

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

Under Agenda Item D.4 the Council requested additional information to inform its discussion on a response to the notification that Pacific bluefin tuna is subject to overfishing and is now overfished. Specifically the Council requested information on:

- US catch by sector for last 10 years
- Bag limits for catches in recreational fisheries for the three West Coast states
- Clear description of international measures.

Note that the US (NMFS) has taken the position that recreational fisheries are not subject to conservation measures adopted by the IATTC unless the measure specifically states such applicability.

### Data on Commercial Landings and Recreational Catch

The HMS SAFE includes PacFIN and RecFIN data on recent landings and catch. In addition, the ISC compiles information from member nations on stock-wide catch.

**Table 1. West Coast commercial landings and revenue of Pacific bluefin tuna, 1999-2012. (Source: 2013 SAFE, Table 4, unpublished)**

Year	Landings (mt)	Year	Landings (mt)
1999	186	2006	1
2000	313	2007	45
2001	196	2008	1
2002	11	2009	415
2003	36	2010	1
2004	10	2011	118
2005	207	2012	43

**Table 2. Annual landings of Pacific bluefin tuna in the North Pacific Ocean by country and by gear (mt), 1999-2011). Excerpted from ISC Catch Table.**

Year	Chinese Taipei	Japan	Korea	Mexico	USA									Total	Grand Total	
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Drift Gillnet	Harpoon	Longline	Pole and Line	Troll	Hook and Lin	Other Gears	Purse Seine	Recreational			
1999	3,089	22,557	256	2,404	21		54	2	20		87	184	441	809	29,115	
2000	2,782	24,475	2,401	3,118	30		19	13	1			693	342	1,097	33,873	
2001	1,843	14,068	1,276	864	33		6	1	6			292	356	694	18,744	
2002	1,527	14,002	942	1,710	6		2	2	1			50	654	715	18,896	
2003	1,884	10,173	2,601	3,254	14		1	3				22	394	434	18,347	
2004	1,717	13,827	773	8,894	10		1						49	60	25,271	
2005	1,366	21,427	1,318	4,543	5							201	79	285	28,941	
2006	1,149	13,851	1,012	9,816	1		1						96	98	25,926	
2007	1,401	14,403	1,281		4							84	28	116	17,201	
2008	979	17,680	1,866		1	0	0	0	0	0	102	0	93	196	20,721	
2009	877	14,463	936	3,019	4	0	1	0	0	0	151	410		566	19,861	
2010	373	8,555	1,196	7,745	1		0				0		122	123	17,992	
2011	302	13,338	670	2,730	16		1	0			1	99	456	573	17,613	
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,291</b>	<b>202,819</b>	<b>16,526</b>	<b>48,096</b>	<b>146</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>2,035</b>	<b>3,111</b>	<b>5,767</b>	<b>292,507</b>
<b>Percent</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>16%</b>										<b>2%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

**Table 3. West coast recreational catch (number of fish) of Pacific bluefin tuna, 1999-2011. (Source: 2012 SAFE, Table 4-59)**

Year	No. of fish
1999	0
2000	0
2001	1000
2002	900
2003	0
2004	100
2005	100
2006	200
2007	0
2008	400
2009	200
2010	0
2011	100

**Table 4. Catch in California and Mexico waters by US CPFVs, thousands of fish. (Source: 2012 SAFE, Table 4-63 and 4-64, CEFIS logbook data).**

Year	California	Mexico
1999	1,623	35,174
2000	1,569	19,100
2001	3,835	18,078
2002	13,246	20,153
2003	2,858	19,433
2004	485	2,906
2005	723	5,034
2006	1,349	6,124
2007	187	841
2008	3,159	7,028
2009	2,788	9,350
2010	306	8,147
2011	2,743	28,279

Note that data on private recreational catch in Mexico waters by US anglers is not available.

As far as a state breakdown of catch, Washington has negligible catch of Pacific bluefin. Recent Oregon catch is shown in Table 5. California could not obtain catch information for this report but the data in Table 3 approximates California catch since, as indicated, catches in Oregon and Washington are very small.

**Table 5. Estimated recreational catch of Pacific bluefin in Oregon. Source: ODFW.**

Year	Tuna Angler Trips	Est. Bluefin Catch (fish)
2003	2,248	0
2004	1,359	2
2005	3,023	0
2006	4,068	0
2007	2,456	15
2008	3,333	2
2009	12,029	40
2010	7,105	0
2011	10,353	38
2012	11,311	27

### **Current Recreational Measures**

All three west coast states have recreational bag limits for pelagic species on a per angler basis:

- Washington: 2 bluefin per day
- Oregon: aggregate of 25 offshore pelagic species per day
- California: 10 bluefin per day

All three states also have dockside sampling programs for recreational fisheries. In California, private recreational vessels returning from Mexico are only sampled in intercept surveys as part of the general random sampling frame.

### **Excerpts of Key Provisions in International Measures**

#### **WCPFC**

#### **CMM 2012-06 Conservation and Management Measure of Pacific Bluefin Tuna [excerpt]**

1. The interim management objective for Pacific bluefin tuna is to ensure that the current level of fishing mortality rate is not increased in the Convention Area. Initially, control over fishing effort will be used to achieve this objective as follows:

2. The Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating Territories (hereinafter referred to as CCMs) shall take measures necessary to ensure that total fishing effort by their vessels fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna in the area north of the 20 degrees north shall stay below the 2002-2004 levels for 2013, except for artisanal fisheries. Such measures shall include those to reduce catches of juveniles (age 0-3) below the 2002-2004 levels, except for Korea. Korea shall take necessary measures to regulate the catches of juveniles (age 0-3) by managing Korean fishery in accordance with this CMM. CCMs shall cooperate for this purpose.

3. CCMs shall also take measures necessary to strengthen data collecting system for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries in order to improve the data quality and timeliness of all the data reporting;

...

5. The Northern Committee at its Regular session in 2013 shall review this CMM based on the new ISC stock assessment for Pacific bluefin tuna scheduled in late 2012 and take appropriate actions;

## IATTC

### **Proposal IATTC-85 K-3 Measures for the Conservation and Management of Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (Submitted by Japan, Korea, and Mexico) [excerpt of circulated proposal, subsequently modified in discussion]**

1. In the IATTC Convention Area, the commercial catches of bluefin tuna by all the CPCs during 2014 shall not exceed 5,000 metric tons.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, any CPC with a historical record of eastern Pacific bluefin catches may take commercial catch of up to 500 metric tons of eastern Pacific bluefin tuna annually.
3. CPCs shall take the measures necessary to ensure that the total catch of Pacific bluefin in the Convention Area in 2014 does not exceed the catch limit. For this purpose, each CPC shall report its catches to the Director in a timely fashion... [specific reporting requirements modified in discussion]

#### Domestic Implementation of IATTC Resolution C-21-09 for 2013 (78 FR 33240)

- In accordance with the 10,000 metric ton cumulative catch limit adopted in Resolution C-12-09 for both 2012 and 2013 combined, the cumulative catch limit for all CPCs for 2013 is 3,295 metric tons...
- ...targeting and retention of Pacific bluefin tuna by all U.S. commercial fishing vessels in the EPO shall be prohibited for the remainder of 2013 when the cumulative catch by all CPCs reaches 3,295 metric tons of Pacific bluefin tuna, and when the commercial catch of Pacific bluefin tuna by the U.S. fleet has reached or exceeded 500 metric tons in 2013.
- If the U.S. commercial fishing fleet has not caught 500 metric tons of Pacific bluefin tuna in 2013 when the cumulative catch limit for all CPCs is reached, then the U.S. commercial fishing fleet may continue to target and retain Pacific bluefin tuna until the 500 metric ton limit is reached.
- The U.S. commercial fishing fleet may retain more than the 500 metric tons of Pacific bluefin tuna in 2013 unless and until the international fleet reaches the limit of 3,295 metric tons.

PFMC  
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