

RESPONSE TO PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA OVERFISHED STATUS

On April 8, 2013, the Council received notification from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that Pacific bluefin tuna continues to be subject to overfishing and is now overfished (Attachment 1). This letter triggers the requirements in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) at section 304(i) requiring the Council to respond within one year: “(A) develop recommendations for domestic regulations to address the relative impact of fishing vessels of the United States on the stock and, if developed by a Council, the Council shall submit such recommendations to the Secretary; and (B) develop and submit recommendations to the Secretary of State, and to the Congress, for international actions that will end overfishing in the fishery and rebuild the affected stocks, taking into account the relative impact of vessels of other nations and vessels of the United States on the relevant stock.” In 2012 the Council responded to a similar declaration that the stock was subject to overfishing (Attachment 2).

The Council has until April 8, 2014, to formulate its response. At this meeting the Council could merely identify a schedule for developing a response by that date and make assignments to its advisory bodies, or, if it determines that sufficient information is available at this time, formulate its response.

Council Action:

Consider Response to MSA Requirements associated with the Declaration of International Overfishing of Bluefin Tuna.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.4.a, Attachment 1: April 8, 2013, Letter from Rodney McInnis, NMFS Southwest Region Administrator to Dan Wolford, Council Chair.
2. Agenda Item D.4.a, Attachment 2: March 26, 2012, Letter from Executive Director, Donald McIsaac, to Deputy Assistant Secretary, David Balton.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kit Dahl
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Response to Magnuson-Stevens Act Requirements associated with the Declaration of International Overfishing of Bluefin Tuna

PFMC
05/30/13