

10616 ALMOND AVENUE
OAK VIEW, CALIFORNIA 93022

OFFICE
OF
HENRY M. (CHIP) BISSELL IV

TELEPHONE: (805) 649-0721
FACSIMILE: (805) 649-0723
LEGALDIVER@SBCGLOBAL.NET

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Attn: Natalie Webster
AMERICAN ALBACORE FISHING ASSOCIATION
4252 Bonita Road, #154
Bonita, CA 91902

Re.: PFMC Meetings – June 10-17, 2010 Foster City, CA

Dear Natalie:

The following presents my report on the recent meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and the accompanying meetings of the Highly Migratory Species - Advisory Subpanel (HMS-AS) and HMS Management Team (HMS-MT). The meetings were held in Foster City, California.

Council Recommendations to International Regional Fishery Management Organizations

One of the Council's tasks for these meetings was to make recommendations to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission (WCPFC). After discussion and consideration, the Council decided to postpone making recommendations for action on bigeye and yellowfin tuna until its September meeting, as updated stock assessments should be available by then.

The Council did make the following recommendations for the IATTC:

- The U.S. delegation to the IATTC should develop a proposal for managing the purse seine fishery through a Total Allowable Catch limit (TAC);
- The U.S. delegation to the WCPFC Northern Committee should propose a more effective and comprehensive bluefin tuna conservation measure, specifically to address juvenile mortality, for adoption by the WCPFC;
- The United States should pursue participation in the coordination meeting on bluefin tuna conservation between Japan, Mexico and the IATTC secretariat scheduled for August 30, and encourage the IATTC to move forward with a proposal for a bluefin tuna conservation measure;
- The U.S. should support proposals that would increase compliance with IATTC management measures, especially those related to illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- The U.S. delegations to the IATTC and WCPFC should advocate for more comprehensive data reporting and collection by members of the IATTC and WCPFC.

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The Council asked NMFS Southwest Region to work with Pacific Islands Region Office to reexamine regulations related to Vessel Monitoring System requirements (VMS) for vessels that have a WCPFC Area Endorsement on their HSFCA permit in order to lessen their financial impact on west coast albacore vessels.

Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2, Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures

The Council took final action by adopting a new alternative, Alternative 5, which has the following elements of change to the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP):

- **Defining management unit species as: albacore tuna**, bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, striped marlin, swordfish, blue shark, common thresher shark, shortfin mako shark, and dorado (mahi);
- Defining ecosystem component species as: bigeye thresher shark, common mola, escolar, lancetfishes, louvar, pelagic stingray, pelagic thresher shark, and wahoo;
- **Applying the international exception to all management unit species;**
- Adding language describing the need for the Council to coordinate with Western Pacific Fishery Management Council;
- Adding language describing how Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) or MSY proxies are to be estimated;
- Adding language describing that estimates of MSY and OY (currently included in the FMP) can be adjusted based on new information;

Changes to Routine Management Measures for 2011-2012

The Council decided to proceed with development of recreational trip limits for the Washington recreational albacore fishery as described in the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Report.

Fishery Management Plan Amendment 13, Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Accountability Measures (AMs)

The Council reviewed a range of alternatives to implement new provisions of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act and the National Standard 1 guidelines. The Council adopted the following final action modifying the CPS fishery management plan (FMP):

- All actively managed, monitored species, and prohibited harvest species (krill) in the FMP are to be categorized as “in the fishery”;
- Jacksmelt and Pacific herring are to be added to the FMP as ecosystem component (EC) species and monitor incidental catch in CPS fisheries;
- Modify the existing harvest control rules for actively managed species to include a buffer or reduction in acceptable biological catch (ABC) relative to overfishing limit (OFL) to account for scientific uncertainty;

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Control Rules for Actively Managed Species	
OFL	BIOMASS * FMSY * DISTRIBUTION
ABC	BIOMASS * BUFFER * FMSY * DISTRIBUTION
ACL	LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO ABC
HG	(BIOMASS - CUTOFF) * FRACTION * DISTRIBUTION.
ACT	EQUAL TO HG OR ACL, WHICHEVER VALUE IS LESS

FMSY The fishing mortality rate that maximizes catch biomass in the long term.

ACL annual catch limit

HG harvest guideline

ACT annual catch target

- Maintain the default harvest control rules for monitored stocks as modified to specify the new management reference points;

Control Rules for Monitored Species	
OFL	STOCK SPECIFIC MSY PROXY
ABC	OFL * 0.25
ACL	Equal to ABC or reduced by OY considerations.

- Add sector-specific ACLs, ACTs, and AMs, to the CPS FMP management framework for use in the annual harvest and management specification process;
- Add language to specify that the Council will include ecological considerations when reviewing and/or adopting SDCs, OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs;
- While not a change to the FMP, the Council confirmed that status determination criteria for CPS FMP are to remain as currently specified with the exception of the Northern subpopulation of Northern anchovy (for which no criteria currently exist).

The Council anticipates implementing Amendment 13 by the November Council meeting where the provisions of OFL, ABC, ACLs, ACTs, and AMs, will be adopted for Pacific sardine and the monitored species.

If you have any questions or would like to have further discussions on these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Chip Bissell