

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

As in past years several international meetings will be held between June and September whose outcomes are of interest to the Council due to possible effects on the management of West Coast highly migratory species fisheries. Specifically, the International Scientific Committee (ISC) is conducting a benchmark stock assessment for Pacific bluefin tuna. (It is also conducting an assessment for shortfin mako shark.) This is likely to drive recommendations of the Joint Working Group on Pacific Bluefin Tuna Management (JWG), because it is expected that the assessment will reveal that the stock has exceeded its second rebuilding target, opening up the possibility of increasing current national catch limits. As part of the assessment, the ISC will also provide projections for different catch limit scenarios requested by the JWG in 2023 (See Attachment E, [Report of the Northern Committee 19th Regular Session](#)). These projections will likely drive discussions on increasing the current limits. The JWG makes its recommendations to the Northern Committee (NC), which can propose modifications to the current Pacific bluefin tuna conservation and management measure for consideration by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

In parallel, and more directly applicable to West Coast highly migratory species fisheries, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) will likely take up JWG recommendations at its early September plenary meeting, leading to modification of its Resolution on Pacific bluefin tuna ([C-23-01](#)). Its Scientific Advisory Committee is meeting at the same time as the June Council meeting and similar to past years, the executive summary from the Pacific bluefin tuna assessment likely will be provided for SAC review. If available, the executive summary will be included here as a supplemental attachment. JWG recommendations also play into IATTC decisions on Pacific bluefin tuna.

There is likely to be further development of the North Pacific Albacore Harvest Strategy in 2024 (see [IATTC Resolution C-23-02](#)). According to the IATTC Resolution, in 2024 the ISC has been tasked with developing “criteria for identification of exceptional circumstances” (paragraph 1.e) and “how fishing intensity should be interpreted to actual management under this harvest strategy” (paragraph 1.j). These refinements are likely to be discussed by the NC at their meeting this summer in addition to being considered by the IATTC.

The Council may wish to provide recommendations on U.S. positions at the upcoming JWG, NC, and IATTC meetings in relation to revising Pacific bluefin catch limits and modifications to the North Pacific Albacore Harvest Strategy.

As noted in the attached National Marine Fisheries Service Report, Mr. David Hogan, Department of State and Council member, announced that in regards to the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty “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.” The relevant Treaty annexes are attached. The U.S. and Canada intend to resume negotiations later this year for a long-term agreement on a fishing regime.

The attached National Marine Fisheries Service Report also provides details on the timing and location of the aforementioned meetings.

Council Action:

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

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1: Annexes A and C to the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty.
2. Agenda Item G.2.a, National Marine Fisheries Service Report 1.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- G.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
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