

**The Pew Charitable Trusts**  
**Statement to the 11th Joint IATTC-NC Working Group Meeting**  
**on Pacific Bluefin Tuna Management**  
**8-11 July 2026, Nagasaki, Japan**

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes the opportunity to participate as an observer at the 11<sup>th</sup> Joint IATTC-NC Working Group Meeting on Pacific Bluefin Tuna Management (JWG11). We appreciate the work of the co-chairs, Secretariats and Members to convene this meeting and highlight the need to hasten the adoption of approaches to improve the resiliency of this stock. As such, we urge Members to:

**Recommend the RFMOs adopt a management procedure and implementing arrangement for Pacific bluefin tuna that prioritizes long-term sustainability of the species**

Following productive discussions in Newport Beach in March, the JWG co-chairs tabled drafts of a management procedure (MP) for Pacific bluefin tuna ([JWG11-WP02](#)) and implementing arrangement ([JWG11-WP03](#)). The draft MP should be endorsed by Members as the culmination of years of scientific and management progress. Its responsive harvest control rule (HCR) will serve to maintain the restored abundance of the stock and fishery for the long-term. We support the co-chairs' proposed text, but now that the reference points have been agreed, we recommend revisiting the acceptable levels of risk included in the objectives of the MP:

- Fishing mortality (F) should be maintained at or below  $F_{\text{TARGET}}$  with a probability of at least 60%, if not 70%, to increase the likelihood of success and especially since F can be directly controlled.
- Because the limit reference point was agreed at  $7.7\%SSB_{F=0}$ , the lowest and riskiest level considered, the probability of biomass being above it should be at least 95%.

Several areas require greater negotiation in Nagasaki, including the ratio of east-west catch and the small-to-large fish conversion factor. It will be crucial for Members to demonstrate their leadership and flexibility to reach agreement on these associated measures. We urge precaution in any changes to the conversion factor, noting the large number of assumptions in the related analyses and concern about inadvertently increasing catches above sustainable levels.

**Recommend adoption of a catch documentation system for Pacific bluefin tuna**

We support the ongoing discussions on the Pacific bluefin tuna catch documentation system (CDS), which will improve data collection for better quota management, compliance and traceability along the value chain, and reduce IUU fishing. We urge participants to JWG11's 7<sup>th</sup> CDS Technical Meeting to consider the [draft CDS from the small working group](#) and recommend a CDS measure be presented to the IATTC and WCPFC for adoption in 2026.