

# Supplemental HMSMT Report on Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures

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Council Agenda Item J.3  
September 2016

# Report Orientation

1. Clarifying biological reference points (BRPs)
2. Responding to components of the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) petition for a rulemaking on Pacific bluefin tuna
3. Peer-review of the common thresher shark (CTS) assessment

# 1. Clarifying BRPs

## 1.1 Describing MSY and OY

- Interpretation of OY difficult for international stocks (i.e. it more clearly applies to domestic stocks)

## 1.2 Considering status determination criteria (SDC) and MSY proxy development to inform SDC

- RFMOs don't always provide MSY or proxies to calculate SDC defined in FMP
- Lack of FMP clarity can lead to inconsistency of SDC calculation across different analysts
- Work with RFMOs to get necessary information for SDC
- 3 options (next slide)

## 1.3 Coordinating and prioritizing development of SDC between the PFMC and WPFMC

- More detail coming in another slide

# Three Options for MSY Proxy Selection

This relates only to proxy selection, but not recommending amending SDCs in the FMP

- Option 1: The Council could defer to NMFS for a review of international assessments and the selection of applicable proxies for SDCs.
- Option 2: The HMSMT could generate a range of alternatives for the Council to consider for refining the current HMS FMP framework for selecting proxies for SDCs.
- Option 3: The HMSMT could work with NMFS to facilitate the Council's consideration of proxies for each MUS for which the latest assessment does not include the information necessary for calculating SDCs on a "case-by-case" basis.

# Coordinating with WPFMC

- MSA 304(i) - identify appropriate council for making recommendations on overfished/overfishing stocks.
- MUS in HMS FMP and PFEP are the same
- PFMC could identify itself to NMFS as an appropriate council for making management recommendations on stocks which US West Coast fleet fishes on
  - Would not preclude both P. Council and WPFMC from making management recommendations to NMFS

## 2. Response to CBD petition

- Prohibiting U.S. West Coast vessels from fishing for PBF would not have a consequential impact on ending overfishing
- A prohibition on retention would have significant negative economic impacts and place a disproportionate burden on the U.S. West Coast fishing industry; hence would not be in the best interest of the Nation
- The U.S. has already implemented management measures (recreational and commercial) to address the relatively limited impact of the U.S. fleet on the PBF stock
- The HMSMT is currently evaluating reference points for management unit species in the HMS FMP
- During its October 2016 meeting, the IATTC is expected to adopt a new resolution on the conservation and management of PBF

### 3. Peer-review of CTS assessment

- A stock assessment for the common thresher shark population in the HMS FMP was published in March 2016
- The stock is not overfished nor subject to overfishing
- Catch levels in recent years have not approached the 340 metric ton harvest guideline for common thresher stock in the HMS FMP
- The Center for Independent Experts (CIE) will be contracted to conduct a peer-review of the assessment to determine if it constitutes BSIA

# HMSMT Recommendations

1.1 Remove outdated estimates of MSY and OY from the HMS FMP, and provide numerical estimates (when available) in the SAFE report.

1.2 Consider SDCs and proxies for MUS on a case-by-case basis (Option 3). In doing so, the HMSMT could work with NMFS to align the workload of updating stock status with NMFS status determination process, taking into consideration the Council's biennial management cycle. Further, working towards alignment of NMFS status determination process with the Council's biennial management cycle would help streamline the process for specifying reference points by incorporating this information in the SAFE report in future years.

1.3 Coordinate between councils on MUS species which overlap with their FMP. At the direction of the PFMC, the HMSMT will develop a list of MUS stocks from which the Council could decide if it is the "appropriate" council.



# HMSMT Recommendations

2. Withhold response to relevant components of the CBD bluefin petition until after the IATTC's 90th meeting in October 2016 and questions about BRPs raised in this report are resolved.
3. Request SSC input on the appropriate peer review process for the common thresher shark stock assessment.