

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Regional Fishery Management Organization meetings occurring between the June and September Council meetings include the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean Plenary (ISC20), July 15-20; the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission – Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee Joint Working Group on Pacific Bluefin Tuna Management (IATTC-WCPFC NC JWG), July 27-31; and the 95th Meeting of the IATTC, August 10-14. The 11th Meeting of the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), during which stock assessments are reviewed for use in management, was scheduled for May 11-15 but was postponed to June pending publication of key stock assessments for bigeye and yellowfin tunas on June 1. The venues for all these meetings have been thrown into question because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. For example, the IATTC Secretariat proposed arrangements for a virtual meeting for the SAC with prerecorded presentations and live virtual sessions, and the ISC Secretariat announced that ISC20 will be conducted as a virtual meeting. The feasibility of the other aforementioned meetings occurring in person is very much in doubt.

Recognizing this uncertainty, issues of particular interest include the results of benchmark assessments for Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific albacore tuna by the ISC, development of management recommendations by the IATTC-WCPFC NC JWG, and the adoption of a new Resolution by the IATTC to succeed Resolution C-18-01 (Measures for the Conservation and Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, 2019 and 2020). Other U.S. priorities identified by NMFS in [Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2](#), March 2020, include successful completion of the aforementioned stock assessments for bigeye and yellowfin tunas; negotiation of a successor to IATTC Resolution C-17-02 on tropical tunas (i.e., yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna), which expires at the end of the 2020 calendar year; and the selection of an IATTC Executive Director as the current Director's term expires on August 26, 2020.

Other relevant domestic meetings, organized by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), include a Pacific Bluefin Tuna Stakeholder's Meeting on May 19 and the meetings of the General Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of the IATTC and its Scientific Advisory Subcommittee, occurring June 17-18. These meetings are being held virtually. NMFS will brief the Council on the results of the Stakeholder meeting.

Mr. David Hogan, the Department of State representative on the Council, briefed the Council at its March meeting on progress in negotiating a new fishing regime under the terms of the U.S./Canada Albacore Treaty, given that the current regime expired on December 31, 2019. The new fishing season under the treaty, if like the previous regime, begins on June 15th. Mr. Hogan will join the Council's June meeting to provide an update on these negotiations.

Council Action:

Provide Recommendations to Upcoming International Forums Including the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and Receive an Update on the U.S./Canada Albacore Tuna Treaty.

Reference Materials:

1. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- D.1 International Management Activities Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Provide Recommendations to Upcoming International Forums Including to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and Receive an Update on the U.S./Canada Albacore Tuna Treaty

PFMC
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