

Joint IATTC/WCPFC Northern Committee
Working Group on Pacific bluefin tuna (JWG)

June 7, 2024

Dear John Holmes, ISC Chair,

We hope this letter finds you well.

It is encouraging to learn from the Pacific Bluefin Tuna Working Group (PBFWG) summary report that the stock achieved the second rebuilding target ($20\%SSB_{F=0}$) in 2021, 13 years earlier than originally scheduled in the rebuilding plan. JWG09 will discuss new conservation and management measures for PBF, in accordance with the harvest control rules stipulated in IATTC Resolution C-23-01 and WCPFC HS 2023-02.

JWG08 last year requested the ISC to conduct future projections under several catch increase scenarios and submit the outcomes to JWG09, which are contained in the report of ISC PBFWG. While the catch increase scenarios 4-11 show the maximum levels of catch increase maintaining SSB greater than $20\%SSB_{F=0}$ with a probability of 60%, all these scenarios involve future declines of the stock.

We as JWG Co-Chairs understand that many members are interested in scenarios that allow for increasing or stable SSB and believe that it may be useful to have a few additional scenarios for consideration to aid effective discussion at JWG-09. We would, therefore, respectfully request that the ISC conduct future projections on the following additional scenarios.

Additional scenario 1: WCPO small fish catch limit increase by 0%, WCPO large fish catch limit increase by 50%, and EPO catch limit increase by 50%.

Additional scenario 2: WCPO small fish catch limit increase by 5%, WCPO large fish catch limit increase by 50%, and EPO catch limit increase by 50%.

Additional scenario 3: WCPO small fish catch limit increase by 10%, WCPO large fish catch limit increase by 50%, and EPO catch limit increase by 50%.

Additional scenario 4: WCPO small fish catch limit increase by 20%, WCPO large fish catch limit increase by 50%, and EPO catch limit increase by 50%.

Additional scenario 5: WCPO small fish catch limit increase by 5%, WCPO large fish catch limit increase by 70%, and EPO catch limit increase by 70%.

Additional scenario 6: WCPO small fish catch limit increase by 20%, WCPO large fish catch limit increase by 100%, and EPO catch limit increase by 100%.


We understand that number of scenarios must be minimized but believe that six additional are feasible. We are hopeful that these additional scenarios and projections can be completed by the ISC PBFWG in time for review by the full ISC at your June 19-24, 2024 Plenary meeting.

Please let us know if you have any concerns or questions about this request.

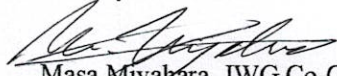
You may reach Co-Chair Miyahara at masamiyafajl@gmail.com and/or Co-Chair Lowman at dmlowman01@comcast.net

Finally, and importantly, we would assure you that these additional future projections, if presented by the ISC, will be discussed together with other scenarios and will not prejudice the discussion during JWG09.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Lowman and



Masa Miyahara, JWG Co-Chairs

Cc: Shuya Nakatsuka, ISC PBFWG Chair