

**The Ocean Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts
Statement to the 8th Joint IATTC-NC Working Group Meeting on PBF Management
July 3-5, 2023, Fukuoka, Japan**

The Ocean Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts welcome the opportunity to participate as observers at the 8th **Joint IATTC-NC Working Group Meeting on Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) Management (JWG08)**. We appreciate the work of the Co-Chairs, Members and Secretariats to convene the first hybrid JWG meeting since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and look forward to seeing some of our colleagues in person. There are important conservation and management opportunities on this meeting's agenda, and as such, we urge JWG08 to:

Agree to operational management objectives, performance indicators, and HCRs for testing in the Pacific bluefin management strategy evaluation (MSE). We applaud the JWG and ISC efforts to initiate the MSE modelling in earnest during the past year. To guide further MSE development in the path toward harvest strategy adoption in 2025, we urge JWG08 to agree to a reduced set of operational management objectives, performance indicators, and HCRs, consistent with this year's Northern Committee *Work Programme*. [Proposal JWG08-DP-13](#) is an excellent first step, but we strongly recommend the addition of biomass-based target reference points to ensure an adequate buffer to avoid breaching the biomass-based limit reference point.

Continue to advance development of the electronic Pacific Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (ePBCD) system. We support the ongoing discussions on the ePBCD, which will improve data collection for better quota management, compliance and traceability along the value chain, and reduce IUU fishing. JWG08's 4th CDS Technical Meeting should resolve funding and administrative matters related to the ePBCD and draft a management measure to establish the system.