

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES  
INCLUDING U.S.-CANADA ALBACORE TREATY AREA FISHERY UPDATE

Council Chair Dorothy Lowman, Executive Director Donald McIsaac, and Staff Officer Kit Dahl attended the Twelfth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), December 1-5, 2015. Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 1 is a letter from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Pacific Islands Regional Administrator Michael Tosatto summarizing the outcomes of this meeting. Ms. Lowman will provide an oral report on the meeting and its outcomes.

The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) is sponsoring a workshop May 17-18, 2016, to solicit input from managers and stakeholders in member countries of the WCPFC Northern Committee (NC) on management objectives for North Pacific albacore. The management objectives would then be subjected to management strategy evaluation with the results provided to the NC in support of further development of its precautionary management framework for North Pacific albacore. At the direction of the Council, the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Subpanel and HMS Management Team developed proposed management objectives, which were submitted as part of the NC/ISC process. Submissions were considered at a special December 1, 2015 session of the NC. The collated submissions are contained in Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 2. The cover email to the management objectives template in Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 2 provides some background on this process. In November 2015 the Council budgeted for two advisory body members to attend the May 17-18 workshop. At the current meeting, the Council could provide additional guidance on management objectives to be considered at the upcoming workshop.

The current fishing regime under the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty will expire at the end of the 2016 fishing season. (See [Agenda Item E.1.b, NMFS Report](#), June 2014, for a summary of the current regime.) In the absence of a fishing regime past this year, albacore fishing by either country in the other country's exclusive economic zone would be eliminated. However, a report of the Joint Data Committee, including economic information, has yet to be completed. The Council may wish to discuss the status of the fishery in 2015 and prospects for the 2016 season and beyond. Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 3, shows landings, nominal revenue, and price-per-pound for albacore landed in West Coast port areas, 2013-2015. These data were obtained from the PacFIN [APEX Reporting System](#).

The 90<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) is scheduled for June 27-July 1, 2016, which conflicts with the June 23-28, 2016, Council meeting. For that reason, if the Council wishes to make recommendations on U.S. positions they will need to do at the current Council meeting. Agenda Item F.4.b, Supplemental NMFS Report discusses issues of importance to the Council that are likely to be taken up at the IATTC meeting.

A July 14, 2015 letter from NMFS West Coast Regional Administrator William Stelle informed the Council that the Eastern Pacific Ocean swordfish stock is subject to overfishing (see [Agenda Item G.1.a, NMFS Report 2](#), September 2015). According to Section 304(i) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Council has one year to develop recommendations for domestic regulations to address the relative impact of domestic fisheries on the stock and international measures to end

overfishing and rebuild the affected stock. Therefore, the Council would need to make those recommendations no later than the June meeting to meet the July 14, 2016 deadline.

Agenda Item F.4.b, NMFS Supplemental Report, also includes a schedule of 2016 international meetings.

**Council Action:**

- 1. Consider Reports on International Activities Including the Albacore Fishery.**
- 2. Consider Recommendations for the 90<sup>th</sup> Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Meeting.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 1: Letter from Michael Tosatto to Council Chairs on Outcomes of the Twelfth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.
2. Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 2: Cover Email and Proposed Northern Committee Member Management Objectives for North Pacific Albacore.
3. Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 3: PacFIN APEX HMS Port Report: Commercial Albacore Landings by Port for All Gear Types and All Areas: Metric-Tons (mt), Revenue (\$), and Price-per-pound (\$/lbs).
4. Agenda Item F.4.b, Supplemental NMFS Report: IATTC issues, Schedule of International Meetings, and Statistical Summary of 2015 Landings in the West Coast Albacore Fishery.

**Agenda Order:**

- F.4 Recommendations for International Management Activities Including U.S.-  
Canada Albacore Treaty Area Fishery Update Kit Dahl
- a. Report on the WCPFC Meeting Dorothy Lowman
  - b. Report of the National Marine Fisheries Service Heidi Taylor
  - c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
  - d. Public Comment
  - e. **Council Action:** Consider Reports on International Activities Including 2015 U.S.-Canada Albacore Fishery and Recommendations for the 90th Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Meeting.

PFMC  
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