

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Since the March 2022 Council meeting, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has held three stakeholder workshops focusing on harvest strategy development for Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific albacore. The Pacific bluefin workshops were held on April 1 and May 4. The first workshop solicited input on the development of a harvest strategy at the international level while the second workshop followed up on harvest strategy recommendations along with a discussion of considerations for domestic management. The North Pacific albacore workshop was held on April 5 and focused on harvest strategy development in light of the completed management strategy evaluation. NMFS will report on the outcomes of these meetings.

The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) will review stock assessments for North Pacific striped marlin, North Pacific blue shark, and Pacific bluefin tuna (the bluefin assessment is an update rather than benchmark assessment). Based on the stock assessment information, the ISC makes conservation recommendations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee (NC).

Attachment 1 is the draft executive summary from the 2022 Pacific bluefin stock assessment, which was provided to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Scientific Advisory Committee for its May 16-20, 2022, meeting. The assessment indicates that spawning stock biomass (SSB) reached its initial rebuilding target ($SSB_{MED} = 6.3\%SSB_{F=0}$) in 2019 and projections indicate that under all examined scenarios the second rebuilding target of $20\%SSB_{F=0}$ is reached by 2029 (10 years after reaching the initial rebuilding target) with at least 60 percent probability. (And under current conservation measures, the second rebuilding target would be reached by 2023 with at least a 60 percent probability.)

As of this writing the dates and venue for the next NC meeting have not been announced, although the WCPFC18 summary report states that the meeting will be held in Japan. In the past, in-person NC meetings have been held the first week of September but in 2020 and 2021 they were held online in October. Should the Council wish to make any recommendations to the U.S. delegation for this meeting, they could make them now (assuming a meeting the first week of September) and follow up at its September meeting if the NC meeting occurs in October.

The IATTC has scheduled its 99th/100th meetings August 1-5. At the Council's March 2022 meeting, NMFS reported on U.S. priorities for the IATTC ([Agenda Item I.2.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1](#)) and may update the Council at this meeting. NMFS also typically presents a comprehensive list of upcoming regional fishery management organization and related meetings in its reports.

The IATTC and WCPFC NC Joint Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG) meeting schedule is currently being finalized, and will most likely occur before the August IATTC meeting. The JWG will be reviewing the management and fishing activities of member countries, discussing whether to recommend any modifications to current conservation measures for Pacific bluefin (contained in IATTC Resolution C-21-05 and WCPFC CMM 2021-02) and working to further develop the long-term harvest strategy. Ms. Dorothy Loman, JWG Co-Chair, will be on hand to brief the Council on these developments.

Council Action:

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

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1: DOCUMENT SAC-13 INF-R, Pacific Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Executive Summary.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- G.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 at Upcoming Meetings and Other Forums, as Appropriate

PFMC
05/16/22