



# **The 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ISC: Activity Report**

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# Presentation Topics

- **Participants**
- **Working Group Workshops & Activities**
- **Stock Status & Conservation Information**
- **Interactions with Regional Organizations**
- **Administrative matters**
- **Future Activities**

# ISC17 Participants

## July 2017 Vancouver BC, Canada

### ISC Members

- Canada
- Chinese Taipei
- Japan
- Mexico
- Republic of Korea
- United States of America

### Non-Voting Members

- WCPFC
- PICES

### Observers

- Pew Charitable Trust
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature – Japan
- Monterey Bay Aquarium
- Wild Oceans
- AFRF/AAFA
- Tohoku University
- Waseda University

# Working Group Workshops & Activities

- **Pacific Bluefin Tuna WG Workshop**
  - February 2017 (Shimizu, Japan) – Data preparation; requested projections & emergency rule
- **Albacore WG Workshop**
  - November 2016 (Nanaimo, Canada) - Data preparation
  - April 2017 (La Jolla, CA, USA) – Stock assessment
- **Billfish WG Workshops**
  - June 2017 (Keelung, Taiwan) – Data preparation & planning

# Working Group Workshops & Activities

- **Shark WG Workshops**

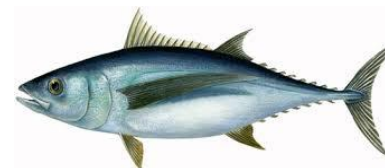
- November 2016 (Busan, Rep. of Korea) – North Pacific blue shark data preparation
- April 2017 (La Jolla, CA USA) – North Pacific blue shark stock assessment

- **Statistics**

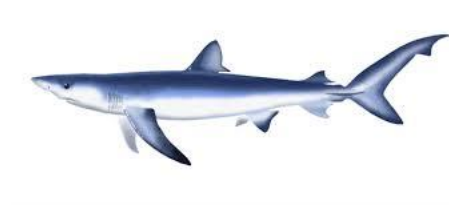
- July 2016 (Vancouver BC, Canada) – Status of assignments & update work plan

# ISC Stock Assessments

- **North Pacific Albacore Tuna**
  - Benchmark assessment



- **North Pacific Blue Shark**
  - Benchmark assessment



- ***NP Swordfish, NP Striped Marlin, Pacific Blue Marlin, Pacific Bluefin Tuna and Shortfin Mako Shark – No assessments***

# Stock Status and Conservation Information

## North Pacific Albacore Tuna – Stock Status

- The stock is likely **not overfished** relative to the limit reference point adopted by the WCPFC ( $20\%SSB_{\text{current } F=0}$ ), and
- Stock status was evaluated against seven potential reference points and current fishing intensity ( $F_{2012-2014}$ ) is below six of the seven potential reference points (exception  $F50\%$ ). Stock is **not likely in an overfishing condition**.

# Stock Status and Conservation Information

## North Pacific Albacore Tuna – Conservation Information

- If a constant fishing intensity ( $F_{2012-2014}$ ) is applied to the stock, median female spawning biomass is expected to **undergo a moderate decline**, with a **<0.01% probability of falling below** the WCPFC established **limit reference point by 2025**. However expected catches in this scenario will be below the recent average catch level for this stock.



# Stock Status and Conservation Information

## North Pacific Blue Shark - Stock Status

- Female spawning biomass in 2015 ( $SSB_{2015}$ ) was 69% higher than at MSY and estimated to be 295,774 mt ;
- The recent average annual fishing mortality ( $F_{2012-2014}$ ) was estimated to be well below  $F_{MSY}$  at approximately 38% of  $F_{MSY}$  ; and
- The stock is **not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.**

# Stock Status and Conservation Information

## North Pacific Blue Shark – Conservation Information

- Projections under different fishing mortality (F) harvest policies (status quo, +20%, -20%,  $F_{MSY}$ ) show that median blue shark spawning biomass in the North Pacific Ocean will likely **remain above  $SSB_{MSY}$  in the foreseeable future (2024)**.

# Interactions with Regional Organizations

## IATTC

- Cooperate in research & assessments (species WG)
- Exchange of data at WG and data inventory (Category I, II, and III)
- Participated in the APRIL 2017 ISC International Bluefin Tuna Stakeholders Meeting in Tokyo, Japan

# Interactions with Regional Organizations

## WCPFC

- Overview of Western and Central Pacific Ocean fisheries and stock status presented at ISC17
- Routinely exchange data inventories
- Presentation of North Pacific albacore tuna and North Pacific blue shark stock assessments at WCPFC-SC13; albacore assessment presented at WCPFC-NC13; requested projections and emergency rule presented at WCPFC-NC13 and full Commission Meeting

# Interactions with Regional Organizations

## PICES

- **November 2016 Annual Meeting**
  - Convene Workshop 4 – Methods relating oceanographic conditions to the distribution of highly migratory species
  - Convened Business Meeting of WG-34-Joint PICES/ISC Working Group on Ocean Conditions and the Distribution and Productivity of Highly Migratory Fish
- **July 2017**
  - Convened Business Meeting of WG-34 at ISC17
- **September 2017 Annual Meeting**
  - Convene Workshop 3 - Linking oceanographic conditions to the distribution and productivity of highly migratory species and incorporation into fishery stock assessment models

# Administrative matters

## ISC Leadership Changes

- Jon Brodziak reelected as BILLWG Chair for 1 year
- Hidetada Kiyofugi elected as ALBWG Chair
- Ren-Fan Wu reelected as STATWG Chair for 1 year
- **John Holmes elected as ISC Chair**  
**Eric Chang elected as ISC Vice Chair**

## ISC18

- Korea, July 2018

# Future Activities (2017-2018)

- **Form Ad-Hoc Working Group to explore the development of an international HMS tagging program – initial focus Pacific bluefin and North Pacific albacore tuna under the auspices of ISC;**
- **October 2017 (Shimizu, Japan) - Convene mako shark ageing workshop;**
- **Fall 2017 (La Jolla, CA USA) - Convene Close-kin Workshop; and**
- **October 17-19, 2017 (Vancouver BC, Canada) - Convene 3<sup>rd</sup> ISC MSE Workshop.**

# Future Activities (2017-2018)

- **March 2018 (La Jolla, CA USA) – PBF Update Stock Assessment;**
- **April 2018 – SMA Stock Assessment**
- **April 2018 – ALB MSE and Data Prep.**
- **May 2018 – SWO Stock Assessment**
- **July 11-18 (Korea) – ISC18**





# **THANKS!**