

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) received a briefing from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on international activities, including potential priorities to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) this year ([Agenda Item I.2.b, NMFS Report 2](#)) and the draft harvest control rules (HCRs) for North Pacific albacore (NPALB) ([Agenda Item I.2.b, Supplemental NMFS Report 3](#)). The HMSMT does not have any concerns with the albacore HCRs and supports the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) recommendations on draft HCRs that NMFS compiled using input from their February 15 webinar.

The HMSMT also considered discussions on implementation of the NPALB harvest strategy on implementation of the NPALB harvest strategy during the February 15 webinar. Given that domestic implementation is of particular concern to U.S. stakeholders, the HMSMT notes discussions on implementation (e.g., monitoring) will take place after the regional fishery management organizations have finalized the harvest strategy.

As noted by the HMSAS, the Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission (WCPFC) recently adopted a measure on North Pacific swordfish ([CMM 2022-02](#)) that is limited in its range of applicability to North of 20° N. Similar to the HMSAS, the HMSMT supports the United States advocating for measures in the WCPFC that manage northern stocks across their entire ranges.

The HMSMT was briefed on the status of the United Nations draft agreement on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and share the HMSAS interest in receiving a briefing from a point of contact for the BBNJ at the June Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting ([Draft BBNJ](#)).

PFMC
03/08/23