

## HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON RESPONSE TO PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA OVERFISHED STATUS

As stated in the Situation Summary, the Council received notification from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that Pacific bluefin tuna continues to be subject to overfishing and is now overfished. The Situation Summary also noted that the Council is specifically required to develop recommendations for domestic regulations to address the relative impact of United States vessels on the stock (Magnuson-Stevens Act [MSA] Section 304(i)(2)(A)) and to submit recommendations to the Secretary of State and Congress for international actions to end overfishing and rebuild the stock (MSA Section 304(i)(2)(B)). The deadline for providing such recommendations is April 8, 2014.

The HMSMT notes that the status of bluefin tuna has not improved and the biomass level is near its historic low. In recent years US fisheries have accounted for less than 1 percent of stock-wide catch. The HMSMT also notes that current measures in the HMS Fishery Management Plan, including recreational bag limits and logbook reporting requirements, adequately address the very low impact of U.S. fisheries on the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna. In view of the limited impact of U.S. catch the HMSMT recommends the Council focus on the need for conservation at the international level. The HMSMT suggests that the Council strongly support the new Pacific bluefin tuna measures adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) since 2011.

Recommendations in the November 2011, I.2.b Supplemental HMSMT Report, which include measures to reduce age zero bluefin catch, remain appropriate at the international level. The HMSMT could, at the Council's direction, provide more detailed recommendations on potential management measures.

PFMC  
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