HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

After the Fifth International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) Stakeholder Workshop (March 22-25, 2021; virtual) on the North Pacific albacore management strategy evaluation (MSE), a shiny web application was developed through the collaborative efforts of Dr. Kit Dahl (Council staff officer), Dr. Desiree Tommasi (Southwest Fisheries Science Center and the Institute of Marine Sciences at the University of California Santa Cruz), and Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) member Jessica Watson. The goal of the shiny web application (https://pfmc.shinyapps.io/Albacore_MSE/) is to provide stakeholders with an interactive method of exploring the results from the Report of the Albacore_MSE. A demonstration of the North Pacific Albacore (NPALB) MSE shiny application will be presented to the Council today following this report.

The HMSMT has been engaged throughout development of the web application, and finds this tool useful for understanding the MSE process and interpreting outcomes (see November 2021 HMSMT Supplemental Report H.2.a). The beta version of this application was presented in a joint session of the HMSMT and the HMS Advisory Subpanel during the November 2021 Council meeting, with the goal of obtaining feedback on utility and gaining recommendations for refinement. As the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee (NC) consider a harvest strategy for NPALB, stakeholders could use this tool when providing input to the U.S. Delegations to the IATTC and NC. Specifically, the HMSMT believes this tool could assist with stakeholder engagement in advance of and during the webinar hosted by National Marine Fisheries Service scheduled for April 5, 2022 (see Supplemental NMFS Report 1), and could help the Council evaluate how different management strategies may impact U.S.-based NPALB fisheries.

The Council and other stakeholders are encouraged to use the application and provide input on further refinements that would be useful.

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