

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Three meetings related to international management of highly migratory species with outcomes of interest to the Council occurred since the September 2021 Council meeting.

The 17th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee (NC) was held online October 5-7. Attachment 1 is the meeting report. The NC reviewed NC17-WP-03 (NC Chair's Draft Amendment on the Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) for Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) based on the Results of JWG06 Meeting) and NC17-WP-04 (Draft Harvest Strategy for PBF Fisheries - NC Chair's proposed revision to HS 2017-02). NC members that are also members of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA: the Cook Islands, Fiji, and Vanuatu) initially opposed the proposed catch limit increases in the draft amendment to CMM 2020-02, arguing that the 2020 PBF stock assessment did not adequately capture uncertainty in model parameters. The U.S. pointed out that the stock assessment was previously endorsed by the WCPFC Scientific Committee and the Joint Working Group where FFA members had the opportunity to raise such concerns. Ultimately the FFA members did not block consensus and the NC recommended the WCPFC adopt the revised CMM (Attachment D to the Summary Report). The revised PBF harvest strategy (Attachment E to the Summary Report) was recommended for adoption by the WCPFC without objection, although the NC requested the International Scientific Committee (ISC) develop recommendations for a definition of a "drastic drop" in recruitment as referenced in the harvest strategy. Chinese Taipei, Japan, and the U.S. presented proposed requests from NC17 to the ISC for projections to be made using results of the planned 2022 PBF update stock assessment and specified catch increase scenarios (Attachment F to the Summary Report). The proposal was adopted by NC17 as a request to the ISC. The NC reviewed and discussed North Pacific albacore fishing effort data contained in working paper NC17-WP-01 (Attachment G to the Summary Report), particularly revised fishing effort limits submitted by Vanuatu for the 2002-2004 baseline period and apparent discrepancies in Korea's reporting of fishing effort by number of vessels and fishing days. The NC reviewed and revised its 2022-2024 work program (Attachment H to the Summary Report).

The Permanent Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the WCPFC (WCPFC PAC) met online October 13-15 and adopted revised recommendations to the U.S. Section for positions taken at the 18th Regular Session of the WCPFC (WCPFC18), included here as Attachment 2. WCPFC18 is scheduled as an online meeting November 29-December 7, 2021; the annotated agenda is included here as Attachment 3. Adoption of a CMM to succeed expiring CMM 2020-01, Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the Western And Central Pacific Ocean, will be a major focus of the meeting. The WCPFC Chair held two online workshops to help Commission members consider the structure and content of the new measure. The Chair is developing a consultative draft proposal to facilitate adoption of a measure. The Commission will also consider adoption of the two PBF-related measures discussed above, along with a variety of other actions. The WCPFC PAC recommendations (Attachment 2) serve as a useful guide to the range of issues that likely will arise at WCPFC18.

At its 98th meeting held online August 23-27, the Inter-American Tropical Commission was unable to adopt new measures for tropical tunas or a proposed [three-year PBF measure submitted by the](#)

[U.S.](#) based on outcomes of the Joint Working Group (see [Agenda Item D.2.b, Supplemental NMFS Report, September 2021](#)). The 98th meeting was resumed October 18-22 to complete this and other unfinished business. Since this meeting occurred coincident with compilation of the advance briefing book, outcomes cannot be reported here. National Marine Fisheries Service intends to submit a supplemental report with that information.

Council Action:

Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions for the 18th Regular Session of the WCPFC and other Upcoming Meetings and Other Forums, as Appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 1: Summary Report of the Seventeenth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee (*Electronic Only*).
2. Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 2: Recommendations from the Permanent Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Web Conference - October 13-15, 2021.
3. Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 3: Provisional Annotated Agenda, 18th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, December 1-7, 2021.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- H.2 International Management Activities Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions for the 18th Regular Session of the WCPFC and other Upcoming Meetings and Other Forums, as Appropriate

PFMC
10/22/21