

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Two meetings of interest to the Council related to international highly migratory species (HMS) management have occurred since the Council's September meeting.

The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean sponsored the Third North Pacific Albacore Management Strategy Evaluation Workshop, October 17-19 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The Council sponsored attendance for one member of the HMS Management Team (HMSMT), Ms. Cyreis Schmitt, and two members of the HMS Advisory Subpanel, Mr. Douglas Fricke and Mr. Wayne Heikkila. In addition, Ms. Celia Barroso, who is on the HMSMT, is attending the workshop on behalf of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The goal of this workshop is to finalize management objectives and strategies through discussion with managers and stakeholders. Specific objectives include:

1. Review management objectives and performance metrics previously proposed (Yokohama, May 2016),
2. Identify acceptable level of risk for each objective to be used in evaluating performance of management strategies,
3. Develop a preliminary set of candidate reference points and harvest control rules for testing, and
4. Review the work plan and timeline for conducting management strategy evaluation.

Council staff will give a brief report on the meeting's outcomes.

The Permanent Advisory Committee (PAC) to the U.S. Section to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) met October 24-25. The purpose of the PAC is to serve in an advisory capacity to the U.S. Section to the WCPFC on the development of U.S. policies, positions, and negotiating strategies with respect to U.S. participation in the WCPFC. The U.S. Section is composed of the U.S. Commissioners and representatives of the Department of State, if the Department of State does not have an appointed Commissioner. Dr. Kit Dahl attended as an ex-officio member on behalf of the Council. Ms. Dorothy Lowman attended in her capacity as a WCPFC Commissioner. Dr. Dahl will give a brief report on the meeting.

PAC recommendations will feed into positions taken by the U.S. at the Fourteenth Regular Session of the WCPFC, December 3-7, 2017 (Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 1 is the provisional annotated agenda for this meeting). A major topic at this meeting will be the adoption of a bridging conservation and management measure (CMM) for tropical tunas to replace the expiring measure, CMM 2016-01. The Commission will also address outcomes from the Thirteenth Northern Committee meeting (reported on under Agenda Item J.3, September 2017). Of particular interest are the adoption of harvest strategies for Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific albacore and changes to associated CMMs. Some West Coast based vessels fish for South Pacific albacore so the development of a bridging measure for this stock also may be of interest. (In the context, "bridging measure" refers to eventual adoption of harvest strategies for all WCPFC stocks as outlined in CMM 2014-06 on the development and implementation of a harvest strategy approach for key fisheries and stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean). The Council may wish to provide recommendations to be considered by the U.S. delegation to this meeting.

NMFS intends to publish a proposed rule for managing commercial fishery catch of Pacific bluefin tuna in 2018 under the U.S. catch limit established pursuant to [IATTC Resolution 2016-03](#). The comment period for the rule would overlap with the Council's November meeting, allowing the Council to formally comment. As discussed at the September Council meeting (see [Agenda Item J.3.a, Supplemental CDFW-NMFS Report 1](#)), in 2017 commercial fishery landings exceeded the 425 mt annual limit established under Resolution 2016-03 before NMFS could close the fishery on August 28, 2017. The Resolution also sets a two-year total catch limit of 600 mt for 2017-2018. Given the catch in 2017, the catch limit for 2018 will be less than 130 mt.

NMFS will submit a supplemental report on the aforementioned rulemaking and rulemaking to address obligations under [IATTC Resolution C-17-02](#), *Conservation Measures for Tropical Tunas in the Eastern Pacific Ocean during 2018-2020 and Amendment to Resolution C-17-01*.

Council Action:

Consider Reports on International Activities and Provide Recommendations, as Appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 1: Provisional Annotated Agenda for the Fourteenth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.
2. *Agenda Item H.2.c, Supplemental NMFS Report 1.*

Agenda Order:

- H.2 Recommendations for International Management Activities Kit Dahl
- a. Outcomes of the Third North Pacific Albacore Management Strategy Evaluation Workshop
 - b. Report on the Western and Central Pacific Commission Permanent Advisory Committee Meeting
 - c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. **Council Action:** Consider Reports on International Activities and Provide Recommendations, as Appropriate

PFMC
11/07/17