

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

IATTC Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Workshop on tropical tunas

The IATTC held an MSE Workshop on tropical tunas on December 9 and 10, 2019, in La Jolla, California. Rachael Wadsworth (NMFS West Coast Region) and Dr. Desiree Tomassi (NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC)) attended for the United States. Workshop information is available [on the IATTC website](#).

The Workshop focused on reviewing the fundamental concepts of an MSE (e.g., reference points, operating models, harvest control rules, and harvest strategies). Workshop participants also recommended a set of management objectives for the MSE, which will be reviewed at the upcoming IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in May 2020. The second MSE workshop is scheduled for May 8-9, 2020, in La Jolla, CA.

U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty

The annual Albacore Tuna Treaty Consultation with Canada occurred via conference call on January 15, 2020. Mr. David Hogan (Department of State) gave an overview of the expected schedule for internal consultations on negotiation of any regime to apply in 2020 or beyond. Additionally, the outputs of the Data Working Group meeting (held on April 17, 2019) were briefly reviewed. Dr. Steve Teo of the NMFS SWFSC reiterated that preliminary data for the 2019 season would most likely not be available before May.

Mr. Hogan plans to attend the March Council meeting to hear comments and input from the Council, U.S. industry, and any other interested stakeholders. Mr. Hogan also held a call with some U.S. stakeholders and NMFS on January 23, 2020, to discuss and clarify stakeholders' May 2019 data requests.

International Meetings in 2019

Below is a list of the 2019 international meetings currently scheduled related to Pacific HMS in which United States government representatives will participate.

IATTC and Joint Regional Fishery Management Organization (RFMO)-related Meetings¹

5 th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group (WG)		
on fish aggregating devices (FADs)	May 6	La Jolla, CA
IATTC Bycatch WG	May 7	La Jolla, CA
2 nd Workshop on MSE for tropical tunas	May 8-9	La Jolla, CA
IATTC's SAC	May 11-15	La Jolla, CA
U.S. Scientific Advisory Subcommittee and		
U.S. General Advisory Committee	TBD June	La Jolla, CA
Catch Documentation Scheme Technical		
Meeting	TBD (likely July 27)	Fukuoka, Japan

¹ For more information on future meetings, visit: <https://www.iattc.org/MeetingsENG.htm>

Joint IATTC-Northern Committee WG Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program	TBD (likely July 28-31)	Fukuoka, Japan
95 th Annual IATTC Meeting	August 3-4	La Jolla, CA
	August 5-14	La Jolla, CA

International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC)-related meetings²

Pacific Bluefin Tuna Working Group	March 2-12	Shimizu, Japan
Albacore Working Group	March 16-23	La Jolla, CA

² http://isc.fra.go.jp/meetings/future_meetings.html