

RECOMMEND INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) holds its 15th Regular Session December 9-14, 2018, in Honolulu, Hawaii (WCPFC15). In preparation for that meeting, the Permanent Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the WCPFC (PAC) meets October 11-12. The Council Executive Director, or his designee, holds an ex-officio seat on the PAC. Follow-on actions from the 14th WCPFC Northern Committee (NC) meeting are likely to be of particular interest to the Council. NC proposals are considered and adopted by WCPFC15. As noted in [Agenda Item H.3.b, Supplemental NMFS Report 2, September 2018](#), at the request of Japan the NC meeting was held open to reconvene during WCPFC15. This is to allow the NC to resolve Japan's reservations about the outcomes of the Third Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)-WCPFC NC Joint Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna. Lifting the resolution would allow the NC to adopt a recommendation based on the Joint Working Group meeting outcomes, to be forwarded to WCPFC15 for consideration. As more information about these meetings becomes available it will be provided supplementally, as appropriate.

The International Scientific Committee (ISC) Albacore Working Group has scheduled a fourth management strategy evaluation (MSE) workshop March 5-7, 2019, in Yokohama, Japan. It is expected that evaluation results for management strategies identified at the third workshop (October 2017) will be presented to stakeholders. The Council may wish to discuss how to facilitate advisory body and stakeholder participation in this and other ISC-sponsored MSE workshops.

In September 2018, the Council directed its Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) to analyze fishing effort in the West Coast North Pacific albacore fishery relative to effort limits described in IATTC Resolution C-05-02 and WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2005-03. These measures obligate members to ensure that the level of fishing effort by their vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore does not increase beyond "current levels" in the relevant convention area. The HMSMT could report on its plans for addressing this task. Results of this effort may be relevant to the ongoing MSE.

Mr. David Hogan, the Department of State representative on the Council, plans to attend the November meeting. Specifically, he is seeking early input from the Council and its advisory bodies on negotiation of the next fishing regime under the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty. The current fishing regimes expires at the end of 2019. He can also provide perspective on current issues and concerns in the IATTC forum.

Council Action:

Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at Upcoming Meetings of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and Other Forums as Appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item J.2.a, NMFS Report 1: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Report On International Management Activities For Highly Migratory Species.

Agenda Order:

J.2 Recommend International Management Activities

Kit Dahl

- 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 of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and Other Forums as Appropriate

PFMC

10/10/18