

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

Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) Stakeholder Meeting

NMFS hosted the 2nd PBF Stakeholder Meeting on May 19, 2020, by webinar. This meeting focused on domestic management of commercial U.S. catch limits for PBF. NMFS intends to submit a report of the meeting to the June Council meeting Briefing Book as a late supplemental report.

IATTC Priorities

As reported at the March 2020 Council meeting (see [Supplemental NMFS Report, Agenda Item I.3.a](#)), the United States has identified three priorities for the IATTC in 2020: (1) tropical tuna, (2) PBF, and (3) selection of the Executive Director of the IATTC. Both tropical tunas and PBF resolutions are expiring at the end of 2020, and the current Executive Director's term ends on August 26, 2020.

International Meetings in 2020

Below is a list of the 2020 international meetings currently scheduled related to Pacific HMS in which United States government representatives will participate. The IATTC's Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), Fish-Aggregating Device (FAD), Fleet Capacity, and Bycatch Working Group (WG) meetings have been postponed (see [IATTC meeting webpage](#)). IATTC staff will host virtual discussions regarding recent stock assessments and indicator updates, as well as IATTC scientific staff recommendations. Pre-recorded presentations of the assessments, indicator updates, and staff recommendations will be made available on the IATTC website on June 12 prior to these live virtual discussions. Similarly, the Chairs of the FAD and Bycatch Working Groups will be holding informal virtual sessions and presentations. Please see the Attachment for more information provided by the IATTC Secretariat on IATTC-related meetings.

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

Informal Meeting of the Bycatch WG	Jun 4	Virtual
Informal Meeting of the WG on FADs	Jun 5	Virtual
Informal SAC Discussion (North America)	Jun 16	Virtual
U.S. Scientific Advisory Subcommittee and General Advisory Subcommittee ²	Jun 17-18	Virtual
PBF Catch Documentation Scheme Technical Meeting	Jul 27	Fukuoka, Japan
Joint IATTC-Northern Committee WG	Jul 28-31	Fukuoka, Japan
Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program ³	TBD	TBD
95 th Annual IATTC Meeting ³	TBD	TBD

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

² For more information on the Scientific Advisory Committee and General Advisory Committee meetings, see the [Federal Register Notice](#).

³ The IATTC Secretariat recently requested members to comment on whether to delay the annual meetings until October, as well as consider the format (virtual or in-person).

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)⁴

Scientific Committee	Aug 11-20	TBD
Technical and Compliance Committee	Sep 23-29	Pohnpei, FSM
Regular Session of the WCPFC	Dec 8-15	Victoria, Canada

International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC)-related meetings⁵

ISC Plenary	Jul 15-20	Virtual
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⁴ For more information on WCPFC future meetings, visit: <https://www.wcpfc.int/meetings>

⁵ For more information on ISC future meetings, visit: http://isc.fra.go.jp/meetings/future_meetings.html

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMISSION

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13 May 2020
Ref.: 0229-410

To: Commissioners and Heads of Delegation
Cc: Bolivia, Chile, Honduras, Indonesia and Liberia

From: Guillermo Compeán, Director



Re: COVID19 pandemic – 11th SAC meeting– supplementary and updated information –
adjustment in the schedule and rules of procedure for the virtual informal meetings

A. Adjustment in the schedule:

As a result of the pandemic, the work required to produce and publish the documents for the SAC has been disrupted and delayed even longer than expected. Although it has been possible to publish some, it will not be possible to do so before May 15, as initially indicated, for all documents that are considered essential for an informed discussion of stock assessments and the staff's conservation and management recommendations for tunas.

Taking into account that the new proposed target for the publication of all these documents is June 1, it will be necessary to postpone commensurately the dates that have been programmed for the prerecorded video presentations and the live information and virtual discussion sessions, excepting those to be held within the framework of the working groups on bycatch and on FADs¹).

The proposed adjusted schedule is as follows:

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| 1. Monday 1 June: | <i>Publication</i> completed of all documents considered essential for an informed discussion of stock assessments and the staff's conservation and management recommendations for tunas. |
| 2. Friday 12 June: | <i>Prerecorded presentations</i> by the IATTC staff on tuna assessments and conservation and management recommendations (English and Spanish) will be available online. |
| 3. Wednesday 17 June:
10:00-12:00 PDT (UTC-7) | <i>Live virtual discussion session</i> – English (North America). |
| 4. Wednesday 17 June:
16:00-18:00 ECT (UTC-7) | <i>Live virtual discussion session</i> – Spanish (Latin America). |
| 5. Thursday 18 June:
10:00-12:00 JST (UTC+9) | <i>Live virtual discussion session</i> – English (Asia-Western Pacific). |
| 6. Friday 19 June:
15:00-17:00 CEST (UTC+2) | <i>Live virtual discussion session</i> – English (Europe). |

It should be remembered that the above-mentioned informal virtual sessions are only intended to provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions about the content of the published documents and pre-

¹ For the convenience of CPCs, it is recalled that the schedule for these meetings is as follows:

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| • Thursday, 4 June: 09:00-13:00 PDT (UTC-7) | <i>Bycatch Working Group</i> |
| • Friday 5 June: 16:00-20:00 CEST (UTC+2) | <i>FADs working group</i> |

recorded presentations and to provide comments or promote inputs that will enrich and strengthen the preparation of the subsequent meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee. They are neither intended to replace those meetings nor to be their equivalent, which is why the possibility of four informal sessions with different participants has been contemplated, according to the convenience and availability of those participants located in different geographical areas with different schedules (North America, Latin America, Western Pacific and Europe); this is not a sequence of meetings but a repetition of the same meeting in a different linguistic format and at different hours.

This arrangement in no way prejudices the date and format of the 11th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee, which, as is well known, is still under discussion by the members of the Commission.

B. Rules for the conduct of live virtual meetings:

As we have pointed out, the real-time virtual discussion sessions are informal.

However, despite this informal character and also considering the requirements and restrictions imposed by the technology used, it is considered appropriate to agree on a few simple and clear rules for their implementation and conduct.

These rules may also be a useful reference for other virtual, informal or eventually formal, meetings, both those held within the framework of the working groups and any other meeting that may be held in virtual mode.

The proposed rules are the following:

1. **Coordination:** Each virtual discussion session shall be directed by the Chair of the SAC or the Coordinator of Scientific Research, who shall:
 - a) determine its duration and the topics to be given priority;
 - b) conduct the discussions, determining the order of interventions and giving the floor to those participants who requested it.
2. **Participation:**
 - a) In a manner consistent with the general rules governing participation in meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, members and cooperating non-members of the Commission, as well as observers accredited to the Commission, may participate. The latter shall be exempt from payment of the fee provided for in Annex 2, paragraph 10, of the Antigua Convention);
 - b) each participating entity, CPC or observer, is requested to use, if possible, only one channel to join the virtual meeting on the designated platform, in order to limit the number of channels used and thus facilitate the interactive course of the meeting. Each participating entity should make its own internal arrangements to ensure, as it considers appropriate and convenient, the participation through that single channel of persons other than its main designated representative;
 - c) each CPC or observer wishing to participate in a given meeting shall notify the Chair of the SAC, the Coordinator of Scientific Research and the Secretariat (mgalvan@iattc.org), no later than one week before that meeting, indicating the meeting in which it wishes to participate;
 - d) the non-sequential nature of the sessions does not exclude the possibility that a CPC or an observer may wish to participate in more than one session;
 - e) the Secretariat shall inform participants in a timely manner about the technical platform to be used to conduct the virtual sessions and how to access it.
3. **Interventions:**

- a) Participants may speak only when given the floor, after they have requested to do so, or at the invitation of the Chair of the SAB or Coordinator of Scientific Research;
 - b) Observers representing non-governmental organizations may only speak after the list of representatives of CPCs that have requested the floor in advance has been exhausted;
 - c) Each person requesting and taking the floor shall identify himself/herself and the entity he/she represents.
 - d) If comments or questions have been identified prior to the meeting, they should be submitted in advance to the Chair of the SAC and the Coordinator of Scientific Research with a copy to the Secretariat².
4. **Reporting on the proceedings and outcome of meetings:** without prejudice to the notes and/or recordings that will be made by the Secretariat, these informal live virtual discussion sessions will not result in the production of minutes or reports; it will be at the discretion of the Chair of the SAC and the Scientific Research Coordinator to define the manner and means they consider most appropriate for reporting on the proceedings and outcome of the sessions, as well as the integration of the inputs produced into the documentation for the preparation of the subsequent SAC meeting.

² CPCs are encouraged to submit their questions and comments as soon as possible after the publication on the Commission's website of the documents prepared by the Secretariat or posted at the request of another competent entity (CPC or an accredited observer to the Commission).
All such comments and questions should also be posted on the relevant Basecamp site.