NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES (HMS) ACTIVITIES

Proposed Rule for Fishing Restrictions for Tropical Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean for 2018-2020

On November 14, 2017, NMFS West Coast Region published a proposed rule (82 FR 52700) under the Tuna Convention Act to implement provisions included in Resolution C-17-02 (*Conservation Measures for Tropical Tunas in the Eastern Pacific Ocean During 2018-2020*), which was adopted at the July 2017 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) meeting. More information on the proposed rule can be found in the previous supplemental NMFS Report (See <u>Agenda Item H.2.c.</u>). This proposed rule is necessary for the conservation of tropical tuna stocks (i.e.,bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), and skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) in the eastern Pacific Ocean and for the United States to satisfy its obligations as a member of the IATTC. The 30-day public comment period for the proposed rule ends on December 14, 2017.