

The 17th Meeting of the ISC & NC13: Activity Report

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Presentation Topics

- **Participants**
- **Stock Status & Conservation Information**
- **Interactions with Regional Organizations**
- **Administrative matters**
- **Future Activities**
 - **ISC17**
 - **NC13 - PBF**



ISC17 Participants

July 2017 Vancouver BC, Canada

ISC Members

- Canada
- Chinese Taipei
- Japan
- Mexico
- Republic of Korea
- United States of America

Non-Voting Members

- WCPFC
- PICES

Observers

- Pew Charitable Trust
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature – Japan
- Monterey Bay Aquarium
- Wild Oceans
- AFRF/AAFA
- Tohoku University
- Waseda University

ISC Stock Assessments

- **North Pacific Albacore Tuna**
 - Benchmark assessment



- **North Pacific Blue Shark**
 - Benchmark assessment



- ***NP Swordfish, NP Striped Marlin, Pacific Blue Marlin, Pacific Bluefin Tuna and Shortfin Mako Shark – No assessments***

Stock Status and Conservation Information

North Pacific Albacore Tuna – Stock Status

- The stock is likely **not overfished** relative to the adopted limit reference point and
- Stock is **not likely in an overfishing condition.**

Stock Status and Conservation Information

North Pacific Albacore Tuna – Conservation Information

- If a constant fishing intensity ($F_{2012-2014}$) is applied to the stock, median female spawning biomass is expected to **undergo a moderate decline**, with a **< 0.01% probability of falling below** the WCPFC established **limit reference point by 2025**.

Stock Status and Conservation Information

North Pacific Blue Shark - Stock Status

- Female **spawning biomass** in 2015 (SSB_{2015}) was 69% **higher than at MSY** and estimated to be 295,774 mt ;
- The recent average annual **fishing mortality** ($F_{2012-2014}$) was estimated to be **well below F_{MSY}** at approximately 38% of F_{MSY} ; and
- The stock is **not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.**

Stock Status and Conservation Information

North Pacific Blue Shark – Conservation Information

- Projections under different fishing mortality (F) harvest policies (status quo, +20%, -20%, F_{MSY}) show that median blue shark spawning biomass in the North Pacific Ocean will likely **remain above SSB_{MSY} in the foreseeable future (2024)**.

Interactions with Regional Organizations

PICES

- **November 2016 Annual Meeting**
 - **Convene Workshop 4 – Methods relating oceanographic conditions to the distribution of highly migratory species**
- **September 2017 Annual Meeting**
 - **Convene Workshop 3 - Linking oceanographic conditions to the distribution and productivity of highly migratory species and incorporation into fishery stock assessment models**

Administrative matters

ISC Leadership Changes

- Jon Brodziak (USA) reelected as BILLWG Chair
- Hidetada Kiyofugi (Japan) elected as ALBWG Chair
- Ren-Fan Wu (Taiwan) reelected as STATWG Chair

- **John Holmes (Canada) elected as ISC Chair**
- **Eric Chang (Taiwan) elected as ISC Vice Chair**

ISC18

- Korea, July 2018

Future Activities – ISC17 (2017-2018)

- **Form Ad-Hoc Working Group to explore the development of an international HMS tagging program – initial focus Pacific bluefin and North Pacific albacore tuna under the auspices of ISC;**
- **October 2017 (Shimizu, Japan) - Convene mako shark ageing workshop;**
- **Fall 2017 (La Jolla, CA USA) - Convene Close-kin Workshop; and**
- **October 17-19, 2017 (Vancouver BC, Canada) - Convene 3rd ISC MSE Workshop.**

Future Activities – ISC17 (2017-2018)

- **March 2018 (La Jolla, CA USA) – PBF Stock Assessment;**
- **April 2018 – SMA Stock Assessment**
- **April 2018 – ALB MSE and Data Prep.**
- **May 2018 – SWO Stock Assessment**
- **July 11-18 (Korea) – ISC18**

Future Activities - NC13 Pacific Bluefin Tuna (2019 - ?)

Keep in mind:

- No BRP & HCR, inadequate catch monitoring
- Initial rebuilding target: SSB_{MED} by 2024
- Pressure for NC to specify 2nd rebuilding target and develop emergency recruitment rule
- ISC conducted ~ 20 harvest scenarios – April 2017



Future Activities - NC13 Pacific Bluefin Tuna (2019 - ?)

Outcome:

- Second rebuilding target: 20%SSB $F=0$ by 2034
- Emergency recruitment rule → Recruitment Framework

Decision Rules (HCR)

1. HCR-Initial Rebuilding Period (based on projections by ISC)
 - If I-RT is not achieved by 2024 w/60% prob., mgt. modified to meet 60% (less catch or transfer of catch)
 - If prob. of achieving I-RT by 2024 is > 75%, increase catch to levels such that reaching the 2nd-RT by 2034 is at least 60%
2. HCR-2nd-Rebuilding Period
 1. To be defined during initial rebuilding period

Future Activities - NC13 Pacific Bluefin Tuna (2019 - ?)

Monitoring

- **ISC will:**
 - **Conduct stock assessments in 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2024**
 - **Continue to monitor recruitment**

Performance Evaluation --- **ABOUT TIME**

- **ISC develop PBF MSE by 2024**
- **ISC initiate MSE Workshops in early 2018**
- **NC provide candidate TRP, LRP, HCR to ISC by 2019**
- **New MSE staff for ISC**

Stakeholder's Pulse

Given the agreements at NC13 nothing but praise

... the two groups that manage Pacific bluefin tuna reached a historic long-term agreement that would put the species on the path to recovery. – NPR Sept. 2017 😎

...good first step – SeafoodSource Sept. 2017 😎

... good first step.. Proponents hailed the deal as a compromise that everyone could live with – Washington Post Sept. 2017 😎

... historical moment for this remarkable species – MBA Sept. 2017 😎

However



ISC Sept. 2017



THANKS!