



VIRTUAL MEETING HELD 27-29 JULY 2021

*OUTCOMES OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup>  
MEETING OF THE IATTC-  
WCPFC NORTHERN  
COMMITTEE JOINT  
WORKING GROUP ON  
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA*

# *SHORT-TERM MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS*

- Applies to Management through 2024
- Catch increases
  - 15% increase for WCPO large fish; 0% increase for small fish
  - Additional 30 mt WCPO large fish for parties not having large fish catch limit
  - 15% increase for EPO
  - Additional 200 mt increase for EPO
- New catch levels presented for each country in proposals in each RFMO region

# *SHORT-TERM MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS*

- In WCPO: transfer of small fish to large fish quotas allowed, with up to 10% \* of small fish catch limit per CCM using conversion factor of .68
  - \* Notwithstanding this provision, parties who do not have a WCPO large fish catch limit may apply 25% instead of 10%
- In WCPO: a 17% carry over in 3 years (2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024)
- In EPO: the same carry forward framework will be used in the biennial cycle that has been the typical format for the IATTC measure through 2024. This will result in an amendment to the current measure that adds 3 years (2022-2024) onto the current measure. As such, the resolution would contain two biennial cycles within a single resolution.

# *LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS*

The harvest control rules during the second rebuilding period below will be applied based on the results of stock assessments and SSB projections to be conducted by ISC.

With respect to objective 1 of this harvest strategy:

- If the SSB projection indicates that the probability of achieving the second rebuilding target by 2034 or 10 years after reaching the initial rebuilding target, whichever is earlier, is less than 60%, management measures shall be modified to increase it to at least 60%. For this purpose, the ISC will be requested, if necessary, to provide information on possible management measures to achieve 60% probability.
- If the SSB projection indicates that the probability of achieving the second rebuilding target by 2034, or 10 years after reaching the initial rebuilding target, whichever is earlier, is at 75% or larger, fishery controls may be changed, including adjustment of catch limits, as long as the probability is maintained at 70% or larger. For this purpose, ISC will be requested, if necessary, to provide relevant information on potential fishery controls.

With respect to objectives 2 and 3 of this harvest strategy:

- Any adjustments to management measures shall be considered in cooperation between the two RFMOs taking into account historical and future projected proportional fishery impacts on SSB between fisheries in the EPO and fisheries in the WCPO. For this purpose, ISC will be requested, if necessary, to provide relevant information, including projected proportional fishery impact of potential management measures changes.
- This harvest control rule will be reviewed and modified, as necessary, if depletion estimates across the time-series have been adjusted due to changes in assumptions and/or settings of the stock assessment model.

# *OTHER OUTCOMES*

- Recognized the importance of stakeholder input in development of long-term harvest strategies and encouraged JWG members to hold workshops to gather stakeholder input prior to next year's JWG meeting
- Noted that the Catch Document Scheme (CDS) Working Group intends to hold a meeting next year in conjunction with the JWG meeting
- Continue development among JWG members of analytical requests to the ISC
  - Included among the requests that are being discussed are
    - That the ISC perform projections of the catch increases and conversion factor being recommended by the JWG
    - That NC emphasize to the ISC a request in the existing harvest strategy and long-term resolution to evaluate recruitment assumptions used in the projections
- Japan offered to host next year's JWG meeting, subject to COVID considerations