, Regional Administrator, Pacific Islands, summarizing the meeting outcomes. Ms. Lowman will report to the Council on this meeting.

Of particular interest to the Council is the Conservation and Management Measure establishing a multiannual rebuilding plan for Pacific Bluefin tuna (Attachment 2). NOAA Fisheries has determined that Pacific bluefin tuna is subject to overfishing and is overfished. Bluefin are an important target in California recreational fisheries and historically were an important commercial species. In recent years (2011-2015) Japan, Korea, and Chinese Taipei (Taiwan) have accounted for 67 percent of stockwide catch. Thus, while the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) is not binding on West Coast fisheries, these Asian nations, in particular Japan, are crucial players when it comes to stock rebuilding. Pacific bluefin spawn in waters around Japan and high fishing mortality on juvenile fish by Japanese and Korean fleets has exacerbated overfishing. The rebuilding plan described in this CMM was developed by the WCPFC Northern Committee (NC) and compatible measures were adopted in the Eastern Pacific by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) by Resolution C-16-03. Because the conduct of its fisheries are crucial to stock rebuilding, Japan came under considerable criticism at WCPFC 13 for not advocating a more aggressive approach and more ambitious targets in the rebuilding plan.

In 2016, the NC in coordination with the IATTC, requested the International Scientific Committee (ISC) to evaluate the expected performance of 12 harvest scenarios, and to make the results available to the Northern Committee and IATTC by April 2017 (see [Agenda Item J.1 Supplemental Attachment 3, September 2016](#): Staff Report: Twelfth Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee Meeting). It also requested ISC organize a meeting to inform stakeholders of the results of this analysis, to be held in Japan. This workshop has been scheduled for April 25-27 in Tokyo, Japan. This workshop will be a forum to engage with stakeholders from all NC members on alternative approaches to stock rebuilding based on the ISC analysis of harvest scenarios.

The IATTC held an Extraordinary Meeting February 7-10 in La Jolla, California. The purpose of the meeting was to adopt tropical tuna (bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin) conservation and management measures for 2017-2019 and consider activation of the purse seine capacity of Guatemala and Venezuela. The results of the meeting were not available when the advanced briefing book was finalized. NMFS will report on meeting outcomes.

Council Action:

Consider Reports on International Activities and Provide Recommendations, As Appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 1: Letter from Mr. Michael Tosatto to Mr. Herb Pollard Describing Outcomes of Thirteenth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.
2. Agenda Item J.5, Attachment 2: Conservation and Management Measure 2016-04 To Establish A Multi-Annual Rebuilding Plan For Pacific Bluefin Tuna.

Agenda Order:

- J.5 Recommendations for International Management Activities Kit Dahl
- a. Report on the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Meeting Dorothy Lowman
 - b. Report of the National Marine Fisheries Service Heidi Taylor
 - c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. **Council Action:** Consider Reports on International Activities and Provide Recommendations, As Appropriate

PFMC
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