Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place Suite 101  
Portland, OR 97220

Dear Ms. Lowman:

At the upcoming meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) in Costa Mesa, California, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), on behalf of the U.S. Commissioners to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC, or Commission), will be reporting on the outcomes of the recent IATTC meeting in La Jolla, California, that was held the week of Oct 26, 2014. Pending that report, and in light of the recent stock assessment\(^1\) results for Pacific bluefin tuna (bluefin), I would like to emphasize the importance of the Council taking final action to reduce U.S. recreational catch of bluefin consistent with IATTC Resolution C-14-06\(^2\) (\textit{Measures for the Conservation and Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean 2015-2016}).

Based on recommendations of the IATTC staff scientists\(^3\), the United States urged IATTC members to adopt conservation measures to control the commercial harvest of bluefin throughout the eastern Pacific Ocean, and that comparable measures are pursued in the western and central Pacific Ocean. While imposing a cost to the U.S. fleet, the commercial catch reductions adopted by the IATTC are an important step toward rebuilding the bluefin stock throughout the entire Pacific Ocean. The next bluefin stock assessment is scheduled for 2016, at which time the Commission will consider new management controls based on assessment results.

The United States also urged that reductions in recreational catch, consistent with scientific recommendations, be handled domestically rather than in a binding resolution. I believe that consensus around IATTC Resolution C-14-06 would not have been possible without the strong steps the Council has been taking recently to control recreational bluefin catch. To continue this


\(^3\) [http://iattc.org/Meetings/Meetings2014/OCT/PDFs/IATTC-87-INF-B-Conservation-of-Pacific-bluefin.pdf](http://iattc.org/Meetings/Meetings2014/OCT/PDFs/IATTC-87-INF-B-Conservation-of-Pacific-bluefin.pdf)
positive momentum internationally, it is critical that the Council make its final recommendations in November for bluefin bag limits that complement IATTC Resolution C-14-06 and contribute to the rebuilding of the stock.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Barry A. Thom
U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC

cc: David Hogan, Department of State
    William Fox, U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
    Donald Hansen, U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
    Edward Weissman, U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
    Cisco Werner, Director, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries
    Michael Tosatto, Regional Administrator, Pacific Islands Regional Office, NOAA Fisheries
    Russell Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries, NOAA