

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
SEVENTH SESSION (JWG-07)**

**ELECTRONIC MEETING
09:00-13:00, Japan Standard Time
12-14 July 2022**

Pacific Bluefin Tuna Interim Harvest Strategy

IATTC-NC-JWG07-2022/DP-13

United States of America

PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA INTERIM HARVEST STRATEGY

Proposal by the United States of America to the Seventh WCPFC-NC and IATTC Joint Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna

Explanatory Note

The Joint Working Group (JWG) recommended and IATTC and WCPFC subsequently adopted harvest control rules that would apply while the Pacific bluefin tuna stock is rebuilding. However, there are no harvest control rules that would apply after the stock has met the second rebuilding target. The ISC's 2022 stock assessment projects that the stock could be rebuilt to that second target as early as 2023. The JWG has discussed developing a long-term harvest strategy for Pacific bluefin tuna, which may include undertaking a management strategy evaluation (MSE). As it is unlikely that an MSE process would conclude by 2023, it is prudent that the IATTC and WCPFC consider rules to manage the stock in the interim.

The following harvest control rules shall be applied based on the results of stock assessments and SSB projections to be conducted by the ISC during the period from the year in which the stock is projected to be achieve the second rebuilding target of 20%SSB0 to when a long-term harvest strategy based on an MSE process is implemented.

- a. If the SSB projection indicates that SSB will be below 20%SSB0 with a probability of 60%, management measures shall be modified to increase the SSB to at least 20%SSB0 with 60% probability. For this purpose, the ISC will be requested, if necessary, to provide information on possible management measures to achieve 60% that the stock is above 20%SSB0.
- b. If the SSB projection indicates that SSB will be greater than 20%SSB0 with a probability of 60%, modifications to management measures may be considered so long as any changes maintain SSB greater than 20%SSB0 with a probability of 60%.
- c. 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 is requested, to provide relevant information, including projected proportional fishery impact of potential management measures changes.
- d. 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.