

**The Pew Charitable Trusts
Statement to the 22nd Regular Session of the Northern Committee
13-14 July 2026, Nagasaki, Japan**

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes the opportunity to participate as an observer at the 22nd Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC22). We appreciate the work of the chairs, Secretariats and Members to convene this meeting and highlight the need to hasten the adoption of approaches to improve the resiliency of the northern stocks. As such, we urge Members to:

Recommend amending the north Pacific albacore conservation and management measure to implement the adopted harvest strategy

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) in 2023 adopted a harvest strategy, also called a management procedure (MP), for north Pacific albacore ([HS 2023-01](#)). Japan and Canada have tabled proposals ([DP01](#) and [DP03](#), respectively) aiming to amend [CMM 2019-03](#) on north Pacific albacore next year to implement the harvest strategy. NC22 should seize the chance to future-proof this important fishery by recommending the WCPFC adopt amendments this year, rather than delaying implementation yet again. Those amendments should specify how the output of the harvest control rule (HCR), i.e. fishing intensity, is to be translated into units of catch and/or effort and allocated in the event female biomass drops below the HCR threshold reference point. The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) has provided one potential method that could be referenced in the text. Without an agreement on translating fishing intensity, the MP cannot be considered operational, sacrificing the benefits of having a pre-agreed MP and the many years of discussion that it has taken to develop it.

Advance work to modernize management of north Pacific swordfish

WCPFC should build on the adoption of its first north Pacific swordfish measure in 2022 by advancing the management strategy evaluation (MSE) for the stock throughout its range. The ISC is developing an MSE for north Pacific swordfish but requires input from managers. As such, NC22 should provide input on candidate operational management objectives, reference points, performance indicators, and HCRs, which would enable preliminary results to be shared in 2027.

Promote the long-term sustainability of Pacific bluefin tuna

As detailed more completely in our [statement](#) to the Joint Working Group on Pacific Bluefin Tuna Management, we urge NC22 to recommend a management procedure that prioritizes the safety of the stock and responds effectively to changes in stock status. Members should seize the opportunity to maintain the recovery of this stock and ensure it is a productive fishery for the long term.