

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES INCLUDING EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN SWORDFISH STATUS, REPORT OF THE NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION WORKSHOP, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 12TH NORTHERN COMMITTEE MEETING

A July 14, 2015, letter from Mr. William Stelle, Regional Administrator of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region, informed the Council that the North Pacific swordfish stock in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) is subject to overfishing (Attachment 1). According to Section 304(i) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), 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. Recommendations for international actions are submitted to the Secretary of State and Congress in addition to NMFS. The Council must finalize its recommendations on this issue at this meeting to meet the one-year deadline specified in the MSA.

The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) held a workshop May 24-25, 2016, to solicit input from managers and stakeholders in member countries of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee (NC) on management objectives for North Pacific albacore. Management objectives will guide development of a management strategy evaluation (MSE) 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 Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) and HMS Management Team (HMSMT) held a webinar on May 12, 2016 to review candidate objectives and related performance metrics. This discussion informed Council attendees to the workshop: Ms. Cyreis Schmitt of the HMSMT and Dr. Kit Dahl, Council staff. Other U.S. attendees included NMFS staff and representatives from the West Coast albacore fishery. Ms. Schmitt and Dr. Dahl will report to the Council on workshop outcomes.

Dr. Gerard DiNardo, NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (and ISC Chair), will brief the Council on these and other science issues related to international HMS management.

The NC will hold its Twelfth Regular Session (NC12) August 30-September 2, 2016, in Fukuoka, Japan. In addition to further development of the North Pacific albacore management framework (and related MSE), the Council may wish to provide recommendations on updating the current rebuilding plan measure for Pacific bluefin tuna ([CMM 2015-04](#)). Although this measure is not set to expire, the ISC has completed a new stock assessment for Pacific bluefin, which could prompt the NC to revise the measure. It may be recalled that the U.S. submitted two proposals relating to Pacific bluefin in 2015 but was unsuccessful in getting agreement on them from NC members. (These proposals may be found in the briefing materials for Agenda Item G.1, September 2015. The discussion of these proposals is summarized in the [NC 11 Meeting Report](#).) Results from the latest stock assessment, including harvest scenarios requested by the NC, could prompt the NC to identify changes to the measure at its upcoming meeting.

The 90th meeting of the IATTC takes place June 27-July 1, overlapping with the June Council meeting. The IATTC will be taking up a replacement for Resolution C-14-06 for Pacific bluefin tuna (Attachment 2), which expires at the end of 2016. While there is not enough time for the Council to submit formal recommendations to the U.S. government on this matter, the Council could engage directly with the NMFS representative on the Council, who will be attending the IATTC meeting, to express any concerns or recommendations about Pacific bluefin tuna conservation and management or other issues that may be taken up by the IATTC.

**Council Action:**

- 1. Make recommendations to address EPO swordfish overfishing per the requirements in Magnuson-Stevens Act §304(i).**
- 2. Develop Recommendations for the U.S. Delegation to the 12th Northern Committee Meeting and Other Forums as Appropriate.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 1: July 14, 2015, letter from Will Stelle to Dorothy Lowman EPO Swordfish Overfishing.
2. Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 2: Resolution C-14-06, Measures for the Conservation and Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, 2015-2016.
3. Agenda Item D.2.a, NMFS Report: International Issues.
4. Agenda Item D.2.b, Public Comment.

**Agenda Order:**

- D.2 International Issues Including Eastern Pacific Ocean Swordfish Status, Report of the North Pacific Albacore Management Strategy Evaluation Workshop and Recommendations for the 12th Northern Committee Meeting Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** 1) Make recommendations to address Eastern Pacific Ocean Swordfish Overfishing Per the Requirements in Magnuson-Stevens Act §304(i); 2) Develop Recommendations for the U.S. Delegation to the 12th Northern Committee Meeting and Other Forums as Appropriate

PFMC  
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