

RECOMMEND INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Fifteenth Regular Session (WCPFC15) was held December 9-14, 2018, in Honolulu, Hawaii. Attachment 1 summarizes meeting outcomes of likely interest to the Council. Ms. Dorothy Lowman, WCPFC Commissioner, will report on the meeting.

At its November 2018 meeting, the Council directed the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) to analyze fishing effort in the West Coast North Pacific albacore fishery to support discussions at the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) about specifying effort limits consistent with Resolution C-05-02. Consistent with the comparable WCPFC measure, the United States has been annually reporting fishing effort estimates for the entire North Pacific for more than a decade. Attachment 2 discusses the background of this reporting and in annexes provides the fishing effort estimates. This information is intended to support the HMSMT's analysis.

The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) has initiated management strategy evaluations (MSE) for North Pacific albacore and Pacific bluefin tuna in support of the development of harvest strategies by the WCPFC Northern Committee. The Fourth ISC North Pacific albacore MSE Workshop will be held March 5-7, 2019, in Yokohama, Japan. The Council agreed to send a member of the HMS Advisory Subpanel to participate in the workshop on behalf of the Council and report back on outcomes. Mr. Doug Fricke is attending in this capacity. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) held a one-day stakeholder webinar on February 13, 2019. This webinar is an opportunity for NMFS representatives attending the ISC's North Pacific albacore MSE Workshop gather stakeholder input, which will be conveyed to the ISC workshop participants. A second ISC Pacific bluefin MSE workshop is planned for May 20-21, 2019, in La Jolla, California. Based on the agenda of the second North Pacific albacore MSE workshop (held in 2016), the May Pacific bluefin workshop will likely focus on developing a list of objectives and associated performance metrics.

Attachment 3 is the Federal Register notice soliciting nominations for the Permanent Advisory Committee to the United States Section of the WCPFC. Nominations must be received no later than March 25, 2019.

NMFS Report 1 summarizes domestic regulatory actions to satisfy international obligations and upcoming regional fishery management organization meetings. NMFS Report 2 is a letter from Mr. Michael Tosatto, Regional Administrator for the NMFS Pacific Islands Region, summarizing WCPFC15 outcomes.

Council Action:

Consider Input on Albacore and Bluefin Tuna Management Strategy Evaluations and Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at Upcoming International Forums as Appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item J.2, Attachment 1: Outcomes on Issues of Interest at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Fifteenth Regular Session (WCPFC15).
2. Agenda Item J.2, Attachment 2: Description of U.S. North Pacific Albacore Fishing Effort Estimates Reported to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Pursuant to Conservation And Management Measure 2005-03.
3. Agenda Item J.2, Attachment 3: Nominations for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Permanent Advisory Committee (84 FR 2174).
4. Agenda Item J.2.b, NMFS Report 1.
5. Agenda Item J.2.b, NMFS Report 2.

Agenda Order:

- J.2 Recommend International Management Activities Kit Dahl
- a. Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Report Dorothy Lowman
 - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Consider Input on Albacore and Bluefin Tuna Management Strategy Evaluations and Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at Upcoming International Forums as Appropriate

PFMC
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