

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Under the recently signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) on highly migratory species (HMS) matters, the Pacific Council has a clearer role with respect to involvement with U.S. delegations to regional fishery management organization (RFMO) meetings. Council staff are likely to more actively participate in delegation activities. In addition, Council member Marija Vojkovich sits as a Commissioner on the U.S. delegation to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The signed MOU was presented at the April 2010 Council meeting (Agenda Item G.1.b, Attachment 1, April 2010) along with a report on recent and upcoming international HMS activities (Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 1, April 2010).

The Northern Committee of the WCPFC is scheduled to meet September 7 – 10 in Fukuoka, Japan (NC6). In 2010 a 1-day workshop is proposed on biological reference points, immediately preceding NC6 (September 6), and the joint working group on Pacific bluefin tuna with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) immediately following (on September 10 at the conclusion of the NC meeting) The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species (ISC) is the principal scientific advisor to the Northern Committee. The ISC will hold their annual meeting (ISC10) July 20-26, in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

The Antigua Convention, the new charter for the IATTC, enters into force on August 27, 2010. Reflecting this change, the IATTC moved the dates of their annual meeting to September 23-30 in 2010, to be held in Antigua, Guatemala. The Antigua Convention creates a Scientific Advisory Committee, which is scheduled to hold its first meeting August 31-September 2, in La Jolla, California. The Scientific Advisory Committee will replace the function of the Stock Assessment Review meeting that has been held in May of each year.

The timing of the Northern Committee meeting has been problematic because it occurs immediately before the September Council meeting. Developing recommendations at the June meeting is hampered because meeting materials are not available this far in advance. In addition, key science meetings, the ISC meeting and the WCPFC Science Committee meeting, occur later in the summer. The results of these scientific meetings inform the issues and agenda topics at the Northern Committee meeting. At the April 2010 meeting, the Council heard a recommendation to form an ad hoc committee that could meet between the ISC and NC meetings to further refine any recommendations developed by the Council at this meeting, based on additional information available at that time. Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 1 is a proposal for such a committee. If such a committee is formed, the Council may wish to define the ad hoc committee's scope in further refinement of Council recommendations. The Council also may wish to consider scheduling time on the September 2010 Council meeting agenda to further refine recommendations for the IATTC, since that meeting occurs at the end of September.

### **Council Action:**

**Develop recommendations for the U.S. delegations to the WCPFC NC and IATTC. Consider forming an ad hoc committee to further refine recommendations to the NC at a later time.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 1: Proposed New Ad Hoc Committee.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Approve Process and Recommendations for Input to the Northern Committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

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PFMC  
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