

## RECOMMEND INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Since the June 2018 Council meeting, four regional fishery management organization meetings relevant to Council-managed highly migratory species have occurred:

- July 11-16, Plenary Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC)
- August 8-16, Fourteenth Meeting of the Fourteenth Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Scientific Committee
- August 24, 27-30, Annual Meeting of the Inter-American Tuna Commission (IATTC)
- September 3-7, Fourteenth Meeting of the WCPFC Northern Committee (NC), Third Joint Meeting between the NC and IATTC on Pacific Bluefin Conservation and Management, and the Technical Meeting on a Catch Documentation Scheme for Pacific Bluefin

The ISC Plenary reviewed an update assessment for Pacific bluefin tuna and new assessments for North Pacific shortfin mako shark and Western and Central North Pacific swordfish. [Attachment 1](#) (electronic only) is the Plenary Report. The stock assessment reports are available on the [ISC website](#). The IATTC and NC meetings occur after the advanced briefing book is compiled; documents relating to meeting outcomes for the IATTC and NC will be provided supplementally, as appropriate. Agendas and other materials for these meetings may be found on the [IATTC](#) and [WCPFC](#) websites.

In addition to the briefing from Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Commissioner to the U.S. Section of the WCPFC, listed in the agenda, under Agenda Item H.3.a, Dr. Gerard DiNardo, National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Science Center, will brief the Council on ISC outcomes, and Ms. Heidi Taylor, NMFS West Coast Region, will brief the Council on IATTC meeting outcomes and NMFS perspectives on the other meetings, as appropriate.

It should be noted that the current two-year IATTC measure for Pacific bluefin Tuna (Resolution C-16-03) is set to expire at the end of 2018, so a new measure will have to be agreed to at the annual meeting. Projections from the stock assessment update for Pacific bluefin indicate that the stock will achieve the interim rebuilding target (6.7 percent of  $SSB_{F=0}$ ) by 2024 with 98 percent probability, and the second rebuilding target (20 percent of  $SSB_{F=0}$ ) by 2034 (or 10 years after the first rebuilding target is achieved) with a 96 percent probability, although as noted in the ISC Plenary report, this is mainly due to including relatively high, but uncertain, recruitment observed in 2016. The [WCPFC Pacific Bluefin Harvest Strategy](#) states that if the probability of achieving the interim rebuilding target by 2024 is 75 percent or larger, the WCPFC may increase their catch limits as long as the probability is maintained at 70 percent or larger, and the probability of reaching the second rebuilding target by the agreed deadline remains at least 60 percent. Therefore, it is likely the NC, through the Joint Working Group process, will contemplate increasing catch limits.

The Permanent Advisory Committee (PAC) to the U.S. Section of the WCPFC is scheduled to meet October 11-12, 2018. The PAC develops recommendations for U.S. positions at the WCPFC. Council staff sits on the PAC as an ex-officio member. The Fifteenth Regular Session of the WCPFC is scheduled for December 9-14, 2018.

**Council Action:**

**Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at Upcoming Meetings of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and Other Forums as Appropriate.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 1: [Report](#) of the Eighteenth Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean Plenary Session (**Electronic Only**).
2. Agenda Item H.3.a, NMFS Report 1.

**Agenda Order:**

- H.3 Recommend International Management Activities Kit Dahl
- a. Report from the Joint Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna, and Report from the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee Meeting Dorothy Lowman
  - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - c. Public Comment
  - d. **Council Action:** Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at Upcoming Meetings of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and Other Forums as Appropriate

PFMC  
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