

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) would like to bring to the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council's) attention that the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Tropical tuna ([Resolution C-17-02](#)) and Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF; [Resolution C-18-01](#)) resolutions are expiring at the end of this year. There are related concerns that the IATTC may not adopt new resolutions applicable to 2021. Consequently, this would result in a lapse in applicable regulations under the Tuna Conventions Act. The HMSMT is particularly concerned given that the current status of PBF is overfished and subject to overfishing and eastern Pacific Ocean yellowfin tuna is subject to overfishing.

The applicable regulations for tropical tunas largely affect vessels fishing on the high seas and include bigeye tuna catch limits, fish aggregating device management, and time and/or area closures for large purse seine vessels. The PBF regulations that will expire are a 600 metric ton commercial catch limit for two years combined and associated management measures that include a pre-trip notification for purse seine vessels, 24-hour e-ticket submission, and trip limits applicable to all commercial U.S. fishing vessels.¹

The Council may need to consider how to address a potential lapse in regulations; the HMSMT provides additional information on this topic in its HMSMT Supplemental Report under Agenda Item E.3.

PFMC
09/11/20

¹ The applicable regulations are implemented under the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950, as amended, and are located in 50 CFR 300.