**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

FOURTH SESSION

Portland, Oregon, United States of America 3 – 5 September 2019

# TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION

**IATTC-NC-JWG04-2019/03Rev1**

# Proposal by the United States of America

The Northern Committee (NC) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) in consultation with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), requested the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) to begin work on a management strategy evaluation (MSE) for Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) in 2019 with a goal of completing the MSE by 2024. As requested in the WCPFC harvest strategy for PBF fisheries, the ISC organized two MSE workshops, one in 2018 in Yokohama, Japan, and one in 2019 in San Diego, California, USA, to support the identification of specific management objectives, including level of risks and timelines. These terms of reference will guide the MSE.

# Purpose of MSE

To evaluate the expected performance of alternative long-term management strategies for Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries once the second rebuilding target is reached. As soon as the MSE is operational, the MSE may be used during rebuilding to inform and optimize conservation and management decisions.

# Role of the ISC

To provide technical guidance on and oversee the development, execution and outputs of the model to be used in the PBF MSE.

# Role of the IATTC-WCPFC NC Joint Working Group (JWG)

The JWG will provide overall guidance on the MSE. The JWG will convene workshops to solicit input from managers, scientists, and stakeholders. In providing guidance on the MSE, the JWG will take into account views expressed in stakeholder workshops. The guidance on the MSE may include, but is not limited to, specification of management objectives, performance indicators, timelines, candidate reference points, and candidate harvest control rules. The JWG will provide progress reports on the MSE to the IATTC and WCPFC NC, as appropriate.