

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The attached National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Report 1 summarizes recent and upcoming Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) meetings. The Council has been particularly interested in IATTC measures for Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific albacore tuna, which affect West Coast fisheries through their domestic implementation.

For Pacific bluefin the IATTC adopted a one-year measure essentially rolling over 2020 catch limits (with adjustments to adapt a two-year limit to one-year) for 2021 in [Resolution C-20-02](#). While Japan in particular has expressed interest in negotiating increases to catch limits consistent with the WCPFC harvest strategy/rebuilding plan, the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee recommended continuing catch limits in the current Resolution, while noting catch limit increases are possible under the rebuilding plan, as discussed in NMFS Report 1. The Joint IATTC-Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee (NC) Working Group will meet prior to the planned August 23-27 IATTC regular session to develop recommendations for Pacific bluefin conservation measures for 2022 and beyond. Such recommendations will form the basis for any Resolution adopted by the IATTC.

The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) Albacore Working Group completed its management strategy evaluation (MSE) for North Pacific albacore. Results were presented at a March 22-25 workshop. A second stakeholder meeting occurred on June 1. The ISC Plenary will review the results at its July meeting and make recommendations on their use by the NC. According to its current workplan, the NC will continue to work to establish a target reference point and other elements of the harvest strategy based on the MSE. (A recording of a presentation to the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee on the MSE results is available [online](#).) Although the WCPFC covers fisheries in the Western Pacific, the WCPFC harvest strategy will likely influence IATTC actions related to North Pacific albacore management.

The ISC Plenary will also review a benchmark stock assessment for blue marlin, an updated indicator analysis for shortfin mako shark, and its response to a request from the WCPFC about striped marlin (conducted by the Billfish Working Group). For North Pacific striped marlin, at its 2020 annual meeting the WCPFC requested the ISC to 1) examine differences between ISC stock assessment catch estimates by CCM¹ and WCPFC catch estimates, and work with the Scientific Services Provider² to provide an assessment of the shortcomings; 2) explain why the striped marlin stock decreased and the fishing mortality increased after a drastic decrease in fishing effort by high seas driftnet fisheries in the early 1990s; and 3) develop a roadmap to address the issues identified in the latest stock assessment by ISC.

¹ Members, cooperating non-members, and participating territories.

² South Pacific Commission Oceanic Fisheries Program.

NMFS Report 1 also describes U.S. priorities for the IATTC tropical tuna Resolution, to be taken up at its June 7-10 extraordinary meeting. The results of that meeting will be reported to the Council at its June meeting.

Council Action:

Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at Upcoming Meetings and Other Forums, as Appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.2.b, National Marine Fisheries Report 1.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

F.2 International Management Activities

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- a. Report on the Joint Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission-Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Pacific Bluefin Tuna Working Group
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Action: Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at Upcoming Meetings and Other Forums, as Appropriate

PFMC
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