

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING BLUEFIN TUNA TRIP LIMITS

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) offers the following proposed management measures for Pacific Bluefin tuna (PBF) relative to trip limits and reductions in those as certain milestones are met are based on the following overarching goals:

- Minimize the potential for exceedance of the quota in any year;
- Attainment of the US quota by incentivizing participation of the purse seine fleet; and
- Protection and growth of small-scale fisheries for PBF

We believe the seasonal structure currently embedded in management is better suited to achieve these goals than the approaches outlined in [H.2.a NMFS Report 1](#).

For the 2025 & 2026 biennial management cycle the total catch limit for US commercial vessels is 1,822 mt, limited to 1,285 in any one year. The HMSAS recommends the following management structure(s) for those years:

2025:

Annual Catch Limit: 1,285 mt
Initial Trip Limit: 60 mt

The seasonal approach to trip limit reductions would be implemented as follows:

Jan – June

Trip limit would reduce to 40 mt when 885mt is landed (400mt in reserve)
Trip limit reduces to 5 mt when 1060 mt is landed (225mt in reserve)

July - Sept

Trip limit reduces to 40 mt when 985mt is landed (300mt in reserve)
Trip limit reduces to 5 mt when 1110 mt is landed (175mt in reserve)

Oct – Dec

Trip limit reduces to 40 mt when 1085 mt is landed (200mt in reserve)
Trip limit reduces to 5 mt when 1160mt is landed (125mt in reserve)

2026:

Annual Catch Limit: 537 mt plus any under-harvest from 2025, up to a maximum of 1,285 mt
Initial Trip Limit: 60 mt.

The seasonal approach to trip limit reductions would be implemented as follows:

Jan – June

Trip limit reduced to 40 mt when total catch is within 400mt of the annual limit

Trip limit reduced to 5 mt when total catch is within 225mt of the annual limit

July - Sept

Trip limit reduced to 40 mt when total catch is within 300mt of the annual limit

Trip limit reduced to 5 mt when total catch is within 175mt of the annual limit

Oct – Dec

Trip limit reduced to 40 mt when total catch is within 200mt of the annual limit

Trip limit reduced to 5 mt when total catch is within 125mt of the annual limit

International Negotiations

The HMSAS received a briefing from Amanda Munro (NMFS) regarding international management activities, including recent Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) subsidiary body meetings and preparations for the WCPFC annual meeting that will occur in two weeks. The HMSAS maintains our [September recommendations](#) regarding PBF, North Pacific albacore tuna and North Pacific swordfish and encourages the Council to communicate those positions to NOAA, as needed and/or appropriate, to inform the U.S. delegation ahead of the WCPFC meeting. In addition, the WCPFC will likely act on North Pacific Striped Marlin and the HMSAS supports the recommendations outlined in the [Recommendations from the Permanent Advisory Committee](#). Finally, the WCPFC is likely to adopt measures on South Pacific albacore (SPA) and the HMSAS continues to encourage NOAA to maintain positions that will support stability and access for West Coast troll vessels participating in that fishery. The HMSAS supports the [discussion paper](#) on forming a WCPFC-IATTC Joint Working Group on SPA put forward by the United States. The HMSAS looks forward to hearing about progress at the upcoming WCPFC meeting.

The HMSAS discussed the upcoming Intersessional meeting of the Joint IATTC – WCPFC Northern Committee Working Group on Pacific bluefin tuna (JWG) that will be held in February 2025 in Monterey, CA. The meeting will discuss the initial results of the MSE and will encourage exchange of views on the long-term harvest strategy that is anticipated to be adopted by the JWG later in the year. The HMSAS discussed potential representatives who could participate and represent the different West Coast commercial and recreational fishing interests. Given the importance of this activity to PBF fisheries (both commercial and recreational) it is important for US fishery participants to attend this meeting. To that end, the HMSAS would ask the Council to support five (5) fisheries representatives to attend and participate in this meeting.

US-Canada Albacore Treaty

US fishery participants in the North Pacific albacore fishery ask the Council to encourage the State Department to begin negotiations on a potential regime as soon as possible. US Fishery participants were disadvantaged by the timing of last year's negotiations which resulted in a one-year carryover regime agreed upon in May.

PFMC
11/15/24