

**The Pew Charitable Trusts
Statement to the 21st Regular Session of the Northern Committee
July 14-15, Toyama, Japan**

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes the opportunity to participate as an observer at the 21st Regular Session of the Northern Committee. We appreciate the work of the chairs, Secretariats and members to continue convening this meeting in a hybrid format and highlight the need to hasten the adoption of approaches to improve the resiliency of the northern stocks. As such, we urge members to:

Recommend a method to translate fishing intensity into management quantities for use in the north Pacific albacore management procedure

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) in 2023 adopted a harvest strategy, also called a management procedure, for north Pacific albacore. The harvest control rule reduces fishing intensity when the female spawning stock biomass falls below a threshold reference point. At the time, it was understood that more work was needed to relate the output of the HCR (fishing intensity) to management controls (i.e. units of catch and/or effort). Now that additional analyses have been conducted by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), NC21 should recommend a method for translating fishing intensity into catch and/or effort. That method should be included as an amendment to the text of the management procedure. Without this agreement, the HCR cannot be used in the event the stock falls below the threshold reference point, sacrificing the benefit of having a pre-agreed procedure in place and the many years of discussion that it has taken to develop it.

Initiate work to modernize management of north Pacific swordfish

WCPFC should build on the adoption of its first north Pacific swordfish measure in 2022 by developing management strategy evaluation (MSE) for the stock. Last month, the ISC noted a lack of internal capacity to conduct the MSE. Given this, NC21 should identify the resources needed for the work, including the potential use of external experts, while tasking the ISC to provide a detailed timeline to complete the MSE. NC21 also should agree to adopt operational management objectives at NC22.

Promote the long-term sustainability of Pacific bluefin tuna

As detailed more completely in our statement to the Joint Working Group on Pacific Bluefin Tuna Management, we urge NC21 to recommend a management procedure that prioritizes the safety of the stock and responds effectively to changes in stock status. Members should seize the opportunity to maintain the recovery of this stock and ensure it is a productive fishery for the long term.