

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT  
INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

The report covers international issues that the Council may want to consider for the 2015 meetings of the Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) of the North Pacific.

Presidential Task Force Recommendations on Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Seafood Fraud: The Task Force was established by a [Presidential Memorandum](#) released by the White House on June 17, 2014. The Task Force recommendations were published in the *Federal Register* ([79 FR 75536](#)) on December 18, 2015; and, the comment period closed on January 20, 2015. NMFS is seeking guidance on implementation of the Task Force recommendations.

Silky Shark: A silky shark management measure, similar to that adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) in 2013 ([CMM 2013-08](#)), has been proposed during Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) meetings since 2012. Stock status indicators for silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), presented during the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), suggest that the northern and southern stocks in the eastern Pacific Ocean are in decline (see [SAC-05-11a](#)). The IATTC scientific staff provided [recommendations for silky shark](#) in 2014, including prohibiting the retention of silky shark in purse seine fisheries.

Shark Finning: For several years, IATTC proposals have been submitted to replace current controls on shark finning ([Resolution C-05-03](#)) with a prohibition on the retention of shark fins that are not naturally attached to the carcass. In 2006, the IATTC Working Group to Review Stock Assessments ([SAR-7-09](#)) showed inaccuracies in the 5 percent fin-to-carcass weight ratio due to variations in finning practices. A 2014 proposal sponsored by the European Union ([IATTC-87-E-1](#)) would improve consistency between IATTC resolutions and the [Shark Conservation Act of 2010](#).

Seabird Mitigation: During the 2014 IATTC Annual Meeting, the United States expressed its intent to develop an amended resolution on seabirds for 2015. The IATTC scientific staff made a recommendation in 2014 to revise the current seabird conservation measure, [Resolution C-11-02](#), consistent with seabird mitigation techniques described in document [SAC-05 INF-E](#). The IATTC scientific staff also recommended expanding the area of application to include additional waters in the North Pacific.

Port Inspection Scheme: In 2014, the European Union submitted a proposal ([IATTC-87 C-1](#)) intended to combat IUU fishing through the development of a port inspection scheme, which is a key element of the [Port State Measures Agreement](#) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The United States played a leading role in the negotiations of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, and was one of the first countries to sign when it was opened for signature in 2009.

IUU: Since 2008, the United States has proposed a comprehensive set of revisions to improve the IATTC's IUU listing procedures. The U.S. proposal for the 2014 Annual Meeting was intended

to improve the existing IATTC [Resolution C-05-07](#) to establish an IUU vessel list in the IATTC, including harmonizing it with similar measures in other RFMOs.

Reference Points for Pacific Bluefin Tuna, Albacore, and Swordfish: The Northern Committee (NC) to the WCPFC will work towards establishing precautionary management frameworks that include target and limit reference points for Pacific bluefin tuna, North Pacific albacore and North Pacific swordfish by building on the outcomes of the [10<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the NC](#).

### **International Meetings**

The following RFMO-related meetings are scheduled for 2015.

#### IATTC-related Meetings:

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|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) | May 11–15, 2015*      | La Jolla, CA       |
| 2. U.S. Delegation (GAC and SAS)       | June 2–3, 2015        | La Jolla, CA       |
| 3. Annual Meeting                      | June 29–July 10, 2015 | Guayaquil, Ecuador |

\*Dates are tentative.

#### Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission-related Meetings:

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Scientific Committee               | August 5-13, 2015     | Pohnpei, FSM*    |
| 2. Technical and Compliance Committee | September 23-29, 2015 | Pohnpei, FSM*    |
| 3. U.S. Delegation (PAC)              | October 14-15, 2015   | Honolulu, Hawaii |
| 4. Northern Committee                 | early September, 2015 | Japan**          |
| 5. Annual Meeting                     | December 3-8, 2015    | Bali, Indonesia  |

\*Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

\*\* Location to be determined.