

**The Pew Charitable Trusts**  
**Statement to the 10th Joint IATTC-NC Working Group Meeting**  
**on Pacific Bluefin Tuna Management**  
**July 9-12, Toyama, Japan**

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes the opportunity to participate as an observer at the 10<sup>th</sup> Joint IATTC-NC Working Group Meeting on Pacific Bluefin Tuna Management (JWG10). We appreciate the work of the co-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 this stock. As such, we urge members to:

**Recommend adoption of a management procedure for Pacific bluefin tuna that prioritizes the safety of the stock and responds to changes in stock status**

Now that the most recent stock assessment estimates Pacific bluefin tuna has reached the second rebuilding target of 20 percent unfished spawning stock biomass ( $20\%SSB_{F=0}$ ), it's critical for members to adopt a management procedure (also called a harvest strategy) that offers the best possible chance to secure the stock's long-term sustainability. The results of the management strategy evaluation show several options would meet that goal. Among them, we highlight harvest control rules 2 and 10, which would limit the risk of the stock falling below the second rebuilding target while permitting greater yields than today. As a conservation organization, we do not have a view on the ratio of west to east catch, but this issue must not be an impediment to agreeing to a management procedure this year, and either option 2 or 10 would meet managers' objectives. On the other hand, we urge members not to support HCRs 5/13, 6/14, 7/15 and 8/16, because they lack a limit reference point (LRP) or use a value that would be much lower than WCPFC's current LRP. We also are concerned that HCRs 5/13 switch to a constant TAC when the stock declines below the threshold reference point, which rebuilds the stock more slowly than other HCRs and results in these HCRs not being very responsive to the state of the stock, which diminishes a key benefit of the management procedure approach. HCRs 5/13, 6/14, and 7/15 also result in a risk of the stock falling below the second rebuilding target that is approximately 20 percent or greater. After years of international cooperation and strict catch limits, members should seize the chance to demonstrate their leadership in sustainable fisheries by agreeing on an approach that offers the best possible chance to maintain the gains that have been achieved.

**Continue to advance development of the catch documentation system**

We support the ongoing discussions on the Pacific bluefin tuna catch documentation system, which will improve data collection for better quota management, compliance and traceability along the value chain, and reduce IUU fishing. We urge participants to JWG10's 6<sup>th</sup> CDS Technical Meeting to resolve the outstanding issue to enable a CDS measure to be presented to the IATTC and WCPFC in 2026.