

RECOMMEND INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Since the November 2020 Council meeting the Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission (WCPFC) held its Seventeenth Regular Session and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) held two sessions, its 95th Regular Meeting and 96th Extraordinary Meeting. The WCPFC adopted two conservation and management measures and made decisions on various other matters (see Attachment 1). The IATTC adopted six resolutions (although three of these are essentially procedural). The meetings were held virtually and in an abbreviated format compared to regular face-to-face meetings.

Both Commissions adopted complementary conservation measures for Pacific bluefin tuna consistent with agreements reached through the Joint Working Group process (which was discussed at the November 2020 Council meeting). These are one-year measures essentially rolling over 2020 catch limits (with adjustments to adapt a two-year limit to one year). IATTC [Resolution C-20-02](#) is binding on West Coast fisheries through domestic application by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). On January 5, 2021, NMFS published a proposed rule ([86 FR 219](#)) to implement related management measures, consistent with recommendations made by the Council in November 2020.

Similarly, both the IATTC and WCPFC adopted conservation measures for the tropical tuna fishery that essentially roll over 2020 measures into 2021 with minor adjustments. Most relevant to the Council, IATTC Resolution [C-20-06](#) includes a 750 mt annual bigeye tuna catch limit for U.S. longline fisheries. NMFS published an interim final rule implementing provisions of the Resolution on January 19, 2021 ([86 FR 5033](#)). The WCPFC also adopted a workshop process to discuss proposals for a revised tropical tuna measure to be adopted in 2021 and applicable for one or more subsequent years. Although the IATTC did not propose a comparable process for revising its tropical tuna measure in 2021, paragraph 25 of C-20-06 states “In 2021 the results of these measures shall be evaluated in the context of the results of the stock assessments and of changes in the level of active capacity in the purse-seine fleet and, depending on the conclusions reached by the IATTC scientific staff, in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, and based on such evaluation, the Commission shall take further actions including substantial extension of closure days for purse-seine vessels or equivalent measures, at its meeting in 2021.”

No WCPFC or IATTC meetings have been announced for the time between the March and June Council meetings. Although traditionally the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee holds its meeting in mid-May, given ongoing constraints due to Covid-19, that meeting may be delayed. The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean has announced the Fifth North Pacific Albacore Management Strategy Evaluation Workshop for Fishery Managers scheduled March 22-25 as an online meeting. Registration details are forthcoming.

Council Action:

Consider Reports on International Activities and Provide Recommendations, as Appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 1: WCPFC Seventeenth Regular Session Provisional Outcomes Document.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- H.3 Recommend International Management Activities Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Consider Reports on International Activities and Provide Recommendations, as Appropriate

PFMC
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