

JOINT REPORT BETWEEN THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS)  
WEST COAST REGION AND SOUTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER (SWFSC)  
REPORT ON BIENNIAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES: STATUS DETERMINATION  
CRITERIA (SDC) AND REFERENCE POINTS

In this report, NMFS provides updates on recent proposals to Regional Fishery Management Organizations related to establishing and reporting reference points (i.e., targets and limits) for management unit species in the Fishery Management Plan for U.S. West Coast Highly Migratory Species Fisheries (HMS FMP).

The United States proposed a template for reporting stock status and conservation information at the 2018 Plenary for the 18th meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) (see [ISC/18/Plenary/12](#)). This proposal was adopted and will be executed for future assessments. The intent of the proposal was to improve consistency and clarity in the reporting of stock assessment outcomes, for ease of comparison over time. NMFS is hopeful that the proposal will improve regular reporting of maximum sustainable yield (MSY)-based reference point values, which would simplify the process of determining and reporting stock status relative to the SDCs in the HMS FMP. NMFS will alert the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Scientific Staff of the proposal's adoption.

The United States also submitted a proposal regarding the long-term management framework for Pacific bluefin tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean, which will be considered during the 93rd Annual Meeting of the IATTC (see [Prop IATTC-93-M-1](#)). The proposal calls for the IATTC to develop, by 2019, candidate reference points and harvest control rules that take into account the outcomes of the Joint Working Group of the IATTC and Northern Committee (NC) to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The proposal calls for these candidate reference points and harvest control rules to be forwarded to the Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group, and to the ISC, for consideration and potential inclusion in a management strategy evaluation of Pacific bluefin tuna.

Lastly, the United States submitted a proposal regarding development of a harvest strategy for North Pacific swordfish fisheries to the NC, for consideration during their 14th Regular Session (see [WCPFC-NC14-2018/DP-14](#)). This proposal calls for the limit reference point for the exploitation rate (or F-limit) to be set at  $F_{MSY}$ . This is consistent with the maximum fishing mortality limit (MFMT) in the HMS FMP. The proposal also calls for analysis and specification of target reference points for both exploitation rate and stock size. It also includes provisions concerning the proposed F-limit, monitoring of stock size and exploitation rates, and performance evaluation of candidate target reference points and harvest controls.