

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES INCLUDING BLUEFIN TRIP LIMITS

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) discussed the trip limit options for Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF), as described in [Agenda Item H.2.a, NMFS Report 1](#), in a joint session with the HMS Advisory Subpanel. The HMSMT supports the “Run Down the Middle” option, with a 25 metric ton (mt) increase to the second buffer points, as the best way to utilize the full annual and biennial PBF catch limits, while providing equitable opportunity to multiple gears that harvest PBF in different volumes throughout the year. The increased second buffers are intended as a precautionary measure to ensure that some of the catch limit will be available to smaller-volume gears each year, even if the buffer point is overshot.

The HMSMT discussed the seasonal component of the buffers where trip limits are reduced. We understand that the goal of this component is to avoid a scenario where high effort by coastal purse seiners early in the year could overshoot the buffers and restrict fishing opportunity for other sectors the remainder of the year. Reducing the buffers later in the year also allows for more effort by higher-volume purse seine vessels if more of the catch limit remains unharvested. Appendix 1 reflects the HMSMT’s understanding of how the seasonal component fits within the “Run Down the Middle” management scheme.

Appendix 1: Proposed PBF Management Scheme for 2025-2026

For the 2025-2026 cycle, the biennial catch limit is 1,822 mt.

For 2025:

- The annual catch limit is 1,285 mt, and the initial trip limit is 60 mt.
- *From January through June:*
 - The trip limit reduces to 40 mt once total catch is within 400 mt of the annual limit.
 - The trip limit reduces to 5 mt once total catch is within 225 mt of the annual limit.
- *From July through September:*
 - The trip limit reduces to 40 mt once catch is within 300 mt of the annual limit.
 - The trip limit reduces to 5 mt once total catch is within 175 mt of the annual limit.
- *From October through December:*
 - The trip limit reduces to 40 mt once catch is within 200 mt of the annual limit.
 - The trip limit reduces to 5 mt once total catch is within 125 mt of the annual limit.

For 2026:

- The annual catch limit is 537 mt, plus any under-harvest from 2025, up to a maximum of 1,285 mt. The initial trip limit is 60 mt.
- *From January through June:*
 - The trip limit reduces to 40 mt once total catch is within 400 mt of either the annual limit or the biennial limit.
 - The trip limit reduces to 5 mt once total catch is within 225 mt of either the annual limit or the biennial limit.
- *From July through September:*
 - The trip limit reduces to 40 mt once catch is within 300 mt of either the annual limit or the biennial limit.
 - The trip limit reduces to 5 mt once total catch is within 175 mt of either the annual limit or the biennial limit.
- *From October through December:*
 - The trip limit reduces to 40 mt once catch is within 200 mt of either the annual limit or the biennial limit.
 - The trip limit reduces to 5 mt once total catch is within 125 mt of either the annual limit or the biennial limit.

PFMC
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