

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) appreciates the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) efforts to engage with stakeholders in the lead up to the international negotiations this summer, particularly on North Pacific albacore and Pacific bluefin tuna.

The HMSAS requests that the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) communicate the following priorities to NOAA Fisheries for upcoming negotiations at the 8th Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission-Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (IATTC-WCPFC) Joint Working Group on Pacific bluefin tuna, the 19th Session of the Northern Committee (WCPFC) and the 101st IATTC meeting:

- North Pacific albacore: Secure adoption of the U.S. proposal (NC19-DP02, [Supplemental Attachment 3](#)) that includes a formulaic harvest control rule and incorporates the reference points adopted last year.
- Pacific bluefin tuna:
 - Secure agreement on U.S. proposals on a comprehensive long-term harvest strategy/ management strategy evaluation with an allocation tuned to reach the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO): Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) fishery impact ratio of 70:30. This agreement should be a precondition to any discussions on revisions to current management measures or new interim harvest control rules. In particular, the Council supports the U.S. proposal for candidate reference points and harvest control rules (JWG08-DP13, [Supplemental Attachment 2](#)) and the priorities of safety, status and stability identified at NOAA's workshop regarding candidate management objectives and performance indicators.
 - Requests that the U.S. oppose Korea's proposal (JWG08- DP-12, [Supplemental Attachment 1](#)) that would allow new exceptions for Korea to discard and convert quota for Pacific bluefin tuna without any accountability or scientific justification.
 - Recommends that the U.S. continue to develop interim harvest control rules but ensure that there are strong measures in place so that overfishing cannot occur.
- Other Issues:
 - Swordfish: Propose and adopt a proposal at WCPFC to cover management from the equator to 20 degrees North and ensure it is consistent with the measure passed in 2022.
 - North Pacific striped marlin: The HMSAS endorses the IATTC Scientific Advisory Subcommittee (SAS) recommendation for the U.S. to support scientific studies to

determine the stock boundaries of striped marlin, noting the unassessed portions of these stocks in the EPO. This would help the U.S. to press for action on the depleted status in both the EPO and WCPO. Prompt action is needed as delay is likely to worsen the condition of the stock and transfer the conservation burden to future fisherman.

- IATTC: The Council supports the recommendations of the SAS and General Advisory Committee.

August (Augie) Felando served on the HMSAS for 17 years. He faithfully advocated for U.S. fisheries in this, and other, venues. Last week, at the age of 94, Augie passed away. Augie was born in San Pedro, California, in 1929. His family roots reach back to Viz Island, Croatia, and Guernica in the Basque province of Spain. He fished on two-family owned tuna and sardine purse seine vessels during 1946-1950. In 1951, he became a co-owner of the F/V Challenger, a tuna baitboat, and as managing owner sold the vessel in 1958 for conversion to a tuna seiner. From 1960-1991, he managed the affairs of the American Tunaboat Association, including participation in hearings before the California State legislature, Congressional Committees, and federal agencies. During this same period, he was an advisor to the U.S. Commissioners of the IATTC and to the U.S. State Department. From 1971 to 1981, he served as the U.S. Government's expert adviser on fisheries during the UN Law of the Sea conference. At the time of this interview, he was a member of the HMSAS to the PFMC, and of the General Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commissioners for the IATTC.

PFMC
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