

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
100TH MEETING**

**La Jolla, California (USA)
1-5 August 2022**

RESOLUTION C-22-XX

HARVEST STRATEGY FOR NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in La Jolla, California (USA), on the occasion of its 100th Meeting:

Recalling Resolutions C-05-02, C-13-03, and C-18-03 on Northern Pacific albacore tuna;

Recalling further its responsibility for the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area, and for the formulation of recommendations to its Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) with regard to the conservation and management of these resources;

Observing that the 2020 stock assessment of North Pacific albacore from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) indicates that North Pacific albacore tuna is neither being overfished nor is it in an overfished state;

Further Observing that the spawning stock biomass of North Pacific albacore tuna has remained stable at relatively high levels during the recent historical period, such that no management action has been required;

Recognizing that fishing effort limits continue to be an effective management tool for troll and pole-and-line fisheries targeting this stock in the convention area of the IATTC;

Recognizing the importance of working with the WCPFC, as provided for in Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention, in order to manage North Pacific albacore tuna throughout its entire migratory range spanning/across the Pacific Ocean north of the equator;

Recalling further Article 22(4) of the WCPFC Convention that provides for cooperation with the IATTC regarding fish stocks that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Taking into account Article IV of the Antigua Convention calling upon members of the Commission to apply the precautionary approach, as described in the relevant provisions of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, as well as the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, for the conservation, management and sustainable use of fish stocks covered by the Convention;

Bearing in mind that Article 7.5.3 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing indicates that regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) should determine stock-specific target and limit reference points, the action to be taken if reference points are approached or exceeded, and measures to be taken to ensure that limit reference points will not be exceeded;

Considering the ISC has determined that its management strategy evaluation (MSE) work is complete and

ready to form the basis for adoption of a harvest strategy for North Pacific albacore; and,

Recalling that, as directed in Resolution C-18-03, the IATTC Scientific Staff has made recommendations in respect of the ISC's MSE framework for consideration by the Commission;

Further recalling the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), at its 13th meeting, as well the IATTC Scientific Staff, recommended that Commission use the results of the concluded MSE process to establish reference points and a harvest control rule (HCR) for North Pacific albacore tuna.

The IATTC therefore resolves that:

1. A harvest strategy shall be adopted, in accordance with the following principles:

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- a. The management objectives for the North Pacific albacore stock are:
 - i. Maintain Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) above the limit reference point, with a probability of [at least 90% over the long term].
 - ii. Maintain depletion of total biomass around historical (2006-2015) average depletion over the long term
 - iii. Maintain fishing intensity (F) at or below the target value with a probability of [at least 50% over the long term].
 - iv. To the extent practicable, management changes (e.g., catch and/or effort) should be relatively gradual between years.

REFERENCE POINTS

- b. For the purpose of the North Pacific albacore long-term harvest strategy, the following reference points are established:
 - i. Target reference point (TRP) = [F45 or F50]
 - ii. Threshold reference point ($SSB_{\text{threshold}}$) = [30%] dynamic unfished Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB_{0_d})
 - iii. Limit reference point (LRP) = [14%] SSB_{0_d} dynamic unfished Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB_{0_d})

ACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF RISK

- c. The risk of breaching the limit reference point should be no greater than [10%].

MONITORING

- d. Encourage the ISC to conduct the North Pacific albacore stock assessment [periodically].

- e. When performing a stock assessment, IATTC staff shall collaborate with the ISC to consider if the biology, environmental conditions, data sources, status of the stock, and/or other underlying assumptions has changed substantially to warrant revisiting the components in this harvest strategy.

HARVEST CONTROL RULES

- f. Relative to the reference points established in this resolution, the HCR shall operate as follows consistent with Figure 1:
 - i. If the most recent stock assessment indicates that the latest estimate of SSB is above $SSB_{\text{threshold}}$ with a probability of greater than 50%, CPCs shall ensure fishing intensity is maintained at or below the TRP with a probability of at least 50%.
 - ii. If the most recent stock assessment indicates that the latest estimate of SSB is below $SSB_{\text{threshold}}$ with a probability of [50% or greater], and above the LRP with a probability of [at least 50%], CPCs shall revise¹ the conservation and management measures currently in force for this stock in the IATTC Convention Area with a view to reducing fishing intensity (F) and growing SSB back to levels equal to or greater than $SSB_{\text{threshold}}$.
 - iii. If the most recent stock assessment indicates that the latest estimate of SSB is below the LRP with a probability of 80%, CPCs shall ensure fishing intensity (F) is reduced to a minimum level. In addition, CPCs shall, in collaboration with the ISC and the WCPFC, adopt no later than 2 years a plan² to rebuild SSB to levels above the LRP within 10 years with a probability of [90%].

OTHER PROVISIONS

- 2. The Commission shall promote compatibility between the harvest strategy adopted through this resolution, and any future harvest strategy adopted in the WCPFC with respect to North Pacific albacore.
- 3. The Director shall communicate this Resolution to the WCPFC Secretariat.

¹ When adopting proposed revisions to the conservation and management measures proposed, which may include *inter alia* reductions in fishing effort, CPCs will take into account historical fishing activity and the source of increased fishing mortality. In addition, and in line with paragraph 4 of this resolution, these revisions shall be compatible with revisions to the conservation and management measures adopted for North Pacific albacore by the WCPFC.

² When developing a rebuilding plan, CPCs will take into account historical fishing activity and the source of increased fishing mortality, socioeconomic factors, as per UNFSA Article 6.3.c., as well as which CPCs, if any, contributed to exceeding the LRP.

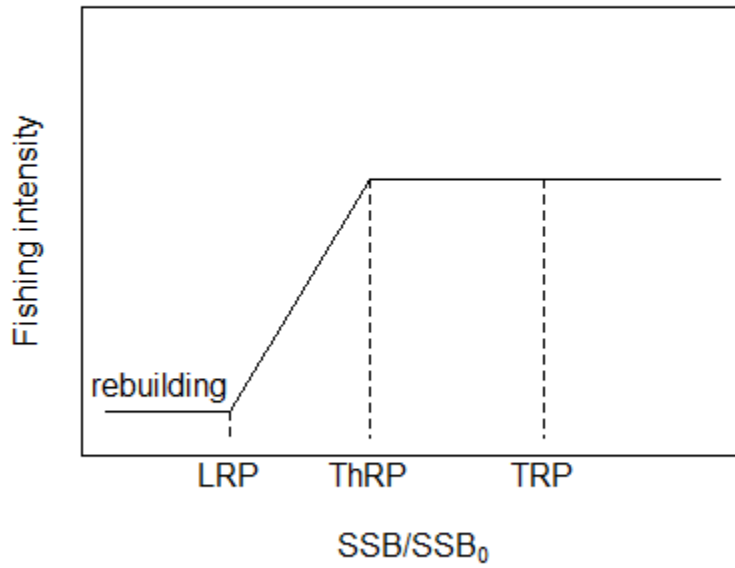


Figure. 1. Illustration of the harvest strategy with target reference point (TRP), threshold reference point (ThRP), and limit reference point (LRP). If the SSB/SSB_0 falls below the LRP, the rebuilding plan is triggered.