

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM  
REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

North Pacific Albacore (NPALB)

The HMSMT generally supports progress towards an international harvest strategy. The HMSMT evaluated the pros and cons of the reference points proposed in [G.2.a Supplemental NMFS Report 3](#) and does not have strong opinions on the included options. This report provides the Council with the HMSMT's observations for consideration.

The limit reference point (LRP) of 14 percent  $SSB_0$  (unfished spawning stock biomass) generally equates to  $SSB_{MSY}$  (level of spawning stock biomass that supports maximum sustainable yield), which makes it more conservative than the domestic trigger for an overfished determination under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (i.e., Minimum Stock Size Threshold). As a result, this LRP, if adopted by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, could help the U.S. avoid a need to address its relative impact on an overfished stock, while the international community would not be obligated to do so.

There was substantial discussion in the joint briefing with the HMSAS on the target reference point (TRP), which is represented by fishing intensity ( $F$ )<sup>1</sup>, around whether the management objective under paragraph a.ii would include an intent to constrain the fishery to a fishing intensity below the TRP. The HMSMT considered a TRP of  $F50$  as potentially more constraining to international fishing effort than past fishing effort. Given that since 1994 the average fishing intensity is  $F46$ , a TRP of  $F45$  would be unlikely to constrain fishing effort relative to past fishing effort (see page 37 of [G.2.a Supplemental NMFS Report 2](#)). If there are concerns for potential expansion of foreign fisheries in the Pacific Ocean, a TRP of  $F50$  may be preferable.

Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF)

National Marine Fisheries Service briefed the advisory bodies that there are currently no international agreements guiding harvest of PBF after the stock reaches the internationally agreed second rebuilding target of 20 percent  $SSB_0$ . Acknowledging that the second rebuilding target may be met within the next couple of years ([G.2 Attachment 1](#)), the HMSMT thinks it is important that the United States continue to prioritize developing a long-term harvest strategy for PBF.

PFMC  
06/11/22

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<sup>1</sup>  $F[X]$  represents a fishing intensity ( $F$ ; calculated in terms of spawning potential ratio) that leads to a  $SSB$  that fluctuates around  $X\%$  of the unfished  $SSB$  (e.g.,  $F40$  would result in a fishing mortality that would remove about 60% of the  $SSB$ ).