

## RECOMMEND INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Regional fishery management organization (RFMO) meetings of interest to the Council occurring between the June and September Council meetings include the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) Plenary (July 11-15), the 94th Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) meeting (July 22-26), and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee (NC) meeting (September 2-6).

In addition, as discussed under Agenda Item J.2, March 2019, the ISC is conducting management strategy evaluations (MSEs) for North Pacific albacore and Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF). In March the Council received reports on the Fourth ISC North Pacific albacore MSE Workshop. A report on the preliminary results of this MSE will be presented for review at the ISC Plenary; a draft of the report was provided to the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee (included here as Attachment 1). National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest Fisheries Science Center staff involved in this MSE will brief the Council on these preliminary results. The Second ISC Pacific bluefin Tuna MSE Workshop was held in San Diego, May 20-21, 2019. Supplemental NMFS Report 1 includes a summary of the outcomes of this workshop.

In addition to reviewing progress on the aforementioned MSEs, the ISC Plenary will also review a new stock assessment for Eastern Pacific striped marlin and formulate conservation advice for this and other northern stocks. The ISC will also review projection scenarios for potential increases in Pacific bluefin tuna catch limits and new information on abundance indices, as requested by the NC in 2018 (See Attachment 2).

Supplemental NMFS Report 2 includes a summary of meetings of the Joint RFMO Fish Aggregating Device Working Group, IATTC's Bycatch Working Group, and the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee, which were held in May 2019. Supplemental NMFS Report 2 also includes a summary of the U.S. General Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the IATTC and its Scientific Advisory Subcommittee, and U.S. priorities for the upcoming IATTC meeting.

As in past years the Pacific bluefin IATTC-NC Joint Working Group will meet concurrently with the Northern Committee the week of September 2, 2019, to consider the management and conservation of Pacific bluefin tuna. It is expected that the Joint Working Group will review the projections performed by the ISC, as well as ongoing work on the Pacific bluefin tuna MSE. Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Co-Chair of the Joint Working Group, will brief the Council on the upcoming meeting. Additionally, the second Catch Documentation Scheme Technical Meeting will be held on September 2, in advance of the Joint Working and NC meetings.

In 2018 the Council directed its advisory bodies to bring forward ideas for a long-term harvest strategy for Pacific bluefin tuna. To facilitate this process, on May 2 NMFS hosted an in-person meeting with stakeholders to discuss the future of the U.S. West Coast Pacific bluefin tuna commercial fishery, including objectives and a management framework. Supplemental NMFS Report 3 includes a summary of discussions at this meeting along with a proposed process to allow the Council's harvest strategy to feed into the implementation of future IATTC Pacific bluefin tuna resolutions.

Attachment 3 is the meeting notice for the WCPFC Northern Committee meeting, which should be of general interest because, for the first time, the meeting will occur in the United States, in Portland, Oregon.

**Council Action:**

**Review Progress on Albacore and Bluefin Tuna Management Strategy Evaluations and 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.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item J.2, Attachment 1: Report for the First Round of North Pacific Albacore Management Strategy Evaluation, Document SAC-10 INF-L.
2. Agenda Item J.2, Attachment 2: Response to requests from IATTC-WCPFC NC Joint Working Group, ISC PBFWG, Document SAC-10 INF-M.
3. Agenda Item J.2, Attachment 3: Meeting Notice: Fifteenth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC15)
4. *Agenda Item J.2.b, Supplemental NMFS Report 1: ISC Pacific Bluefin MSE Workshop Outcomes.*
5. *Agenda Item J.2.b, Supplemental NMFS Report 2: Summary of Recent RFMO-Related Meetings.*
6. *Agenda Item J.2.b, Supplemental NMFS Report 3: Pacific Bluefin Tuna Stakeholder Meeting and Input to Development of Council Harvest Strategy.*
7. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- J.2 Recommend International Management Activities Kit Dahl
- a. Report on IATTC-NC Pacific Bluefin Joint Working Group Activities Dorothy Lowman
  - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - c. Public Comment
  - d. **Council Action:** Review Progress on Albacore and Bluefin Tuna Management Strategy Evaluations and 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

PFMC  
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