

# 11 | Harvest Strategy in development

## Pacific Bluefin Tuna



### Management Authority:

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission/ Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

### Expected Adoption Year:

2024

### Management Objectives:

#### WCPFC Interim Management Objective:

- Support thriving Pacific bluefin tuna fisheries across the Pacific Ocean while recognizing that the management objectives of the WCPFC are to maintain or restore the stock at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield
- Maintain an equitable balance of fishing privileges among countries
- Seek cooperation with IATTC to find an equitable balance between the fisheries in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and those in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO).

### Reference Points:

- **Initial Rebuilding Target:** historical median biomass (equivalent to 6.4%SSB<sub>0</sub>) by 2024
- **Second Rebuilding Target:** 20% SSB<sub>F=0</sub> by 2034
- **Candidate Limit Reference Points:** 5%SSB<sub>F=0</sub>, 7.7%SSB<sub>F=0</sub>, 15%SSB<sub>F=0</sub>, 20%SSB<sub>F=0</sub>
- **Candidate Threshold Reference Points:** 15%SSB<sub>F=0</sub>, 20%SSB<sub>F=0</sub>, 25%SSB<sub>F=0</sub>
- **Candidate Target Reference Points:** 10%F<sub>SPR</sub>, 15%F<sub>SPR</sub>, 20%F<sub>SPR</sub>, 30%F<sub>SPR</sub>, 40%F<sub>SPR</sub>
- **Candidate F<sub>min</sub>:** 5%F<sub>target</sub>, 10%F<sub>target</sub>

\*SSB<sub>F=0</sub> = spawning stock size that would exist in the absence of fishing

\*SPR = Spawning Potential Ratio, or the lifetime spawning output that a young fish is expected to produce under current fishing mortality compared to what it would produce in the absence of fishing.

### Candidate Harvest Strategies:

Model-based, sliding HCRs are being explored in the initial MSE work, with a view to develop a comprehensive harvest strategy.

### Progress Update & Workplan:

**2022-2023:** Operationalize management objectives, develop MSE

**2024:** Provide feedback on MSE, adopt harvest strategy

### Link to relevant policy document or update:

- [WCPFC Harvest Strategies: \(https://www.wcpfc.int/harvest-strategy\)](https://www.wcpfc.int/harvest-strategy) Navigate to Pacific bluefin tuna to read an overview of each element of the untested harvest strategy and work going towards the MSE
- [Terms of Reference for Pacific Bluefin MSE/ Candidate Reference Points and Harvest Control Rules: \(https://meetings.wcpfc.int/file/7643/download\)](https://meetings.wcpfc.int/file/7643/download) Navigate to Attachment F and G