

NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA PRECAUTIONARY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

At its June 2012 meeting the Council was briefed on the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee's (NC) work to develop a precautionary framework for the management of North Pacific albacore (see [Agenda Item E.2, Situation Summary](#), June 2012). Attachment C to the [meeting report](#) from the 2011 NC meeting describes the management framework as "including agreed upon biological limit and target reference points and decision rules should those reference points be exceeded." Although the NC discussed the precautionary framework at their September 3-6, 2012, meeting, substantive progress was not made beyond a request to the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean to evaluate candidate reference points (see Agenda Item D.5.a, Attachment 1). According to its workplan, the NC is supposed to complete the precautionary management framework next year, coincident with the next North Pacific albacore stock assessment.

At the March 2012 meeting the Council tasked the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) to work with the HMS Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) HMS Subcommittee to further develop information to allow the Council to provide input on the development of a management framework at the June 2012 meeting. In March 2013 the Council provided further guidance to the HMSMT on information that would be helpful to the Council for developing recommendations on the precautionary management framework:

...to identify potential measures that should be implemented pursuant to the precautionary management framework for North Pacific albacore currently under development at the international level. This should include identification of appropriate biological reference point(s) and both effort-based and catch-based control rules, at the international level of applicability as opposed to domestic fishery specificity. This information will be ready for the June Council meeting so the Council can develop recommendations to the US delegation to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee meeting in September 2013. The HMSMT will also provide comments on potential complementary initiatives that may be adopted by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) for the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO). (March 2013 Council Meeting Decision Summary Document)

In response to this guidance, the HMSMT met May 28-30, 2013, and drafted the attached HMSMT Report. The HMSMT Report outlines objectives for a management framework, identifies candidate biological reference points and harvest control rules, and provides an overview of the pros and cons of the range of management measures that could be implemented at the international level to control fishing mortality. As noted in the Report, the HMSMT may submit a supplemental report with additional information on these topics.

The 85th Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) occurred June 10-14, 2013, in Veracruz, Mexico. At that meeting, Canada was expected to submit a [Draft Proposal on North Pacific Albacore](#), which would replace Resolution C-05-02. That resolution

limits the total level of fishing effort for North Pacific albacore tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean to “current levels.” Canada’s proposal, among other things, defines “current effort” as the “average level of fishing effort from 2002-2004 as the baseline.” Staff will update the Council on the outcomes of the IATTC meeting.

This meeting is an opportunity for the Council to develop recommendations on elements that should be included in the NC albacore precautionary management framework as it is developed in the NC international forum. The next NC meeting is scheduled September 2-5, 2013, in Fukuoka, Japan.

Council Action:

Adopt Elements of a Precautionary Management Framework for North Pacific Albacore Tuna.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.5.a, Attachment 1: Summary Report of the Eighth Regular Session of the WCPFC Northern Committee, Attachment E; North Pacific Albacore Reference Points, Requests to the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean.
2. Agenda Item D.5.b, HMSMT Report.

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 Elements of a Precautionary Management Framework for North Pacific Albacore Tuna

PFMC
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