



COMMISSION
Tenth Regular Session
2th December – 6th December 2013
Cairns, AUSTRALIA

**UNITED STATES: NORTHERN COMMITTEE REQUEST TO THE ISC REGARDING
PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

WCPFC10-2013-DP31
25 November 2013



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Pacific Islands Regional Office
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November 22, 2013

Dear Heads of Delegations to NC9:

You may recall that at the Ninth Regular Session of the Northern Committee we developed questions for the ISC with respect to information that could be used to develop a stock rebuilding program for Pacific bluefin tuna, as well as developing a mechanism for responding to drastic drops in recruitment. A draft list of questions was included in the meeting record as Attachment F, and it was agreed that participants would consult with each other intersessionally to improve the request before the Commission meeting (see paragraph 63 of the meeting record).

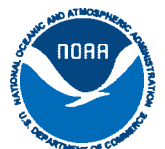
The United States would like you to consider the changes highlighted in the attached document. As you can see, we suggest including two additional management scenarios, and revising how the juvenile and adult fisheries would be defined for the purpose of the analyses. We understand from ISC PBF Working Group members that these revised definitions correspond with how the projections were done in the past.

We would appreciate getting your delegation's views at your earliest convenience so that the Northern Committee can finalize this request for the Commission's endorsement. Please send your comments to Tom Graham (tom.graham@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

Michael D. Tosatto
Regional Administrator

Attachment



**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Northern Committee
Ninth Regular Session**

**Fukuoka, Japan
2–5 September 2013**

Northern Committee request to the ISC regarding Pacific bluefin tuna

For the purpose of evaluating the performance of various management scenarios with respect to rebuilding the stock of Pacific bluefin tuna, the Northern Committee requests advice from the ISC on the following:

Under an appropriate range of future recruitment scenarios (for example, but not necessarily limited to: high, low, historical average), the probability of achieving each of five particular SSB levels (10%, 15%, 20%, and 25% $SSB_{\text{recent}, F=0}$, and historical median SSB) within 10 and 15 years under each of the harvest scenarios listed below. For each scenario, expected average yield over the final three years of the projection is also requested.

	WCPO			EPO
	Fishing effort in Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries	<u>Juvenile eCatches in fisheries predominantly taking juveniles</u>	<u>Adult eCatches in fisheries predominantly taking adults</u>	Catches
1	2002-04 avg.	15% reduction from 2002-04 avg.	<u>Not limited</u>	5,500 mt/yr
2	2002-04 avg.	15% reduction from 2002-04 avg.	15% reduction from 2002-04 avg.	5,500 mt/yr
3	2002-04 avg.	15% reduction from 2002-04 avg.	15% reduction from 2002-04 avg.	4,675 mt/yr
4	2007-09 avg.	15% reduction from 2002-04 avg.	<u>Not limited</u>	4,675 mt/yr
5	2002-04 avg.	25% reduction from 2002-04 avg.	<u>Not limited</u>	4,125 mt/yr
6	2002-04 avg.	50% reduction from 2002-04 avg.	<u>Not limited</u>	2,750 mt/yr
7	15% reduction from 2002-04 avg.	25% reduction from 2002-04 avg.	<u>Not limited</u>	4,125 mt/yr
<u>8</u>	<u>2002-04 avg.</u>	<u>25% reduction from 2002-04 avg.</u>	<u>Not limited</u>	<u>5,500 mt/yr</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>2002-04 avg.</u>	<u>2002-04 avg.</u>	<u>Not limited</u>	<u>4,125 mt/yr</u>

For those scenarios in which, for at least some fisheries, catches are limited but fishing effort (and thus F) is not, the ISC is requested to run the projections such that F in those fisheries is constrained to no greater than double the 2002-2004 average level.

For the purpose of developing a mechanism that establishes specific rules for CCMs in the event of a drastic drop in recruitment, the ISC is requested to provide information regarding the range of historical variation in recruitment, such as in terms of standardized CPUEs for particular fisheries, or other appropriate measures. Specifically, information for the low recruitment period during the 1980s, and for the last ten years, is requested.