

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES INCLUDING PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA TRIP LIMITS

Under this agenda item, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will provide the Council with updates on recent and upcoming international meetings, and the Council will consider options related to Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) trip limits.

The NMFS Report (Agenda Item I.2.a, NMFS Report 1) includes information on the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) annual meeting, the upcoming South Pacific Albacore Allocation Workshop, and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee, and the IATTC-WCPFC Joint Working Group, among others. Topics and outcomes of these meetings include tropical tuna management measures, revised Pacific bluefin tuna management measures, and information related to North Pacific albacore harvest strategy.

The Council will also consider PBF trip limit design options for potential recommendations to NMFS. At the September 2026 meeting, the Council considered preliminary options ([Agenda Item I.1, Attachment 1, September 2026](#)). While the current trip limit design includes triggers to decrease trip limits as catches approach the annual quota, the HMSAS suggested a “green light” design that would include triggers to increase trip limits when catches are low. The Council directed staff to further develop the trip limit options (excluding the sub-option of durable trip limits) for further consideration at the November 2026 meeting. A supplemental document will briefly summarize the history of PBF trip limits, propose options for consideration (including the “green light” approach), and present various catch and trip limit scenarios to support Council decision making.

NMFS develops and implements PBF harvest regulations, including trip limits, under the Tuna Conventions Act. A modified trip limit scheme that falls within the options previously analyzed, or a status quo recommendation would likely mean a relatively straightforward process for implementing PBF regulations for the 2027 – 2028 biennium. The analysis in the supplemental Trip Limit Options document (I.2, Attachment 1) only includes options that fall within the range of prior analysis. However, recommendations from the Council that fall outside the range of options not previously analyzed could mean greater workload, analysis, and development of regulations.

For this agenda item, the Council should provide recommendations on U.S. positions at upcoming international meetings and on domestic management measures needed to address international agreements, including recommendations to NMFS on trip limits for the 2027 – 2028 biennium. Any modified trip limits would be implemented via the Tuna Conventions Act by NMFS.

Council Tasks:

1. Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at Upcoming Meetings and Other Forums, as Appropriate.

2. Provide Recommendations on Domestic Management Measures, Consistent with International Agreements.
3. Provide Recommendations to NMFS on a Preferred Trip Limit Design for PBF.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.2.a, NMFS Report 1: International HMS Management activities.
2. If received, public comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- I.2 International Management Activities including Pacific Bluefin Tuna Trip Limits Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at Upcoming Meetings and Recommendations on Domestic Management Measures Needed to Address International Agreements including Adjustments to Pacific Bluefin Tuna Trip Limits, as Appropriate

PFMC
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