

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

This report provides an update of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) 2nd Ad Hoc Working Group on Electronic Monitoring (EM), and outcomes of the U.S.-Canada North Pacific albacore Treaty discussions. In addition, this report provides an updated list of upcoming meetings related to international management of HMS.

### **IATTC EM Working Group**

The IATTC [2nd Ad Hoc Working Group on Electronic Monitoring](#) met virtually from April 23rd to April 25th. The intent of this meeting was to review draft minimum EM standards for adoption by the Commission at the next annual IATTC meeting. The EM minimum standards included minimum technical requirements, data requirements, vessel monitoring plans, and data analysis and reporting standards. There was a general disagreement between attending countries on which provisions should be mandatory and which should be voluntary. The co-chairs of the Working Group agreed to compare drafted text to other RFMO minimum standards for comparison before the 2nd resumed meeting of this working group which will reconvene in-person in August just prior to the start of the IATTC annual meeting.

### **Pacific Albacore Tuna Treaty**

On May 3, 2024, Dave Hogan of the Department of State announced via email to stakeholders and NMFS staff that the United States and Canada have concluded a voluntary arrangement to reinstate the terms of the previous reciprocal fishing and port access regime to apply for 2024 on an interim, voluntary basis. Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans is expected to begin approving port access license applications with reciprocal fishing to commence on June 15, 2024. The U.S. and Canada plan to resume discussions on a long-term agreement in November, after the fishing season ends.

## Upcoming Meetings

<u><i>IATTC-related Meetings</i></u>	
2nd Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Ecosystem and Bycatch	June 5-6, 2024 (La Jolla, CA)
8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)	June 7-8, 2024 (La Jolla, CA)
15 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IATTC SAC	June 10-14, 2024 (La Jolla, CA)
U.S. Scientific Advisory Subcommittee and General Advisory Committee	August 1-2, 2024 (either virtual or La Jolla, CA)
2nd Meeting (resumed) of the Ad hoc Working Group on EM	August 27, 2024 (Panama City, Panama)
Annual Meeting of the IATTC and AIDCP	August 26-September 6, 2024 (Panama City, Panama)

<u><i>WCPFC</i></u>	
Joint IATTC-Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) NC WG on PBF / NC	July 10-16, 2024 (Hokkaido, Japan)
Scientific Committee	August 14-21 (Philippines)
Technical and Compliance Committee	September 25-October 2 (Pohnpei, FSM)
21st Regular Session of the Commission	December 1-6 (Fiji)

<u><i>ISC</i></u>	
ISC Plenary	June 19-24, 2024 (Vancouver, Canada)