

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) offers the following comments for the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council or Council) to consider as it contemplates recommendations to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for upcoming international management activities.

North Pacific Albacore (NPA):

The HMSAS notes the 2020 Stock Assessment for NPA appears to put the stock in a better position than the 2017 Assessment. Because the Assessment is still preliminary, we are hopeful the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific (ISC) will endorse it during its plenary later this summer.

The HMSAS does wish to express some concern over the handling of the U.S.-Canada Treaty negotiations this past six months. Shortly after your March meeting, representatives from the albacore industry groups (Western Fishboat Owners Association, Oregon Albacore Commission, Washington Trollers Association and American Albacore Fishing Association) sent a letter to Mr. Dave Hogan seeking a one-year regime based on the items contained in our [March HMSAS Report](#) on this subject. The letter went unanswered. In May, we learned the U.S. Department of State was going to move forward with a three-year regime, primarily because a one-year regime would be “inconvenient” to the Governments of Canada and the U.S. While we appreciate this may be an inconvenience for the Governments, we wish to remind the Council and Mr. Hogan that many of us believe the Treaty is an inconvenience for U.S. harvesters. Because there will be a new Working Group established under the Treaty for the purpose(s) of Port Access and other issues, we would ask the Council recommend industry participation in the Working Group and that it be established in an expedited timeframe.

Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF)

The HMSAS notes the 2020 Stock Assessment for PBF is continuing to show improvement in the Stock. Table 4 of the PBF Assessment presents future projection scenarios for PBF.

DRAFT – Subject to Change and Approval by the ISC20 Plenary

Table 4. Future projection scenarios for Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*) and their probability of achieving various target levels by various time schedules based on the base-case model.

scenario #	Upper Limit increase				Probability of SSB is below the Initial rebuilding target at 2024 in case the low recruitment continue	The fishing year expected to achieve the initial rebuilding target with >60% probability	The fishing year expected to achieve the 2nd rebuilding target with >60% probability	Probability of achieving the initial rebuilding target at 2024	Probability of achieving the second rebuilding target at 2034	Probability of SSB falling below the historical lowest at any time during the projection period.	Probability of Catch falling below the historical lowest at any time during the projection period.	Median SSB at 2024	Median SSB at 2034
	WCPO		EPO										
	Small	Large	Small	Large									
1	0%				0%	2020	2026	100%	99%	0%	100%	107,098	286,958
2	0%				0%	2020	2026	100%	99%	0%	100%	104,973	287,020
3	5%				0%	2020	2027	100%	98%	0%	100%	99,968	272,814
4	10%				0%	2020	2027	100%	96%	0%	100%	95,096	258,850
5	15%				0%	2020	2028	99%	94%	0%	100%	90,293	244,959
6	20%				0%	2020	2028	99%	91%	0%	100%	85,618	231,003
7	0%	500	500		0%	2020	2027	100%	98%	0%	100%	99,903	277,396
8	250	250	500		0%	2020	2027	100%	97%	0%	100%	98,164	268,473
9	0	600	400		0%	2020	2027	100%	98%	0%	100%	100,035	278,004
10	5%	1300	700		0%	2020	2027	99%	96%	0%	100%	92,504	259,802
11	10%	1300	700		0%	2020	2027	99%	95%	0%	100%	89,951	249,996
12	5%	1000	500		0%	2020	2027	100%	97%	0%	100%	94,952	264,218
13	0	1650	660		0%	2020	2027	99%	97%	0%	100%	93,897	267,976
14	125	375	550		0%	2020	2027	100%	98%	0%	100%	98,729	272,323
15	0	0	0		0%	2019	2022	100%	100%	0%	100%	221,391	560,259

* The numbering of Scenarios is different from those given by the IATTC-WCPFC NC Joint WG meeting and same as Table 3.

* Recruitment is switched from low recruitment during 1980-1989 to average recruitment over the whole assessment period in the following year of achieving the initial rebuilding target.

Given the high degree of certainty the stock will meet rebuilding targets in advance of agreed upon target dates, we expect increased international pressure to increase levels of take when international meetings take place later this year. Should that happen, we would hope the Council would strongly suggest to the U.S. Delegation to the Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMO) that agreements reached during last year's Northern Committee meeting be implemented – in particular a more equitable split between the Eastern Pacific and Western Pacific. We would also appreciate if the U.S. delegation to the IATTC could push for a more equitable split between Mexico and the U.S. in terms of apportioning the Eastern Pacific quota.

Tropical Tunas

The HMSAS acknowledges that Tropical Tunas are a higher priority for Latin American nations; but we would hope the Pacific Council would recommend to the U.S. Delegation to the IATTC that U.S. interests in access to Tropical Tunas be protected.

Striped Marlin

The HMSAS recommends the Council encourage NMFS to work with the Science bodies of the IATTC to prioritize assessing the stocks of Striped Marlin within the Convention Area.

PFMC
06/11/20