

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
STOCK ASSESSMENTS FOR ALBACORE AND BLUE FIN TUNA

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) received a report from Dr. Gary Sakagawa about recent findings of the Interim Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) related to the status of bluefin tuna and north pacific albacore. The HMSAS notes that these are provisional assessments and recommends the Council withhold formal consideration until the full and final assessments are presented to the Council.

Whether overfishing is occurring cannot be determined at this time. To do so would require a baseline F_{MSY} proxy be agreed to at the international level.

The HMSAS also reviewed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) report about this agenda item. The HMSAS fully supports the SSC's comments.

Finally, to ensure effective international management of highly migratory species (HMS) stocks, the Council should consider increasing its participation in both the science and policy fora related to international HMS fisheries. As in our previous statements, this recommendation is contingent on the Council receiving secure, long-term, dedicated funding for HMS.

PFMC
09/16/04