

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the draft of a resolution intended for consideration by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) regarding the Evaluation of Candidate Target and Limit Reference Points and Decision Framework for North Pacific Albacore (Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 4). The resolution tasks the IATTC scientific staff to work with the International Scientific Committee's Albacore Working Group (ALBWG) to develop a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE). The MSE will analyze the effects of harvest control rules under a range of reference points and evaluate the degree to which each scenario would meet performance criteria.

The SSC notes that full description of the operating model of an MSE is crucial to providing a meaningful evaluation of its potential utility. The resolution does not mention the operating model to be used in the MSE, except that it may "to the extent deemed appropriate by the IATTC scientific staff and the ALBWG, take advantage of the ALBWG's stock assessment model". Using the stock assessment model as the basis of the operating model will overstate the understanding of true system dynamics. The SSC recommends developing a set of operating model scenarios that adequately encompasses the plausible range of uncertainty. Each operating model scenario would reflect an alternative understanding of the stock and the associated fishery. For example, multiple scenarios for how a total allowable effort system is implemented should be examined.

PFMC
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