

Pacific Bluefin Tuna
IATTC/WCPFC Northern Committee
Joint Working Group (JWG)

June 1, 2021

Dear fellow members and participants,

We hope that all of you and your family stay well in this difficult time. Unfortunately, the COVID 19 crisis continues and we have to announce that the 6th Pacific Bluefin Tuna IATTC/WCPFC Northern Committee Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting will be held virtually again this year. The meeting will be held from July 27 to 29 (from 26 to 28 in some areas). Each day will have a three hour session. Please save these three days in your schedules. We thank you in advance for your understanding that some members may need to be available late in the evening or early in the morning given the challenge of varying time zones. The detailed arrangements and procedures to attend the meeting will be notified as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Lowman and



Masa Miyahara, JWG Co-chairs

10 June 2021

Dear JWG Members and Participants,

We thank you again for your patience as we continue to plan for the virtual 6th meeting of the IATTC-WCPFC Northern Committee Joint Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG). We have attached a draft agenda which will be posted soon and wanted to highlight some important details as you prepare for a successful meeting this year.

Schedule and Logistics

The three-day meeting will commence on 27 July 2021 at 8 am *Japan Standard Time*. Each day's session will be three hours long. Please note that this will mean a July 26 start date for some participants, depending on your time zone. We also appreciate those for whom this time will mean having to meet outside of usual business hours.

The WCPFC Secretariat has once again graciously agreed to provide administrative and technical support for the JWG meeting. Therefore, all members and participants will need to register via the WCPFC website. By using the WCPFC infrastructure, we are able to keep the technical costs related to the JWG meeting down. However, the structure of the WCPFC platform requires any non-WCPFC member participating in meetings using the WCPFC web server to register as an observer. We want to assure all members of the JWG that you are equally valued, and this registration feature will not impact your ability to be recognized and participate fully in the meeting as a JWG member. The report of the meeting, including the list of participants, will also reflect JWG membership correctly. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Preparation for JWG-06

Like last year, we hope to have all documents for the meeting posted to the website 2 weeks in advance of the meeting. Therefore, we ask you to please submit all materials, including any proposals for CMMS or IATTC resolutions to Sungkwon Soh (SungKwon.Soh@wcpfc.int) no later than July 9th. This will allow ample time for members to formulate their thoughts and questions, and for pre-meeting discussions to occur to facilitate a productive JWG virtual meeting the last week in July.

Under Agenda item 4, members will review their implementation of conservation and management measures. We recognize the JWG-06 meeting will occur before the annual July 31 deadline for WCPFC Northern Committee members to submit their required implementation reports to the WCPFC Executive Director. We once again ask IATTC members, as well as any Northern Committee members who have not submitted their reports to provide brief written summaries of their implementation of PBFT conservation measures to facilitate discussion under this agenda item.

Thank you again for your hard work and commitment to the JWG process. We look forward to seeing all of you, if only virtually, at the end of July. Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


Masa Miyahara
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Dorothy Lowman
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JWG Co-Chairs

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Preparation for JWG-08

Like last year, we hope to have all documents for the meeting posted to the website 2 weeks in advance of the meeting. Therefore, we ask you to please submit all materials, including any proposals for CMMs or IATTC resolutions to sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int no later than July 9th. This will allow ample time for members to formulate their thoughts and questions, and for pre-meeting discussions to occur to facilitate a productive JWG virtual meeting the last week in July.

Under Agenda item 4, members will review their implementation of conservation and management measures. We recognize the JWG-08 meeting will occur before the annual July 31 deadline for WCPFC Northern Committee members to submit their required implementation reports to the WCPFC Executive Director. We once again ask IATTC members, as well as any Northern Committee members who have not submitted their reports to provide brief written summaries of their implementation of PBF conservation measures to facilitate discussion under this agenda item.

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE MANAGEMENT
OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
SIXTH SESSION**

Virtual Meeting
27-29 July 2021, 8am-11am Japan Standard Time

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

IATTC-NC-JWG06-2021/02

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
- 2. Adoption of Agenda and Meeting Procedures**
- 3. Scientific Information on Pacific Bluefin Tuna**

- 3.1 Updates on the stock status of Pacific bluefin tuna

The last stock assessment for Pacific bluefin tuna was conducted in 2020. Any updates will be introduced on the status of the stock. The JWG will also get an update from the ISC PBF Workgroup on this year's discussions.

- 3.2 Reports from WCPFC-Scientific Committee (SC) and IATTC-Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

WCPFC-SC17 meeting will be held during 11-19 August 2021, after the JWG meeting is concluded. The most recent recommendations can be found in last year's report NC16-IP-02 (*SC16 Summary Report to NC16*).

IATTC-SAC meeting was held during 10-14 May 2021 and provided recommendations to the IATTC Commission as follows:

The SAC recommends the extension of the provisions of Resolution C-18-01, as already extended by Resolution C-20-02, and that the Commission take note that increased catches based on the scenarios analyzed are possible under the harvest strategy prepared by the joint tuna RFMOs Working Group. The choice of catch scenario should take into account the desired rebuilding rate and the distribution of catch between small and large bluefin.

- 4. Reports on the implementation of Pacific bluefin tuna measures**

The JWG-06 will review members' implementation of the conservation and management measures for Pacific bluefin tuna and may clarify any discrepancies if identified.

- 5. Review of Conservation and Management Measures for Pacific Bluefin Tuna**

JWG06 will review the current Pacific bluefin tuna measures of WCPFC CMM 2020-01 and IATTC RESOLUTION C-20-02 and consider any revisions for recommendation to each Commission, if warranted. In preparation for JWG-06, members may wish to also discuss the

WCPFC Harvest Strategy for Pacific Bluefin Tuna Fisheries (HS 2017-02) as well as the IATTC Resolution C-18-02 related to a long-term management strategy for Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

6. Future (2022) JWG meeting

The JWG will consider the meeting venue and dates for JWG-07.

7. Other business

7.1 Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic

The JWG may consider approaches and options to address any delayed issues such as the development of a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for Pacific Bluefin Tuna or efforts related to development of an MSE for Pacific Bluefin fisheries.

7.2 Other

8. Adoption of Report

The JWG will review and adopt the Chairs' Summary as the JWG-06 report.

9. Close of meeting