

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

There are a number of activities and actions being undertaken by regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs) relevant to management of West Coast highly migratory species (HMS) fisheries, which will be reviewed and discussed under this agenda item.

Management strategy evaluations (MSEs) for North Pacific albacore and Pacific bluefin tuna are underway or planned by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC). The ISC is the science provider for the Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee (NC), which develops conservation measures for northern stocks. Dr. Gerard Dinardo will report on progress to date on these two MSEs.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) held an MSE listening session on April 18, 2018, to inform stakeholders and garner input, particularly for the first ISC Sponsored Pacific Bluefin Tuna MSE Workshop, scheduled for May 30-31, 2018 in Yokohama, Japan. (Attachment 1 is the proposed agenda for the workshop.) Ms. Heidi Taylor will report on the listening session; U.S. priorities for the 93rd Meeting of Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) scheduled for August 24 and 27-30, 2018; discussions at the May 14-18, 2018 IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee; and outcomes of the May 10-13, 2018, IATTC working group meetings on bycatch, fish aggregation devices (FADs), and fleet capacity.

Dr. Kit Dahl will give a brief summary of the outcomes of the Fourteenth Regular Session of the WCPFC, which occurred in December 2017. The meeting report is included in electronic form as Attachment 2.

The WCPFC adopted a revised Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna as proposed by the NC (Attachment 2). Although WCPFC measures generally do not apply to West Coast HMS fisheries, close coordination between the NC and the IATTC, whose resolutions do affect West Coast fisheries, means that NC deliberations have an indirect effect. IATTC Resolution C-16-08 (Attachment 3) established management measures for 2017-2018 along with a long-term management framework that essentially articulates a rebuilding plan formulated by the NC through joint working group meetings with the IATTC. The Resolution established an overall two-year U.S. commercial catch limit of 600 mt not to exceed 425 mt in any one year. In 2017 the limit was exceeded and the fishery closed (by a prohibition on retention and landing) at the end of August. This resulted in a 2018 catch limit of 114 mt. NMFS subsequently established a 1-mt trip limit—except for large-mesh drift gillnet vessels, which would be subject to a 2-mt trip limit—throughout 2018 or until the 2018 catch limit is reached and the fishery is closed (83 FR 13203). On May 3, 2018, the IATTC Secretariat notified members that the Eastern Pacific Ocean catch limit of 2,476 mt had been exceeded and called on members to adopt measures “to close this fishery immediately”; however, the U.S. catch, according to NMFS, was less than 5 mt as of that date. NMFS did not announce an intention to close the U.S. portion of the fishery, because Resolution C-16-08 provides the United States an allowance of 600 mt for 2017 and 2018, combined.

The WCPFC NC meeting, and third concurrent IATTC-WCPFC NC working group meeting, is scheduled for September 3-7, 2018. The Council may wish to make recommendations on desired

outcomes relative to Pacific bluefin management stemming from these meetings and the aforementioned annual IATTC meeting. The Council could also provide input on the further development of the North Pacific albacore and Pacific bluefin MSEs. Although conducted by the ISC, scientists from the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center are directly involved in developing the modeling platforms for these efforts.

Council Action:

Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at Upcoming Meetings of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission’s Northern Committee and the Inter-American Topical Tuna Commission, as Appropriate. Provide Advice on the Ongoing Development of Management Strategy Evaluation for North Pacific Albacore and Pacific Bluefin Tuna.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1: May 30-31, 2018, Pacific Bluefin Tuna Management Strategy Evaluation Workshop Proposed Agenda.
2. Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 2: Fourteenth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Summary Report, Issued March 16, 2018. (*Electronic Only*).
3. Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 3: Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Resolution C-16-08, Measures for the Conservation and Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

Agenda Order:

- G.2 Recommendations for International Management Activities Kit Dahl
- a. Bluefin and Albacore Tuna Management Strategy Evaluation Updates Gerard Dinardo
 - b. Report on the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Annual Meeting Kit Dahl
 - c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. **Council Action:** Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at Upcoming Meetings of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission’s Northern Committee and the Inter-American Topical Tuna Commission, as Appropriate. Provide Advice on the Ongoing Development of Management Strategy Evaluation for North Pacific Albacore and Pacific Bluefin Tuna.

PFMC
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