

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES INCLUDING BLUEFIN TUNA TRIP LIMITS

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) will hold its 21st Regular Session November 28-December 3, 2024, in Suva, Fiji. Council member Christa Svensson, Pacific Council designated U.S. Commissioner, will attend the meeting. NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service, NMFS) held an online meeting of the Permanent Advisory Committee (PAC) on October 21-23, 2024, to advise the U.S. Commissioners to the WCPFC. The PAC reviewed outcomes of previous WCPFC and subsidiary body meetings, discussed U.S. proposals for the upcoming Regular Session, and made recommendations on U.S. positions. As information becomes available, it will be reported to the Council supplementally. The Council may communicate recommendations on U.S. positions through its designated Commissioner and through NMFS.

As discussed at the June Council meeting (see [Agenda Item G.2 Situation Summary](#)), the U.S. and Canada agreed to a one-year interim fishing regime for 2024 under the [U.S.-Canada Pacific Albacore Treaty](#). The fishing regime specifies conditions for fishing vessels from each country to access the other country's Exclusive Economic Zone and related port privileges. In the past, the U.S. and Canada have agreed to three-year regimes but have been unable to do so since the last three-year agreement expired in 2022. (No regime was agreed to in 2023.) Negotiations on a fishing regime for 2025 and subsequent years, if possible, are likely to begin in late 2024 and continue into the first part of 2025 (recognizing that the fishing season specified under the 2024 regime began on June 15). If information on the status of the negotiations is available, it will be reported to the Council.

As discussed at the September Council meeting ([Agenda Item J.2 Situation Summary](#)), at its September 2-6 meeting the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) adopted [Resolution C-24-02](#) on the management of Pacific bluefin tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. This measure sets a 1,822 mt 2025-2026 biennial catch limit for the U.S. with no more than 1,285 mt to be caught in any one year. As with previous resolutions, NMFS is seeking input from the Council on domestic management measures it will implement to constrain catch to these catch limits. These are in the form of commercial fishery trip limits. In September the Council requested that NMFS use the range of options found in [Agenda Item J.2.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1, Table 1](#), to develop regulatory alternatives to help the Council make a final recommendation on management measures at this meeting. The attached NMFS report responds to the Council's request.

Council Action:

- 1. Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at Upcoming Meetings and Other Forums, as Appropriate.**
- 2. Provide Recommendations on Domestic Management Measures Consistent with Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Resolution C-24-02, Pacific Bluefin Commercial Catch Limits.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.2.a, NMFS Report 1.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- H.2 International Management Activities Including Bluefin Tuna Trip Limits 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 Recommendations on Domestic Management Measures Needed to Address International Agreements

PFMC
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