HIGHERY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON CONSIDERATION PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA OVERFISHING STATUS

The U.S. northern Pacific bluefin tuna fishery is not large enough to significantly impact recovery of the bluefin tuna stock. At this time, the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) does not see any need for domestic regulations to be promulgated for the northern Pacific bluefin tuna commercial and recreational fishery. Until international measures are negotiated, it is difficult to recommend specific recommendations. However as advice to our U.S. delegation, the HMSAS recommends the following considerations:

- The basis of the problem is the increase of the harvest of juvenile age classes of bluefin in the western Pacific.
- Since 1990, the U.S. Pacific bluefin fishery has been opportunistic, and landings have varied from a low of 60 tons (2004) to a high of 4749 tons (1996). For the last decade, the U.S. has not been a factor in overfishing the North Pacific bluefin stock.
- More information is needed on the size (age, length, weight) and sex of bluefin tuna in the sectors of the fishery.
- A major portion of the recreational fishery traditionally operates off the Mexican coast and the U.S. recreational fleet needs to maintain that opportunity. Therefore, it is important to continue to work on the cooperative relationship concerning the management of tuna stocks with Mexico.

PFMC
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