

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

At the June 2023 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting these regional fishery management organization meetings were noted:

- Eighth Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) - Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee (NC) Joint Working Group Meeting on Pacific Bluefin Management (JWG08)
- Nineteenth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC19)
- Twenty Third Plenary Meeting of the International Scientific Committee on Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC23)
- One Hundred and First Meeting of the IATTC

Attachment 1 is the NC19 report, which includes, as Attachment C, the JWG08 report. Attachment 2 is a guide to key outcomes of these meetings of interest to the Council. In addition to those outcomes, NC19 adopted two relatively modest changes to CMM 2022-03 on North Pacific swordfish. A *de minimus* annual catch level for fisheries to which effort limits would be applied was incorporated along with expansion of catch and effort reporting by Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories of the WCPFC (CCMs) to the area south of 20° N latitude.

NC19 discussed climate change as a standing agenda item. The discussion was brief and primarily aspirational.

Japan agreed to again host the JWG and NC in 2024, likely at about the same time of year. The NC requested ISC move its plenary meeting to June so that the adopted benchmark assessment (and related stock status-conservation information) for Pacific bluefin will be available.

ISC23 reviewed and adopted benchmark stock assessments for North Pacific albacore, North Pacific swordfish, and Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCNPO) striped marlin (see Attachment 3, the ISC23 Plenary Report). It updated stock status and conservation information based on the new stock assessments and in general forwarded existing advice for other stocks not newly assessed. Both the North Pacific albacore and swordfish stocks are in healthy condition while the WCNPO striped marlin stock is very likely to be overfished (>99% probability) and is likely to be subject to overfishing (>66% probability). As reported previously, the North Pacific swordfish assessment used new stock boundaries covering most of the North Pacific except for a region approximately south of 10° N and east of 140° W (see Figure 10 in the Plenary Report).

Like NC19, the ISC Plenary added climate change as a standing agenda item and will work intersessionally on the request to incorporate climate change information into management recommendations for further consideration at ISC24.

In response to the NC request, ISC scheduled the 2024 plenary meeting June 19-24. Canada will host at a location on Vancouver Island.

The IATTC annual meeting is occurring as Council briefing materials are being prepared. The IATTC will likely take up many of the items listed above as JWG08/NC19 outcomes. In June National Marine Fisheries Service reported U.S. priorities for the meeting ([Agenda Item J.2.a, NMFS Report 2](#)) and will report on outcomes of the 101st meeting supplementally.

The Permanent Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of the WCPFC will meet October 2-3 in Honolulu.

The U.S. and Canada were unable to reach agreement on a 2023 fishing regime pursuant to the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty. Bilateral talks are planned for October 2023 to begin discussing the terms of an agreement for 2024 and beyond.

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: Summary Report of the Nineteenth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee (**Electronic Only**).
2. Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 2: Guide to Key Elements in the Report of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee 19th Regular Session.
3. Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 3: Report of the Twenty-Third Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (**Electronic Only**).
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- I.2 International Management Activities Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at Upcoming Meetings and Other Forums, as Appropriate

PFMC
08/14/23