

## INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Several relevant regional fishery management organization meetings occurring over the summer were noted under this topic at the June Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting. These include the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) Plenary meeting, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee Joint Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG) meeting, the 99<sup>th</sup>/100<sup>th</sup> meetings of the IATTC, and the WCPFC Northern Committee. Of these, only the Northern Committee is yet to occur and is scheduled for October 4-6, 2022 (Japan Standard time or October 3-5 Pacific Standard Time) as an online meeting.

At its July 12-18 meeting, the ISC reviewed stock assessments for Pacific bluefin tuna and blue shark and adopted updated conservation advice accordingly. The Plenary decided that the Western and Central North Pacific Ocean striped marlin assessment is a “work in progress” and did not adopt it for management purposes. It directed the Billfish Working Group to continue investigating the growth curve used in the assessment with the intent of reviewing and adopting the assessment in 2023. Attachment 1 is the Plenary Report.

The JWG met online July 11-13; Attachment 2 is the Chairs’ summary report of the meeting. Ms. Dorothy Lowman, JWG Co-Chair, will brief the Council on the meeting and its outcomes. The JWG reviewed the new Pacific bluefin stock assessment but made no recommendation on the modification of current conservation measures (i.e., catch limit increases). The JWG discussed further development of a Pacific bluefin management strategy evaluation, reviewing candidate operational management objectives put forward by the U.S. While making some revisions to the objectives, consensus on their adoption was not achieved. The U.S. also put forward a proposal for an interim harvest strategy, given that the first rebuilding target is estimated to have been achieved and the second target could be achieved soon. Consensus was not achieved on this proposal either. (These documents are included as Annexes E and F to the Chairs’ summary report.)

The first of the two IATTC meetings was specific to the decision on a new Executive Director with the second meeting immediately following was its regular session. NMFS Report 1 summarizes meeting outcomes. A North Pacific albacore harvest strategy was adopted and is likely of particular interest to the Council. (Attachment 3).

Since the WCPFC Northern Committee is meeting in October, the Council may make recommendations for the U.S. delegation to that meeting. The Northern Committee will likely consider the JWG outcomes and the development of the North Pacific albacore harvest strategy among other tasks.

Also of note, the WCPFC Permanent Advisory Committee will meet October 27-28. Ms. Christa Svensson, WCPFC Commissioner, and Dr. Kit Dahl, ex-officio member, will attend. Attachment 4 is the minutes of the June 4 online PAC meeting including a list of current U.S. priorities for the WCPFC in 2022 (Attachment 3 to these summary minutes). Should it so desire, the Council could make recommendations on U.S. positions for further consideration by the PAC.

**Council Action:**

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

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 1: Report of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (***Electronic Only***).
2. Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 2: Chairs' Summary of the 7<sup>th</sup> Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna.
3. Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 3: Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (IATTC Resolution C-22-04).
4. Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 4: Web Conference of the Permanent Advisory Committee to Advise the U.S. Commissioners to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission June 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes.
5. Agenda Item I.2.b, NMFS Report 1.
6. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

**Agenda Order:**

- I.2 International Management Activities
- a. Report on the Joint Working Group for Bluefin Tuna
  - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - c. Public Comment
  - d. **Council Action:** Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at Upcoming Meetings and Other Forums, as Appropriate
- Kit Dahl  
Dorothy Lowman

PFMC  
08/12/22