

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON YELLOWFIN OVERFISHING

As stated in the Council Agenda Item C.2.a Attachment 2, “Because west coast fisheries are a negligible contributor to the total fishing effort on the stock, further curtailment of these catches would have no practical effect on overfishing.” The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) recommends that no measures to reduce this fishery be established by the Council in 2008. The HMSAS suggests that the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) scientific staff recommendations for the conservation measures to recover the yellowfin tuna should be supported with consideration for an exemption for national purse seine fleets of class I-V vessels that harvest a minor portion of the total Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) yellowfin harvest. The definition of “minor portion” should be determined by the IATTC scientific staff to ensure conservation targets are achieved.

The HMSAS notes that Agenda Item C.2.a Attachment 2 recommends that the Council support ratifying the Antigua Convention. The HMSAS would like to suggest that the Council request a copy of the Antigua Convention enabling legislation from the State and Commerce Departments for the Council’s Legislative Committee to review. That review should ensure that

- The Council is represented on the IATTC General Advisory Committee (GAC) as the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC) is represented in the WCPFC Advisory Committee
- The IATTC GAC gets the same status as the Advisory Committee to the WCPFC
- The IATTC GAC gets proper financial support

PFMC
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