

National Marine Fisheries Service Pacific Bluefin Stakeholder Meeting May 19, 2020 Webinar (9:00 AM - 12:30 PM)

Introduction and Meeting Purpose

On May 19, 2020, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) within the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) convened a Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) stakeholder meeting. The meeting took place by webinar. Its stated objectives were to:

- receive an overview of international management of PBF and current management of the U.S. PBF fishery, and recall relevant outcomes of the 2019 PBF stakeholder meeting; and
- discuss potential 2021-2022 management measures for Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) consideration.

Around 60 people participated in the webinar meeting, representing the following agencies and constituencies: NMFS the U.S. Department of State, the PFMC, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), fishermen and the fishing industry, the conservation community, researchers and academics, and the interested public. A roster of anticipated participants who RSVP'd to the meeting is shown in Appendix A. The agenda for the meeting is available in Appendix B.

Ryan Wulff, NMFS West Coast Region Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, opened the meeting by welcoming the participants. He noted that these PBF discussions are valuable and that NMFS will continue to hold these stakeholder engagement and management discussions as the stock rebuilds. He added that the emphasis of this discussion is on domestic implementation.

This meeting summary is organized into the following main sections below:

- PBF Background Information
- Stakeholder Input to Inform Development of a 2021-2022 Rule
- Next Steps

This summary document captures key discussions and stakeholder input from the meeting; it is not intended to be a transcript of everything said. The meeting was facilitated by Eric Poncelet of Kearns & West. William Stahnke (NMFS) took notes, and Taylor Debevec (NMFS) managed the webinar. A copy of the PowerPoint presented at the meeting is available in Appendix C. Kearns & West prepared this meeting summary.

PBF Background Information

Celia Barroso, Fishery Policy Analyst within the NMFS West Coast Region, provided several background presentations on the topics of: PBF stock status, U.S. PBF catch data, current PBF management requirements, and an overview of the current 2019-2020 rule. After each presentation, meeting participants were provided with an opportunity to ask clarifying questions. Highlights of the presentations, key clarifying questions asked, and the corresponding responses are captured below.

Stock Status

Ms. Barroso presented on PBF stock status. She reported that the 2018 Stock Assessment showed the stock was overfished and subject to overfishing when compared to commonly used reference points. She noted that the draft Executive Summary of the 2020 assessment has not yet been finalized and is still going through the review process. She added that it is expected that the 2020 stock assessment will indicate the stock is continuing to rebuild.

Participants asked the following clarifying questions, and NMFS provided the following responses:

Question (Q): Given that there is no new stock assessment for 2019, have scientists provided a recruitment status update for recent years?

- Response (R): The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) will make the full report of the 2020 stock assessment available once finalized after their plenary meeting on July 15-20, 2020. The ISC typically provides a draft executive summary that may be available in the coming weeks.

U.S. PBF Catch Data

Ms. Barroso presented on U.S. PBF catch data, describing the share of total PBF landings by gear-type from 2015-2019. The data showed that the purse seine fishery was responsible for most of the catch (86% during this time period) with hook & line (10%), drift gillnet (3%) and other gears (1%) making up the rest. She highlighted that the 2018 drop in purse seine catch was an artifact of management (i.e., low trip limit applicable to the entire calendar year).

Participants asked the following clarifying questions, and NMFS provided the following responses:

Q: Please further describe the slides on catch broken down by gear type.

- R: The slides show five years of landings from 2015-2019, split by gear-types. Since 2015, the approach has been to have two trip limits in place. "Other gear" in the line graph consisting of hook-and-line, drift gillnet and other gears had a much smaller catch (20-60 metric tons, or mt).

Q: Can you provide numbers on discards due to trip limits?

- R: Those numbers would come from logbooks, as well as anecdotal information from fishermen. However, this presentation does not include any of those data.

Q: Please provide an estimate of U.S. PBF commercial and sport caught tuna for 2019 and explain how the sport catch is distributed.

- R: Recreational catch is not the focus of the catch data. Ms. Barroso was not certain of current U.S. recreational numbers. She will follow up separately with the questioner.

Q: Please expand on the increase of 28 new participants to the PBF fishery.

- Q: The increase resulted from surface fisheries such as pole-and-line (P&L) that typically target North Pacific albacore and account for a very insignificant catch of PBF—i.e., less than 1% of the total.

Current PBF Management Requirements

Ms. Barroso presented on current PBF management requirements. She highlighted that the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) have been attempting to jointly manage PBF. She reviewed the IATTC Regional Vessel Register (RVR) and a specific vessel register for purse seine vessels. Under an agreement at the IATTC, the United States is subject to a limit on purse seine capacity. The purse seine vessel register establishes a list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the IATTC convention area and may not exceed the capacity limit. This limits the number of purse seine vessels that are authorized to fish. This covers both large and small purse seiners, although only the small coastal purse seiners fish for PBF. She described current domestic implementation processes, noting that additional legal considerations may be timely; two of note stem from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). These analyses may have to be done again due to the upcoming PBF resolution. Finally, Ms. Barroso described the 2017 issue where trip limits were quickly surpassed. This led to very low trip limits for the entire year in 2018. In 2019, NMFS implemented the trip limit decrease (from 15mt to 2mt) and reversed the action when catch was calculated to be lower than initially estimated.

Participants asked the following clarifying questions, and NMFS provided the following responses:

Q: Please clarify the meaning of some of the specific gear type categories, such as “Other”, “H&L”, and “P&L”. Under which category does longline (LL) catch fall?

- R: LL falls in the “Other” category, as do Albacore surface fisheries, which include pole-and-line. H&L is rod-and-reel.

Q: There are lots of U.S. vessels fishing with Hawaii longline permits. Where is that catch collected?

- R: Only 1-2mt of PBF are caught per year under the LL category; it is not significant. Under WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure on Pacific bluefin tuna, the United States is limited to 10 mt of PBF. Therefore, U.S. catch in that region is not high.

Q: The driving force of how quota is set at the IATTC is the informal workshop between the Northern Committee and the IATTC. Will there be discussion of that meeting scheduled in July?

- The intent of today’s meeting is to cover domestic implementation of IATTC measures, specifically the next two-year cycle. Today’s meeting does not focus on the upcoming international meetings, although they will be mentioned in the “next steps for public comment” in our last agenda item.

Overview of 2019-2020 Rule

Ms. Barroso presented on the current 2019-2020 rule, providing an overview of key elements of the rule. She reviewed Resolution C-18-01 and C-18-02 and highlighted the 630mt U.S. catch limit (with some carry over from an under-harvest in the previous biennial cycle). She added that inseason action is currently based on the pre-trip notification and associated assumption that 15 mt will be caught on each trip, which was new in 2019. Also new in 2019 was the use of E-tickets (i.e., electronic landing receipts) with a 24-hour turnaround as well as quicker inseason action, where the action would be posted on the NMFS website, the U.S. Coast Guard would send out a radio notice to mariners, and then the Federal Register Notice (FRN) would be published.

Ms. Barroso described several potential concerns raised previously by stakeholders regarding the 2019-2020 rule as well as key lessons learned during 2019. Potential concerns included: 1) it does not allow flexibility of fishing operations, 2) it is unnecessary with such a low trip limit and e-ticket submission, 3) the associated assumption would likely over-estimate the amount fish caught, and 4) the limit is too low. Lessons learned included: 1) dropping off crew members for an emergency would “end” a trip, 2) the pre-trip notification resulted in fuel wasted returning to port when vessels were already near fishing grounds, 3) inseason action effective time may have reduced opportunity for some vessels because vessels included in assumptions that led to inseason action were unable to get to the fishing grounds before the inseason action was effective, and 4) catch was overestimated.

Participant comments and reflections on the 2019-2020 rule appear in the next section.

Stakeholder Input to Inform Development of a 2021-2022 Rule

Participants were invited to provide input to inform the development of a 2021-2022 rule. This included reflecting on lessons learned from the 2019-2020 rule, recommending management objectives, and providing recommendations around potential management measures to include in the new rule.

Ms. Barroso provided a brief presentation on the potential rule for 2021-2022. She noted that considerations for the new rule could include recommendations from the 2019 PBF Stakeholder Meeting, such as a pre-landing versus pre-trip notification for catch accounting and tracking, and an earlier threshold to trigger reduction in trip limits or altering the current trip limit to be an intermediate quantity.

Lessons Learned from 2019-2020 Rule: Implications and Considerations Participants shared the following questions and comments regarding lessons learned from the 2019-2020 rule:

Q: Given that we are going into the 2020 fishing season, the limit may be reached. Regarding the 15mt not being sufficient, how realistic is it to be able to catch only 15 mt per set?

- R: Regarding discarding occurring to stay within the 15mt limit, NMFS is interested in fleet input. Based on logbooks turned in by fishermen, NMFS has not seen this scenario to be an issue.

Q: If the first threshold is hit, and then the switch is made to the second (2mt) threshold, fishermen are concerned with the impact on incidental PBF catch when fishing for Yellowfin (YFT) and Skipjack

(SKJ)—i.e., more than 2mt of PBF may be caught incidentally when targeting other tunas, and therefore the lower trip limit is affecting fishermen’s ability to target other tunas while remaining within the limit for PBF. Could the second threshold be increased to address this issue?

- R: Regarding incidental catch when targeting YFT and SKJ when subject to the 2mt PBF threshold, NMFS is not in a place to change that for the 2020 cycle. While NMFS saw a public comment on this topic during the proposed rule last year, NMFS does not have logbook data demonstrating it to be an issue.

Q: What do we do for 2021-2022 management when we do not see the restriction impact until later?

- R: We can see it from 2019, and we can prioritize taking a look at that for 2020.

Q: A problem encountered last summer by fishermen was trying to find the right size school in order to avoid catching too large a school and going over the PBF limit. Fishermen were actively avoiding setting on big schools to avoid going over the limit. What are the possibilities for fishermen to share catch? Could this be done between vessels? Fishermen would like to avoid ending trips early due to dropping off crew.

- R: NMFS did not alter the notification requirement due to the crew emergency; it is difficult to account for every occurrence. However, NMFS can consider what else needs to be built in going forward if the pre-trip notice continues. NMFS does not currently have any regulations implemented under the Tuna Conventions Act on net sharing but could explore this for the 2021-2022 rule. [Note: see additional comments on the topics of transshipment, net sharing, and “transfer of limit” in the section below on management measure recommendations.]

Recommendations Around Management Objectives

Ms. Barroso reviewed four management objectives that had been recommended at the 2019 PBF stakeholder meeting. These included:

- Fully utilize the U.S. catch limit to assist negotiations.
- Provide flexibility for harvest operations to maximize profits; for example, allow vessels to choose to target different stocks without losing opportunities to target PBF.
- Support fishing communities and related industries (e.g., canneries).
- Maintain fishing opportunity for all fishing sectors (e.g., purse seine, hook-and-line).

She invited participants to weigh in on whether they are still valid and relevant, or whether other management objectives are needed to guide the 2021-2022 rule.

Participants responded with the following comments (C) and questions:

C: These objectives are still valid and relevant. It would be good to review the impacts of the current management measures on attaining these goals. If we are going to maximize our catch, we require flexibility to do that. It is important to recognize that these inseason management measures can be counterproductive to achieving these objectives. It would be good to see how dramatic the effect of the current management measures have been on meeting these objectives.

C: The objectives need to contain some elements that relate to stock rebuilding and maintaining the stock at a healthy level. We are at 3.3% of historical stock levels, and we need to focus on rebuilding.

- R: The focus of this meeting is on what we do when we have a catch limit. It is important to keep stock rebuilding in mind, but we are primarily focused on objectives as they relate to domestic harvest of a catch limit.

C: Consider the addition of an objective regarding minimizing discards. I appreciate that fishermen do not want to target large schools. I am not aware of the impact of discarding on PBF populations, but I support and encourage a diverse, low bycatch, and high profit fishery.

C: Any management objectives should consider rebuilding the stock.

Q: Has any consideration been given to bluefin farming?

- R: Farming is more of a management tool than an objective. This may be a distinct gear-type that may need a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) amendment; it would be more of a long-term rather than a short-term strategy.

C: Tuna ranching is not worth it until you have 500-1000 tons of stock to work with. Quotas prevent that from happening in the U.S. Tuna ranching has the potential to be a very robust fishery. It is worth looking at the pro-aquaculture Executive Order signed in Washington, DC.

C: Consider modifying the third objective presented above to deal with “efficient utilization of the resource.”

C: Add “value composition” to the objectives. We see value in large fish internationally.

Recommendations Around Management Measures

Participants were invited to share recommended management measures for consideration by the PFMC and that would support confidence and flexibility.

Participants shared the following recommendations. Ms. Barroso captured them on screen and confirmed them with the meeting participants before ending this agenda item.

Pre-Trip Notification and Alternatives

- Remove pre-trip notification and replace it with a pre-landing notification. This would be contingent upon how well the E-ticket system works to enable real time tracking. Note: CDFW staff reported good compliance with E-tickets; there is a 90% compliance rate within 24 hours, and the rest are within two days.
- Revisit the assumption of 15mt of catch per pre-trip notice.
- Do not eliminate pre-trip notifications; these are working. We must maintain confidence that we will not exceed the limit. We should look into the possibility of a real-time catch notification.

Trip definitions

- Clarify regulations to alleviate concern or ambiguity. In particular, memorialize what a “port” is and is not.

Net-sharing, transshipments, and transfer of limit

- Consider how catch could reasonably be shared, including a possible exception to the at-sea transshipment prohibition to the purse seine fishery for PBF. It would be a transfer of limit from one boat to another. The boat that caught the fish would put that fish on board another boat, return to port together, and the fish would go against the receiving boat’s capacity. This

would help avoid waste or discard at sea. It would provide added flexibility that would allow fishermen to be in compliance and would help address the problem of passing up schools due to school size.

- R: This makes pre-trip notification less helpful. NMFS might consider a pre-landing notification. If we eliminate the pre-trip notification, what about increasing the management buffer to help with actual effort on the water? However, this would reduce the opportunity to meet the complete annual limit. We would need to explore other implications.
- Given that at-sea transshipment can be dangerous in bad weather, consider the option of transferring limits that would allow another vessel to “claim” the extra fish over the trip limit and have this take place in port. This would be safer than transshipment or net transfer, and it would also help avoid waste and discards.
 - R: This would be different from a transshipment given the definition. There are additional definitions under the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act, and net sharing is excluded. We would need to review the definitions in the Tuna Conventions Act versus the High Seas Act. Net sharing may not be prohibited or in conflict with the transshipment regulations. We may need to consult with the PFMC and check state and federal regulations to verify.
- NMFS should consider an exception that allows PBF transshipment in an IATTC resolution.
- Several participants expressed concern around transshipments and transfer of limits. Some were concerned that allowing transshipments might undermine U.S. efforts to strengthen transshipment measures internationally. Others were concerned that transferring fish from one vessel to another would jeopardize management for all other fisheries and lead to illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
 - R: Transshipment can be an avenue to IUU. We may not be in a place to allow at-sea transshipment by purse seine vessels at this time. In-port transfer and net sharing may be an option to explore, but among things to consider is how this would be monitored.

Trip limits

- Consider a higher initial trip limit, perhaps 25mt again. And consider a higher second limit in case of schools mixing (e.g., in case PBF are caught while targeting YFT), perhaps 4-5mt.
 - R: An option may be to reduce the trip limit earlier but have higher trip limit. It is necessary to have something in place that allows NMFS to act and react quickly without the fishery exceeding the catch limit.
- Base trip limit on total catch limit and number of vessels on the purse seine register.

Other

- Incorporate management measures that would increase confidence in PBF mortality estimates, such as expanding tools for at-sea reporting (e-monitoring). These estimates are important for ensuring that the rules are not arbitrary. E-tickets are helpful; consider if new technology for Electronic Monitoring (EM) could help attain data more quickly, or vessel monitoring systems (VMS).
 - R: Using VMS for this purpose came up at last year’s stakeholder meeting. These tools are not available for every vessel.
- Include information on discards and Hawaii-based incidental catch.

- Incorporate size selectivity into new regulations.
- Incorporate flexibility to account for other fisheries occurring.

Other questions, comments, ideas, and reflections shared by the participants during this discussion included the following:

Q: How many commercial boats engaged in 2019?

- R: 9 purse seine, 80 hook and line, 11 drift gillnet, and 28 other.

Q: Are commercial boats increasing?

- R: Yes.

Q: Can vessels accommodate observers, and would observers be useful for transshipments?

- R: NMFS has specific requirements on what makes a vessel observable or not. This will determine which vessels could accommodate observers. Observers are required by IATTC for longline transshipments at sea.

Q: What effects has COVID19 had on catch this year?

- It is difficult to say, as the PBF season has not really started yet.

Q: Why has the “Other” gear-type increased by so much for 2019?

- R: The increase is attributed to surface hook-and-line (targeting albacore). All of this is incidental catch, and it is not a significantly high volume of catch.

C: This exercise demonstrates how difficult it is for U.S. fishermen to take advantage of such a low quota. The upcoming June meeting of the General Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of the IATTC will discuss recommendations. At the upcoming Joint IATTC – WCPFC Northern Committee PBF meetings, catch amounts will be negotiated. The IATTC will meet in August. It is important that fishermen attend these meetings to encourage a larger quota.

Q: Regarding transferability, which boat would be responsible for going over the catch limit?

- R: NMFS would need to figure this out. Ideally, management would be effective in ensuring we never exceeded the catch limit, and fisheries that catch Pacific bluefin tuna in smaller quantities would continue to fish.

Next Steps

Recap of Process Moving Forward and Upcoming Meetings

Ms. Barroso mentioned the following upcoming meetings that provide opportunities for additional stakeholder input into PBF management:

- June: Stakeholder Meeting Report to June PFMC meeting
- June 17-18: Scientific Advisory Committee and General Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of the IATTC Virtual Meetings

- July 27-31: Joint IATTC-Northern Committee Working Group on PBF
- August 10-14: IATTC Plenary
- September: PFMC Meeting
- Proposed Rule
- November: PFMC Meeting
- Final Rule
- Continue Long-term Management Discussion

Participants responded with the following questions and comments:

C: The PFMC and IATTC need to be informed about the history of U.S. fishermen catching PBF. Our history spans over 100 years, yet while other countries are designated “PBF Catching Nations”, the U.S. is lumped into the “Other” category.

Q: Regarding the upcoming stock assessment, does the assessment consider PBF abundance in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO)? It is difficult for the U.S. to have such a small quota. Can the manner by which the U.S. fishes for and manages PBF be better publicized in order to improve public awareness?

- R: NMFS will share a link that may answer questions regarding stock assessment EPO data.

C: The PFMC is under extreme pressure to keep the number of subjects discussed at their meetings to a minimum. This subject is important and worth talking about. Pay attention to Council meeting planning and be sure to put in some public comments on how important these issues are.

Mr. Poncelet and Ms. Barroso closed the meeting by thanking participants for their contributions. The meeting summary will be made available in June as part of NMFS’ Report to the June PFMC meeting.

Anticipated Participants
Pacific Bluefin Tuna Stakeholder Meeting
May 19, 2020; 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation/Interest</u>
1. Alexis Jackson	The Nature Conservancy
2. Amber Rhodes	NMFS
3. Andre Boustany	Duke University
4. Annie Yau	NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center
5. Anthony Vuoso	Cal-Marine Fishing Co.
6. Bill Fox	U.S. Commissioner to IATTC
7. Bob Osborn	Billfish Foundation
8. Brett Wiedoff	Pacific Fishery Management Council (staff)
9. Brian Christy (Lieutenant)	NMFS Office of Law Enforcement
10. Catherine Kilduff	Center for Biological Diversity
11. Celia Barroso	NMFS
12. Charles Villafana	NMFS
13. Chelsea Protasio	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
14. Chris Fanning	NMFS
15. Chuck Farwell	Monterey Bay Aquarium
16. Colleen McGee	Graduate student
17. Corbin Hansen	Fisherman
18. Dan Hytrek	NOAA Office of the General Counsel, Southwest section
19. Dave Rudie	California Offshore Products
20. David Haworth	Fisherman
21. Dorothy Lowman	Alternate U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
22. Elizabeth Hellmers	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
23. Erica Mills	California Department of Fish and Wildlife

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation/Interest</u>
24. Eric Poncelet	Kearns & West - Facilitator
25. Gerry Leape	Pew Charitable Trust
26. Guillermo Gomez	Gomez-Hall Associates, Fisheries & Trade Consultants
27. Harrison Huang	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
28. Jamie Ashley	Fisherman
29. Jessica Short	NMFS
30. Joey Ferrigno	Fisherman
31. John DeLuca	J. Deluca Fish Company
32. John Hall	California Pelagic Fisheries Association
33. John Ugoretz	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
34. John Zuanich	Consultant, Alternate U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC
35. Josh Madeira	Monterey Bay Aquarium
36. Kelly Kloos	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
37. Kit Dahl	Pacific Fishery Management Council (staff)
38. Koosha Arabi	Fisherman
39. Louis Zimm	PFMC council member, recreational
40. Lyle Enriquez	NMFS
41. Marc Gorelnik	Pacific Fishery Management Council Vice-Chair
42. Mark Helvey	Sustainable Seafood Consultants
43. Matt Owens	Tri Marine Group, Director, Sustainability
44. Melanie King	NMFS Office of International affairs and Seafood Inspection
45. Micayla Keipert	NMFS
46. Michael Brakke	U.S. Department of State
47. Michael Conroy	West Coast Fishery Consultants
48. Michael Killary	NMFS Office of Law Enforcement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation/Interest</u>
49. Michelle Horeczko	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
50. Mike Thompson	Alternate U.S. Commissioner to the IATTC, Recreational Fisherman
51. Nick Jurlin	Fisherman
52. Pete Ciaramitaro	Fisherman
53. Peter Flournoy	AFRF, International Law Offices of San Diego
54. Rachael Wadsworth	NMFS
55. Rex Ito	Prime Time Seafood
56. Ryan Wullf	NMFS
57. Samuel Navarro	Baja Aqua Farms
58. Santiago Matus	Baja Aqua Farms
59. Sara Pipernos	The Ocean Foundation
60. Sarah Ellgen	NMFS
61. Sarah Shoffler	NMFS
62. Shana Miller	The Ocean Foundation
63. Shannon Penna	NMFS
64. Svein Fougner	Hawaii Longline Association
65. Taylor Debevec	NMFS
66. Ted Dunn	Fisherman
67. Terra Lederhouse	NMFS
68. Theresa Labriola	Wild Oceans
69. Tom Greene	Fisherman
70. Tom Schiff	Fisherman
71. Travis Buck	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
72. Wes Boyle	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
73. Will Stahnke	NMFS
74. Wynn Carney	NMFS Office of Law Enforcement

Appendix B

Pacific Bluefin Tuna Stakeholder Meeting (Webinar Only)

Proposed Agenda

May 19, 2020; 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/749669669>

Dial-in: 1 (646) 749-3112; code: 749-669-669

Webinar Instructions

Audio source - Select your audio source from the pop-up that appears after you have joined, or by clicking on the audio tab at the top of the control panel.

Computer audio - best in a closed room and/or with a good USB headset.

Phone - be sure to turn off your computer speaker so there is no feedback when you are on the phone. Be sure to add the PIN# that appears in your control panel after you have called in.

Meeting Objectives

- Receive an overview of international management of Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) and current management of the U.S. PBF fishery, and recall relevant outcomes of 2019 PBF stakeholder meeting
- Discuss potential 2021-2022 management measures for Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) consideration


Agenda

Item #	Time	Topic
	8:45 AM	Arrivals
1.	9:00 AM	Welcome and introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review webinar procedures and ground rules• Introductions• Meeting objectives and agenda review
2.	9:15 AM	Review background information <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PBF stock status• U.S. PBF catch data• PBF management – current requirements
3.	9:45 AM	Discuss 2019-2020 rule <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview• Discuss implications and other considerations to inform the 2021-2022 rule
4.	10:15 AM	Discuss recommended objectives from May 2019 PBF stakeholder meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are they still valid?• How is current management (short term) supporting these objectives?
	10:30 AM	Break

Item #	Time	Topic
5.	10:45 AM	Discuss likely need for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to propose a new rule for 2021-2022 to implement anticipated resolution on PBF; what management measures should the PFMC consider that might support confidence and flexibility?
6.	12:00 PM	Review and confirm recommended management measures
7.	12:15 PM	Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting summary • Process moving forward
	12:30 PM	<i>Adjourn</i>

Appendix C

PowerPoint Presentation



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Pacific Bluefin Tuna Stakeholder Meeting

May 19, 2020
Webinar

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Meeting Overview

- Webinar (no videoconference or in-person)
- Meeting structure
 - 3.5-hour meeting
 - Two sessions with a 15-minute break in between
 - Each agenda item includes a presentation followed by opportunity for Q&A or stakeholder input
- Available following meeting: meeting summary, PowerPoint presentation

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Process Guidelines and Ground Rules

- “Honor” the agenda
- Participate actively and respectfully
- Focus comments and speak concisely
- Speak in order; facilitator will mind the queue
- Speak clearly into the phone/computer mic
- Provide your name and affiliation each time you speak
- Participants will be muted during presentations
- Q&A and comments will take place at designative places in the agenda following presentations
- Please mute your audio during discussion items when not speaking; unmute yourself to ask questions or comment during discussions

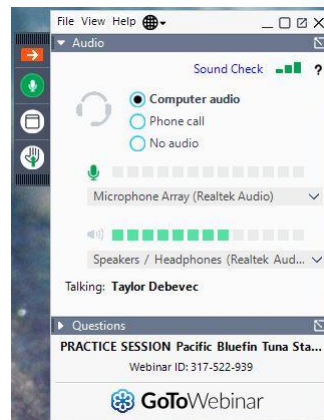
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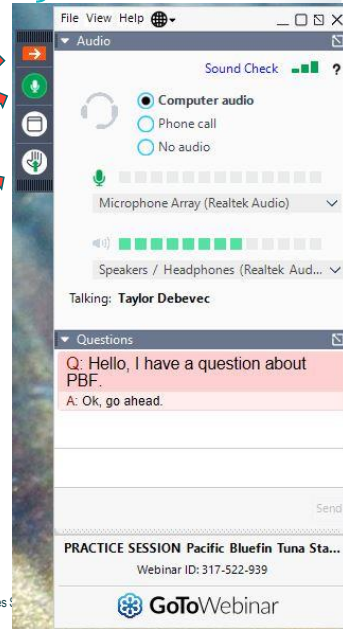
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Webinar Guidelines (cont.)

- To minimize control panel, click red arrow button
- To mute yourself, click the microphone; click again to unmute
- To raise hand, click raise hand button
- Use question box to direct questions to the “meeting organizers” or get technical assistance
- To view “full screen” and make presentation bigger, click the maximize icon in the upper right; click “escape” key to undo



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5

Introductions



6

Organizations/Affiliations

- NOAA Fisheries
- Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) representatives
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Fishermen and fishing industry
- Conservation interests
- Researchers and academics
- Interested public



Meeting Objectives

- Receive an overview of international management of Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) and current management of the U.S. PBF fishery, and recall relevant outcomes of 2019 PBF stakeholder meeting
- Discuss potential 2021-2022 management measures for Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) consideration



Agenda

Item	Time	Topic
1.	9:00	Welcome, Webinar Protocols, Introductions, Meeting Objectives, and Agenda Review
2.	9:15	Review background information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PBF stock status, U.S. PBF catch data, PBF management – current requirements
3.	9:45	Discuss 2019-2020 rule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss implications and other considerations to inform the 2021-2022 rule
4.	10:15	Discuss recommended objectives from May 2019 PBF stakeholder meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still valid? How is current management (short term) supporting these objectives?
	10:30	<i>Break</i>
5.	10:45	Discuss likely need for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to propose a new rule for 2021-2022 to implement anticipated resolution on PBF; what management measures should the PFMC consider that might support confidence and flexibility?
6.	12:00	Review and confirm recommended management measures
7.	12:15	Next steps
	12:30	<i>Adjourn</i>

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2. Review Background Information

- PBF Stock Status
- U.S. PBF Catch Data
- PBF Management



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2. Background

Stock Status

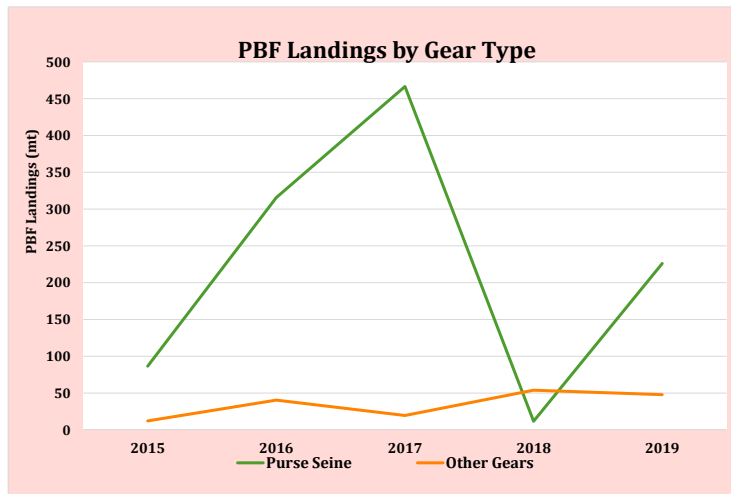
2018 Assessment: overfished/overfishing

2020 Assessment: not publicly available yet



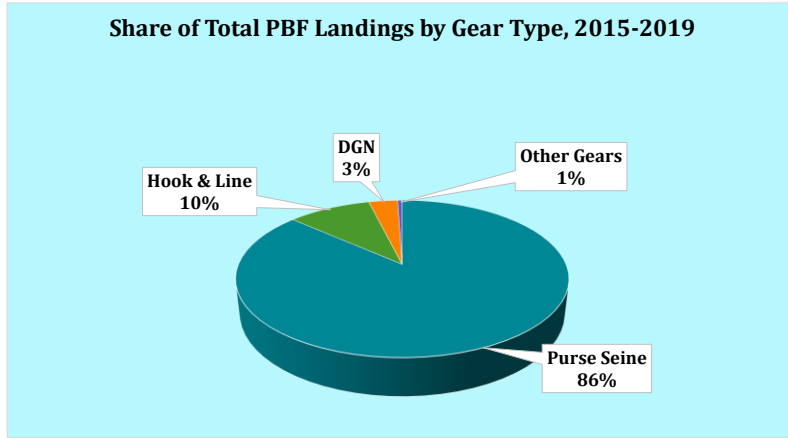
2. Background

PBF Catch/Effort Summaries



2. Background

PBF Catch/Effort Summaries



2. Background

PBF Catch/Effort Summaries

Table 1. Number of Vessels with PBF Landings, 2015-2019

Year	Purse Seine	Hook & Line	Drift Gillnet	Other Gears
2015	5	50	8	7
2016	5	64	14	5
2017	8	40	7	4
2018	8	58	12	8
2019	9	80	11	28



2. Background

PBF Management (International)

- WCPFC
- IATTC
 - PBF Resolutions since 2012
 - Since 2015 U.S. = 600 mt per 2 years
 - Regional Vessel Register
 - Limits # of PS vessels annually
 - Ranged 9-29 small PS past 5 years
 - 2020 = 19 small PS
 - New rules

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2. Background

PBF Management (Domestic Implementation)

Process:

- Proposed rule
- Final rule
- Additional Legal Considerations:
 - Paperwork Reduction Act
 - National Environmental Policy Act
- PFMC recommendations

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2. Background

PBF Management (Domestic Implementation)

Trip limits since 2014

- 2014: Re-opened w/ 1 mt
- 2015-2016: 25 mt, then 2 mt
- 2017-2018: 25 mt, then 2 mt
 - 2017 exceeded threshold & annual limit
 - 2018 restricted: 1 and 2 mt
- 2019-2020: 15 mt, then 2 mt



2. Background

Clarifying questions?



3. Discuss 2019-2020 Rule

- Overview
- Inform 2021-2022 Rule



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3. 2019-2020 Rule

Overview 2019-2020 Rule (Implementation of Resolutions C-18-01/C-18-02)

- 2019-2020 Limit = 630 mt; not to exceed 425 mt in a year
- Trip limits: 15 mt / 2 mt
- Pre-trip notification
- E-tickets submitted w/in 24 hrs
- Quicker inseason action
- 2019 catch limit = 425 mt (caught 274 mt)
- 2020 Catch limit = 356 mt



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3. 2019-2020 Rule

Potential Implications of the Rule

Comments during 2019 Stakeholder Meeting:

- Pre trip notification is:
 - too restrictive/doesn't allow flexibility
 - unnecessary with low trip limit and e-ticket
 - associated assumption likely overestimate
- 15 mt trip limit is low



3. 2019-2020 Rule

Potential Implications of the Rule

Lessons learned from 2019

- Unexpected crew drop-off ended trip
- Wasting fuel returning to port when already in fishing grounds
- Timing of inseason action
- Pre-trip notification assumption overestimated catch



3. 2019-2020 Rule

Discussion

What lessons learned from the 2019-2020 rule should inform the 2021-2022 rule?



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4. Recommended Mgmt. Objectives from 2019 Stakeholder Meeting

- Are they still valid?
- Does current management support these?



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4. Objectives

Management Objectives

(see 2019 Meeting Summary)

2. Fully utilize the U.S. catch limit to assist negotiations.
3. Provide flexibility for harvest operations to maximize profits; for example, allow vessels to choose to target different stocks without losing opportunities to target PBF.
4. Support fishing communities and related industries (e.g., canneries).
5. Maintain fishing opportunity for all fishing sectors (e.g., purse seine, hook-and-line).

Discussion

- **Are these still valid?**
- **Does current management support these?**

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Break

15 minutes



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5. Potential Rule for 2021-2022



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5. Potential 2021-2022 Rule

Potential New Rules (or good old ones)

From 2019 Meeting (see summary):

3. Consider pre-landing or daily call-in by vessels or markets, to assist in tracking of catch...alternative to a pre-trip notification.

4. Consider an earlier threshold, or trigger, to reduce trip limits and make the trip limit intermediate in quantity compared to current limits...



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5. Potential 2021-2022 Rule

Potential New Rules (and good old ones)

Discussion: What management measures should the PFMC consider that might support confidence and flexibility?



Review Recommendations



Next Steps



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6. Next Steps

Next Steps

- June: Stakeholder Meeting Report to June PFMC meeting
- June 17-18: SAS & GAC Virtual Meetings
- July 27-31: Joint Working Group on PBF
- August 10-14: IATTC Plenary
- September: PFMC Meeting
- Proposed Rule
- November: PFMC Meeting
- Final Rule
- Continue Long-term Management Discussion



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Thank you...

Steering Committee (Michael Conroy,
Michelle Horeczko, Dave Rudie)

Will Stahnke (notes)

Taylor Debevec (tech support)

Karter Harmon (catch/effort figures)

Cynthia Malain (IT support)

Pacific Fishery Management Council (Go To
Webinar)



Adjourn

