

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON THE NATIONAL  
MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) wishes to express our sincere gratitude to the Council for supporting the presence of three of our members at the recently completed Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee-15/Joint Working Group meeting in Portland, Oregon. The HMSAS is encouraged by efforts of the U.S. Delegation to represent the interests of U.S. fisheries, in particular the Pacific Bluefin tuna and North Pacific Albacore tuna fisheries. We hope that future discussions and negotiations will include a more equitable distribution of the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO)/Western Pacific Ocean allocations of the Pacific Bluefin tuna fishery after the publication of the 2020 Stock Assessment.

The HMSAS would also advise the Council to ask the National Marine Fisheries Service to pursue additional methods, such as aerial surveys (line transect for example), to more accurately assess the availability of Pacific Bluefin tuna within the EPO. This data would be critical to better inform future stock assessments and potential allocations.

PFMC  
09/15/19