

UPDATE ON REGULATORY MATTERS AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will brief the Council on recent regulatory actions, outcomes from international forums related to highly migratory species (HMS), and future HMS-related international meetings (see Agenda Item E.1.b, NMFS Report). The following international meetings have occurred since the Council was last briefed on HMS matters (March 2014).

Delegations from the U.S. and Canada met April 16-17 in Portland, Oregon, and successfully negotiated a three-year fishing regime, 2014-2016, pursuant to the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty:

The 5th Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) was held May 12-16 in La Jolla, California. The SAC reviewed information on scientific topics relevant to HMS in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) including stock assessments for bigeye and yellowfin tuna stocks in the EPO prepared by IATTC scientific staff.

The Albacore Working Group of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) held a stock assessment workshop for North Pacific albacore April 14-28 in La Jolla California. The stock assessment will be finalized and reviewed at the ISC's plenary meeting, July 15-21 in Taipei, Taiwan. The Working Group used an age and sex structured Stock Synthesis seasonal model covering the period 1966-2012. The results show that the stock is well above commonly accepted biomass limit reference points and fishing mortality is below commonly accepted fishing mortality limit reference points.

At the March 2014 Council meeting, the Council directed staff to continue working on the development of a precautionary management approach for the North Pacific Albacore at the international level (see URL), including both the IATTC and WCPFC arenas. No intersessional meetings have occurred in either arena since the March Council meeting due in part to competing work load responsibilities.

The Scientific Advisory Subcommittee (SAS) to the U.S. Section to the IATTC meets on June 4, 2014, and the General Advisory Committee (GAC) to the U.S. Section to the IATTC meets on June 5, 2014, in La Jolla, California. The U.S. Section consists of four U.S. Commissioners to the IATTC and a representative of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries. The GAC and SAS support the U.S. Section to the IATTC in an advisory capacity; in particular, they provide advice on the development of U.S. policies and positions.

Between the June and September Council meeting three relevant international HMS meetings will be held. The 87th meeting of the IATTC will be held July 14-18, in Lima, Peru. The 14th Plenary Session of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean meets July 16-21 in Taipei, Taiwan. The Plenary is preceded by meetings of various working groups to finalize stock assessments. The 10th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission is scheduled for September 1-4 in Japan. The status of North Pacific albacore and Pacific bluefin tuna will be discussed in these venues and management recommendations and/or conservation measures could be developed.

The attached NMFS Regulatory Report and Southwest Fisheries Science Center Report contain additional details about these activities.

At this meeting the Council has the opportunity to provide comments on international management that can be transmitted to the U.S. delegations to the relevant meetings.

Council Action:

Consider Developments regarding General Regulatory Activities and International Fishery Issues.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.1.b, NMFS Report: Regulatory and International Activities Update.
2. Agenda Item E.1.b, NMFS SWFSC Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Report of the National Marine Fisheries Service
 - c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. **Council Action:** Consider Developments regarding General Regulatory Activities and International Fishery Issues
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