

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
SPECIAL PROJECT 1: IF, THEN MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR
BLUEFIN TUNA TRIP LIMITS

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) received a presentation on Special Project 1: If, Then Management Measures for Bluefin Tuna (PBF) Trip Limits from Kerry Griffin and Gilly Lyons. Following the presentation, the HMSAS and HMS Management Team had good conversations about future PBF management and the best avenue for supporting a management structure that could lead to increased utilization of the U.S. commercial quota for PBF.

During our discussions, it was apparent this is a complex and nuanced topic that should be further discussed during the November Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting.

The HMSAS remains supportive of any and all efforts to incentivize our domestic commercial fleets. In-season increases in daily trips limits is an action that could help accomplish that. Therefore, the HMSAS recommends further consideration of Option 2 in I.2, Attachment 1, which allows for in-season trip limit increases in certain circumstances. Of course, the amount of any proposed increase in trip limits will be dependent on a number of factors – including; but not limited to:

- The total U.S. commercial catch limit of PBF;
- Total U.S. commercial landings at specific points in time;
- The number of U.S.-based small coastal purse seine vessels on the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission vessel register¹; and
- Recent history (and current year efforts and landings) of domestic, non-purse seine, commercial fleets

Continuing discussion in November will allow for better informed recommendations from Council Advisory Bodies and input from the public.

PFMC
09/15/26

¹ As of September 9, 2026 – 16 of the 34 US vessels listed on the IATTC Vessel Register as authorized to use purse seine gear to harvest tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean are small coastal purse seine vessels based along the west coast.