

WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

I attended the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission 18th Regular Meeting which was held electronically November 29th-December 7th, 2021, as the PFMC representative. A few key issues relating to PFMC stakeholders are:

- **Tropical Tunas Measure (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye):** As anticipated, a new measure was adopted for two years which has no major substantive changes from the previous measure (CMM 2021-01). This will give the Commission the ability to take up other work this year before beginning renegotiations.
- **Harvest strategies:**
 - Most CCMs expressed sentiments that harvest strategies should be a priority issue for the Commission.
 - As such, the first meeting for the Science-Management Dialog is scheduled August 19-22, 2022, in conjunction with the Scientific Committee in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.
- **Cetaceans:** Best practice guidelines for handling and safe release of cetaceans was adopted.
- **Crew Labor Standards Intersessional Working Group:** The Majority of CCMs participated in the Working Group in 2021 and will continue working on the topic in 2022. China didn't participate in 2021 but will in 2022.
- **WCPFC19 Meeting Arrangements:** Vietnam has offered to host the 2022 annual meeting contingent upon travel restrictions.

Upcoming items related to the 18th Session:

- **North Pacific Albacore MSE:** Thank you to Dr. Dahl, Dr. Tommasi, and Ms. Watson for the work done on the MSE shiny app and for outreach to stakeholders in advance of the April 5th Management Strategy Evaluation Workshop as noted in other reports under this agenda item.
- **Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring (EREM):** 2022 will be a busy one for the EREM work group. Core items of work listed in the Circular No. 2022:06 include:
 - Considering and providing advice on outputs from the workgroup including those relating to existing obligations, data gaps and the prioritization of ER and EM.
 - Drafting minimum standards for electronic monitoring.

The full series of planned activities to complete this work is available in the following link:

[Communication from the ERandEMWG Chair Regarding Planned Activities for 2022 | WCPFC](#)

The current draft version is available for review at this link:

[Communication from the ERandEMWG Chair - Draft Standards, Specifications and Procedures for WCPFC Electronic Monitoring Program \(Comments requested by Friday 8 April 2022\) | WCPFC](#)

Please note: The ability to participate directly in the EREM WG as part of the US delegation closed February 15th, 2022. However, the ability for the public to comment on the current draft is open. If members of the public have comments on the draft version available on the WCPFC website they're welcome to email them directly to **Valerie Post** (valerie.post@noaa.gov) by **April 1, 2022**.

Finally, I wish to thank the Council for continuing to support participation in the US Delegation to the WCPFC. This concludes my report under agenda item I.2.