

## NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ACTIVITIES

### **99th and 100th Meetings of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)**

The IATTC convened its 99<sup>th</sup> Meeting on August 1, 2022, in-person only, to select a new Executive Director. Through a voting process, Mr. Franco Arnulfo of Panama was selected as the new Executive Director of the IATTC for a term of four years.

The IATTC held its 100<sup>th</sup> meeting in-person in Phoenix, Arizona, with an option for delegations attending the 100<sup>th</sup> meeting to also participate virtually. This meeting convened from August 1-5, 2022. The meeting information, including proposals, are included on the [meeting webpage](#). Final versions of the proposals will be posted to the IATTC website under “Resolutions.” The following measures were adopted:

- North Pacific albacore harvest strategy that includes reference points, monitoring, acceptable levels of risk, and a commitment to adopt harvest controls rules in 2023.
- Amendment to Resolution C-11-07 on Compliance to require a procedure by which the Compliance Committee develops and IATTC reviews a report on compliance status, thereby improving tracking and reporting of compliance cases.
- Amendment to Resolution C-12-07 on transshipments to include additional reporting and adjust reporting timelines.
- Amendment to paragraphs 13 and 14.e.ii in Resolution C-21-04 that adjusts the dates by which purse seine vessels must declare which of two closure periods to which they will adhere.
- New Resolution to create an *ad hoc* Working Group on Electronic Monitoring with terms of reference.
- Terms of Reference for a Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch (EBWG) that includes changing the name of the Bycatch Working Group to EBWG.

Additionally, Rachael Wadsworth of the NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region was elected as Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee and Yonat Swimmer of the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office was re-elected as Co-chair of the newly named EBWG.

### **Joint IATTC-Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee Working Group on Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG)**

The JWG convened its 7th meeting July 11-12, 2022, to consider management of Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) (see the [meeting webpage](#) for information presented, considered, and the summary report). The JWG did not recommend new conservation and management measures for PBF, but did recommend a work plan. Recognizing that the [2022 stock assessment](#) indicates the stock is rebuilding quicker than the IATTC and WCPFC rebuilding plans allowed, and that no harvest control rules apply after the second rebuilding target has been met, the JWG will consider an interim harvest strategy to apply after the second rebuilding target has been met. The work plan

also includes an approach for a management strategy evaluation. The JWG also recommended Dorothy Lowman and Masa Miyahara continue as Co-chairs.

**Upcoming Meetings**

<u><i>IATTC-related Meetings</i></u>	
Meetings of the ADICP	October 17-18 (San Diego, CA)
<u><i>WCPFC</i></u>	
Scientific Committee	Aug 10-18 (virtual; Pohnpei time)
Northern Committee	October 4-6 (virtual; Japan time)