

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL
REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) discussed potential conservation and management recommendations to the U.S. delegations to the Northern Committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

Regarding North Pacific albacore, the HMSMT recommends the following:

1. Maintain progress toward establishing biological reference points for effective management.
2. Request that all parties to the WCPFC Convention report fishing effort information to comply with the resolution to not increase fishing effort above current levels.
3. Request that a member of WCPFC be invited to participate in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) working group to define compatible measures of “current” fishing effort for the two resolutions from these commissions.

Regarding striped marlin, the HMSMT recommends the following:

1. Resolve issues about stock structure within the Pacific and the North Pacific Ocean. Upon resolution of stock structure, a stock assessment should be conducted for all stocks in the North Pacific Ocean.
2. Since evidence indicates a northern stock exists primarily above 20°N latitude, request the Northern Committee to seek management authority for this northern stock.

Regarding northern bluefin tuna, the HMSMT recommends that a new assessment be conducted as soon as possible to resolve uncertainties on the northern bluefin tuna assessment.