

CONSIDERATION OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA OVERFISHING STATUS

On April 7, 2011, the Council was notified by the National Marine Service that it had determined that overfishing is occurring on Pacific bluefin tuna pursuant to Section 304(i) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). Attachment 1 provides background information on Pacific bluefin stock status, catches, and current international management measures.

The Council must respond with recommendations to address the relative impact of domestic and international fisheries on the stock by April 7, 2012. According to the Council's "year-at-a-glance" summary (see Agenda Item J.6.a, Attachment 1), the Council would take final action on recommendations at their March 2011 meeting in order to meet the April 7 deadline.

At this meeting the Council could develop preliminary recommendations in order to allow public review and comment before March 2012. The Council should also provide guidance to their Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) and Advisory Subpanel on additional information the Council would like to have in order to finalize their recommendations. The advisory bodies could then prepare a report in advance of the March Council meeting. As discussed in Attachment 1, the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council has requested their Pelagics Plan Team confer with the HMSMT on potential recommendations.

Council Action:

Propose Preliminary Recommendations for Responses to International Overfishing of Pacific Bluefin Tuna; Task HMS Advisory Bodies, as Appropriate

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 1: Pacific Bluefin Tuna Overfishing Overview, including annexes.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Propose Preliminary Recommendations for Addressing the Overfishing Status of Bluefin Tuna
- Kit Dahl

PFMC
10/13/11