

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
RECOMMENDATIONS TO
INTERNATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Concerning the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) workshop on defining “current levels” of effort in the IATTC C-05-02 Resolution that deals with international harvest of North Pacific albacore tuna, the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) recommends forwarding the following recommendations to the U.S. Delegation:

- The U.S. should participate in the workshop.
- The U.S. should evaluate the best base periods for the U.S. fishing fleet to achieve the maximum percentage of harvest when compared to other nations that harvest North Pacific albacore.
- The U.S. should not propose or endorse any changes to international management of North Pacific albacore until the 2010 stock assessment of North Pacific albacore is completed in 2011.

Concerning the annual IATTC meeting, the HMSAS reviewed the Conservation Recommendations from the IATTC Staff and request that the following recommendations are forwarded to the U.S. delegation, listed below by species.

Yellowfin, Bigeye, and Skipjack Tunas

The HMSAS concurs with the IATTC staff recommendations.

Bluefin Tuna

The HMSAS recommends that the preferred option would be for a request that the fisheries other than purse-seine be exempt. If this option fails, then a second option would be to combine all of the bluefin catch (to include recreational and commercial) together by year for the U.S. fleet and achieve the best base period for a limit for 2011-2012 fishing years.

Albacore Tuna

The HMSAS does not foresee any albacore management issues addressed this year at the IATTC session with the pending 2011 stock assessment. However, the HMSAS would like to have the Council remind National Marine Fisheries Service of the need for funds to support research on the status of North Pacific albacore. The HMSAS also suggests that the Council remind the U.S. delegation of the need for comprehensive and timely data reporting by other nations harvesting North Pacific albacore.

Striped Marlin

The IATTC staff did not provide any recommendations on striped marlin and the HMSAS has not been provided any reports on the status of striped marlin. Current International Scientific

Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) management advice for striped marlin is to not increase effort and the Council 2009 SAFE report indicates no increase in the take of striped marlin by U.S. west coast fishermen.

Therefore, the HMSAS reiterates its recommendations related to advice to delegations on striped marlin provided in previous statements on the topic and have no information that would support the adoption of conservation and management measures for Pacific striped marlin that entail additional effort reductions to U.S. west coast fishermen.

PFMC
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