

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

This report provides a summary of international meetings that NMFS is planning to participate in before the March Council meeting, as well as U.S. proposals for the upcoming Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Management Council (WCPFC) meeting.

### **Intersessional Joint Working Group Meeting**

The Joint Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)-WCPFC Northern Committee Working Group (JWG) on Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) is holding a hybrid intersessional meeting in Monterey, CA from February 5-7, 2024, to discuss the results of the PBF Management Strategy Evaluation. Meeting logistics can be found on the WCPFC meeting page [here](#). Anyone interested in attending this meeting as part of the United States delegation should contact NMFS WCR staff Amanda Munro at [Amanda.Munro@noaa.gov](mailto:Amanda.Munro@noaa.gov) by December 13, 2024.

### **Virtual Northern Committee Meeting**

On November 4th at 4:00pm Pacific Time, the Northern Committee convened a resumed online meeting of the twentieth regular session (NC20) to discuss the recently-adopted IATTC Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) [measures for PBF](#). The intent of this meeting is to note the differences between the MCS proposal agreed to at NC20 in July and the MCS resolution adopted at the 102nd IATTC in September and ensure consistency with an MCS proposal planned for the WCPFC meeting in December.

### **WCPFC proposals**

The United States put forward two proposals for the 21st Regular Session of the WCPFC that will take place November 28-December 3rd in Fiji. The U.S. proposals include options for catch reduction scenarios for North Pacific striped marlin ([Proposed Amendments to Conservation and Management Measure for the North Pacific Striped Marlin \(CMM 2010-01\)](#)) and improvements to data collection for cetaceans ([Proposed Amendments to Conservation and Management Measure for Protection of Cetaceans from Purse Seine and Longline Fishing Operations \(CMM 2011-03\)](#)). In addition, the United States put forward a [discussion paper](#) on forming a WCPFC-IATTC Joint Working Group on South Pacific albacore.