

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA
SIXTH SESSION (JWG-06)**

ELECTRONIC MEETING
8am-11am, Japan Standard Time
27-29 July 2021

Harvest control rules for the second Pacific bluefin tuna rebuilding period

IATTC-NC-JWG06-2021/DP-14

United States of America

HARVEST CONTROL RULES FOR THE SECOND PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA REBUILDING PERIOD

Proposal by the United States of America to the Sixth WCPFC-NC and IATTC Joint Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna

Explanatory Note

The United States proposes harvest control rules for the period after the first rebuilding target, but before the second rebuilding target has been met (i.e. the second rebuilding period). Under the current WCPFC harvest strategy for Pacific bluefin tuna, “Harvest control rules to be applied during the second rebuilding period will be decided, taking into account the implementation of the interim harvest control rules applied during the initial rebuilding period.” Because projections indicate that the initial rebuilding target was likely met in April 2021, it is important to develop and agree to harvest control rules for the second rebuilding period at this time. These harvest control rules could be incorporated into a revised WCPFC harvest strategy for Pacific bluefin tuna as well as a revised IATTC Resolution on long-term management framework.

HARVEST CONTROL RULES FOR THE SECOND PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA REBUILDING PERIOD

The harvest control rules during the second rebuilding period below will be applied based on the results of stock assessments and SSB projections to be conducted by ISC.

If the SSB projection indicates that the probability of achieving the second rebuilding target by 2034 or 10 years after reaching the initial rebuilding target, whichever is earlier, is less than 70%, management measures shall be modified to increase it to at least 70%. For this purpose, the ISC will be requested, if necessary, to provide information on possible management measures to achieve 70% probability.

If the SSB projection indicates that the probability of achieving the second rebuilding target by 2034, or 10 years after reaching the initial rebuilding target, whichever is earlier, is at 75% or larger, fishery controls may be changed, including adjustment of catch limits, as long as the probability is maintained at 70% or larger. For this purpose, ISC will be requested, if necessary, to provide relevant information on potential fishery controls.

Any adjustments to management measures shall be considered in cooperation between the two RFMOs with the objective of achieving a relative fishery impact on SSB of fisheries in the EPO of at least 25% by the time the second rebuilding target is met. For this purpose, ISC will be requested, if necessary, to provide relevant information, including projected relative fishery impact of potential management measures changes.

This harvest control rule will be reviewed and modified, as necessary, if depletion estimates across the time-series have been adjusted due to changes in assumptions and/or settings of the stock assessment model.