

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL  
MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES (HMS)

***Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and Northern Committee (NC) Meetings***

The WCPFC annual meeting is scheduled for December 5-11, 2019, in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Because there was no quorum during the NC's regularly scheduled session in September (see [September 2019 Supplemental NMFS Report 2](#)), the NC is expected to convene on the margins of the WCPFC meeting. Among other topics, the NC is expected to consider recommending the WCPFC adopt changes to the WCPFC Pacific bluefin tuna conservation and management measure, as recommended by the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group.

***U.S. - Canada Albacore Treaty (Treaty)***

The current three-year (2017-2019) regime under the Treaty will expire at the end of 2019. David Hogan, U.S. Department of State, is planning to attend the March 2020 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting to hear the views of the Council on renewing the reciprocal fishing and port access regime. Negotiations for establishing the 2017-2019 regime were straightforward and conducted in writing, given there were no changes in terms from the previous regime. If that remains the case, renewal for another three years (2020-2022) could be concluded similarly.

The bilateral Data Working Group, established in association with the Treaty, was scheduled to meet in 2018. However, this meeting was postponed due to data availability challenges. This resulted in postponement of the annual bilateral governmental consultation, required under the Treaty, until later in 2018. Because of these delays, it is likely that only partial 2019 data will be available prior to the next meeting of the Data Working Group in the spring or summer of 2020. Therefore, negotiations will rely on final data through 2018 and preliminary data for 2019.