

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ON THE  
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA  
First Session (JWGI01)**

Monterey, California, USA  
05 – 07 February 2025

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**Long-Term Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna**

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**JWGI01-2025-OP-01**

**Participants in the NGO Tuna Forum**



January 27, 2025

TO: Joint IATTC-WCPFC NC Working Group on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna

FROM: Participants in the NGO Tuna Forum

RE: Long-Term Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna

As participants in the NGO Tuna Forum, we are pleased that the Joint Working Group will hold an intersessional meeting in Monterey, California, in February 2025 to review initial results of the Bluefin management strategy evaluation (MSE) and to consider elements of a long-term harvest strategy.

The recent, apparent stock status improvements for Pacific bluefin tuna are notable and the result of significant efforts to rebuild the population over many years by governments and stakeholders. This turnaround has been recognized as an important win for fishers, fisheries managers, civil society and the market. But while this success should be celebrated, it must also be protected.

Without a long-term management approach in place, the hard-fought progress on Pacific bluefin tuna can be quickly lost. *Therefore, we urge the Joint Working Group to agree in 2025 on a comprehensive, precautionary harvest strategy for Pacific Bluefin that ensures the long-term health of the stock. In particular, we urge the Joint Working Group to recommend management objectives, reference points, and harvest control rules that will maintain the population at precautionary levels, including a target reference point of  $F_{SPR40\%}$  and a limit reference point of  $20\%SSB_{F=0}$ , as well as to ask the ISC to add additional operating models to the MSE that thoroughly consider the plausible uncertainties not included in the 2024 assessment.*

The NGO Tuna Forum focuses its efforts on working with RFMOs to ensure comprehensive, MSE-tested, precautionary harvest strategies are adopted and implemented across major commercial tuna stocks. We look forward to supporting the Joint Working Group at the upcoming intersessional meeting as it takes important steps toward adoption of a long-term harvest strategy at both IATTC and WCPFC by the 2025 scheduled deadline.

