

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL FISHERY
MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS (RFMO)

The Northern Committee is a subsidiary body of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), responsible for making recommendations for Highly Migratory Species (HMS) stocks occurring principally north of 20° N latitude. Currently this body has identified as their responsibility the North Pacific stocks of albacore tuna, bluefin tuna, and swordfish. The Northern Committee may request scientific information and advice regarding these fish stocks from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species (ISC). In addition, information on stock status presented by the WCPFC Scientific Committee may be relevant. The 5th Regular Session of the Scientific Committee is scheduled for August 10-21, 2009 in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

The Northern Committee will hold its 5th Regular Session, September 7-10, 2009 in Nagasaki, Japan. Any conservation recommendations they make are presented to the 6th Regular Session of the WCPFC, to be held December 7-11, 2009 in Papeete, Tahiti. Because the next Northern Committee meeting occurs the week before the Council's September meeting, the only opportunity for the Council to develop positions for consideration by the Northern Committee is at this meeting. Any such recommendations would be submitted to the U.S. delegation to the Northern Committee for presentation at the upcoming meeting.

Attachment 1 is the report of the Fourth Regular Session of the Northern Committee, held September 9-11, 2008.

Council Action:

1. Approve recommendations on HMS management to U.S. delegation to the Northern Committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 1: Summary Report of the Fourth Regular Session of the Northern Committee, September 9-11, 2008, Tokyo, Japan (Hard copy report only, report with appendices on web and CD-ROM).

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kit Dahl
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Approve Recommendations on Highly Migratory Species Management to the Northern Committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

PFMC
05/27/2009