

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) participated in a briefing on international topics during a joint webinar meeting with the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) during the June 2020 Council meeting.

The HMSMT supports a Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) recommendation to the U.S. Delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) to encourage a more equitable distribution of Pacific bluefin tuna catch limits between the eastern and western Pacific Ocean fleets. If catch increases are considered by the Joint IATTC-Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission Northern Committee Working Group, the U.S. delegation should promote an increased proportion of catch for the eastern Pacific Ocean.

During the joint webinar meeting, the HMSMT and HMSAS were also briefed by David Hogan (U.S. Department of State) on the status of the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty. This included HMSAS discussion of an agreement between the U.S. and Canada to create a working group to address fishing and port access. The HMSMT encourages U.S. industry involvement in this Treaty working group.

Lastly, the HMSMT heard discussion of a data and analysis request from members of the HMSAS regarding North Pacific albacore effort and participation, as submitted under Agenda Item B.1.a, Open Public Comment. The request regarding albacore that the HMSAS is bringing to the Council has previously been made and presented to the Eastern Pacific Professional Specialty Group (EP PSG), on which two HMSMT members also serve, representing their respective agencies. The EP PSG has already assigned a team to work on this request and is coordinating efforts between states. The public comment made by members of the HMSAS requests similar data and analysis for Pacific bluefin tuna and swordfish. The HMSMT would appreciate any specific direction the Council may wish to provide regarding potential future assignments related to this discussion.

PFMC
06/11/20