

H.2 International Management Activities Including Bluefin Tuna Trip Limits

Council Action:

Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at
Upcoming Meetings and Recommendations on
Domestic Management Measures Needed to Address
International Agreements

DRAFT - NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES

Guidance:

Adopt the recommendations of the HMSAS from Agenda Item J.2.a Supplemental HMSAS Report 1 September 2024 as the PFMC positions for WCPFC and submit those positions to NOAA to help inform the US delegation to WCPFC21.

Pacific bluefin tuna:

- The HMSAS recommends the Council communicate the importance of progressing the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and a precautionary long-term harvest strategy in 2025 to ensure maintaining the population at sustainable levels and preventing overfishing throughout the range of the stock.

North Pacific albacore:

- The HMSAS recommends the Council request further guidance from NMFS regarding the timing of stakeholder workshops to advance concepts for domestic implementation of RFMO actions.

In addition, to the HMSAS recommendations from September, my guidance specific to recommendations to

the WCPFC delegation would include also include the following Council positions:

- to support the Recommendations from the Permanent Advisory Committee.
- If WCPFC adopts measures on South Pacific albacore (SPA), encourage NOAA to maintain positions that will support stability and access for West Coast troll vessels participating in that fishery.
- Express support for forming a WCPFC-IATTC Joint Working Group on SPA as put forward by the United States.
- Express support for 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)).

Other guidance:

For Bluefin

- We've heard the need for participation at the February 5th meeting of the IATTC/WCPFC/NC Intersessional Joint Working Group meeting on Bluefin. I agree with the HMSAS statement "Given the importance of this activity to PBF fisheries (both commercial and recreational) it is important for US fishery participants to attend this meeting". I'm supportive of sending up to five fisheries representatives to attend and participate in this meeting in person based upon funds available but recognize the September discussion was that funding was limited to two.
- On PBF catch limits - Support the "Run down the middle" option found in Agenda Item H.2.a Supplemental HMSMT Report 1 November 2024

For Albacore

- On US/CA treaty request the State Department schedule conversations with their Canadian counterparts on a potential future regime in as early as possible. Meeting earlier helps with timing of business decisions for US fishermen ranging from crewing and strategy on where to fish.

Guidance by Christa Svensson

CDFW Motion H2:

I move the Council recommend NMFS implement Pacific bluefin trip limits for the 2025-2026 biennial cycle as outlined in the HMSMT's H.2.a Supplemental Report 1 Appendix and supported by the HMSAS' H.2.a Supplemental Report 1, which includes a seasonal component and additional 25 mt annual buffer.

Moved by John Ugoretz

Seconded by Marc Gorelnik

Motion passes unanimously