

**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

**Candidate Operational Management Objectives and Performance Indicators for
Pacific Bluefin Tuna**

IATTC-NC-JWG07-2022/DP-12

United States of America

CANDIDATE OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

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

In 2021, the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species (ISC) suggested that in order to make progress toward developing a long-term harvest strategy for Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF), the Northern Committee (NC) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Joint Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG) should develop operational management objectives and performance indicators by which to measure whether a proposed harvest strategy will meet those agreed-upon management objectives. The NC at its 17th Regular Session, in turn, prioritized further development of the PBF harvest strategy, and tasked itself to work through the JWG to identify performance criteria to evaluate candidate reference points and harvest control rules.

The United States continues to be committed to developing a long-term harvest strategy for PBF, and held several public meetings with its stakeholders from April - June 2022 to solicit input on candidate operational management objectives and performance indicators for PBF. U.S. stakeholders reviewed the current management objectives included in the WCPFC harvest strategy as well as candidate management objectives identified by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) for Atlantic bluefin tuna, and indicated interest in organizing candidate operational management objectives and performance indicators for PBF around the same four general categories that ICCAT has used for Atlantic bluefin tuna: safety, status, stability and yield.

Based on the four categories of management objectives, the United States has developed a list of candidate management objectives and performance indicators, and would like the JWG and in turn, the WCPFC-NC to recommend them for use by the ISC. A recommendation from the WCPFC-NC to the ISC would fulfill the ISC's request for additional guidance on how to evaluate the [candidate reference points and harvest control rules](#) (see Attachment G, pages 78-80) adopted in 2019.

Candidate operational management objectives and performance indicators for Pacific bluefin tuna

Category	Operational Management Objective	Performance Indicator
Safety	There should be a less than [5-20%] ¹ probability of the stock falling below the LRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probability that $SSB < LRP$ in any given year of the evaluation period
Status	To maintain fishing mortality at or below F_{Target} with at least 75% probability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probability that $F \leq F_{TARGET}$ in any given year of the evaluation period
Stability	To limit changes in overall catch limits between management periods to no more than 15% downwards, unless the ISC has assessed that there is a greater than 50% chance the stock is below the LRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent change upwards in catches between management periods excluding periods when $SSB < LRP$ • Percent change downwards in catches between management periods excluding periods when $SSB < LRP$
Yield	Maintain a proportional fishery impact between the WCPO and EPO similar to the average proportional fishery impact from 1970-1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Median fishery impact (in %) on SSB in any given year of the evaluation period by fishery and by WCPO fisheries and EPO fisheries • The probability that the proportional EPO fishery impact is at least the 1971-1994 average in any given year
	To maximize yield over the medium (5-10 years) and long (10-30 years) terms, as well as average annual catch from the fishery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expected annual yield over years 5-10 of the evaluation period, by fishery. • Expected annual yield over years 10-30 of the evaluation period, by fishery. • Expected annual catch in any given year of the evaluation period, by fishery.

¹ The acceptable levels of risk may vary depending on the LRP selected, but should be no greater than 20%.