



WESTERN  
PACIFIC  
REGIONAL  
FISHERY  
MANAGEMENT  
COUNCIL

**Pelagics Plan Team Meeting  
April 23 -24, 2013  
8.30 - 5.00 pm  
1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400  
Honolulu, Hawaii**

### **Recommendation and Action Items**

#### **Recommendations**

- 1. The Pelagics Plan Team noted the expansion of the retail pelagic fish trade in Guam and recommended that the Council review the CNMI legislation for mandatory fish dealer reporting and evaluate if it would be applicable to Guam where fish dealer reporting is voluntary.**
- 2. The Pelagics Plan Team understands that an official overfished determination is likely to be forthcoming from NMFS in the near future for the Western Central North Pacific Ocean (WCNPO) striped marlin stock. The PPT also noted with concern the level of depletion of the WCNPO striped marlin stock indicated in the recent stock assessment. The PPT noted that U.S. catches of WCNPO striped marlin have not exceeded the level allowed under WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2010-01 (458 mt/year) since that measure was adopted, but recommends that the Council continue to consider the likelihood of that occurring in the future and to continue to consider what domestic management measures might be adopted to ensure it does not occur. The PPT reminds the Council that live release, minimum and maximum sizes for retention, large (18/0) circle hooks, not setting hooks adjacent to the longline floats, and spatial area closures have all been evaluated by NMFS PIFSC.**
- 3. The Pelagics Plan Team recommends NMFS-PIFSC conduct an analysis of swordfish landings by deep set longline vessels carrying observers since the new swordfish trip limit rule went into effect on August 27, 2012. Are deep set longline vessels with observers retaining more than 25 swordfish than prior to the new trip limits? If so, this may indicate a change in vessel operations and potential targeting since very few vessels incidentally caught more than 25 swordfish prior to the change in trip limits.**

## Action Items

### American Samoa Module

1. Separate the American Samoa troll and longline data as in the Hawaii module
2. Include in Forward or Introduction that the Pelagics Annual Report Module text that indicates the report represents only fish landed into American Samoa
3. Table 2 has several problems. No value and price per pound for albacore, no price per pound for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye, and an unrealistic price per pound for yellowfin. Total value of longline fishery in Table 2 is incorrect as is the Interpretation for Table 2, which cites a total pelagic fishery value of \$124,000. The non-tuna PMUAS appear to be in numbers instead of weight (lbs). DMWR to get the cannery price per pound for longline caught fish.
4. Remove Dogtooth tuna, rainbow runner, barracudas landings
5. Table 3A only reports on alias and this should be for all vessels.
6. Table 3B, is the 2011, need to update with 2012 data. Need to add a new column as requested in 2012 of Total Catch (i.e. number kept + number released)
7. Table for Figure has non-tuna PMUS which is not consistent with Table 3B as sharks are not illustrated in non-tuna PMUS.
8. Table 4. Change 'bycatch' to 'released'. Need to update with 2012 data
9. Figure 12, there is a mismatch for non-Tuna PMUS with Tables 1 and 2
10. Figure 15 A and B, need to add 2012 numbers for permitted and active vessels
11. Table on page 29 of troll trips and longline sets needs a caption
12. Table 5B is missing entirely
13. Figure 23A add 2006-2012 data
14. Figures 24-26 and corresponding Tables need to be properly updated with 2012 data, and the adjusted revenues need to be checked since these are incorrect., i.e. in Table 24 2011 unadjusted tunas revenue = \$17,354,540 versus \$93,714,418.

### Hawaii Module

1. Table on Figure 2 should have 'Grand total'
2. Table for Figure 8 has a total of 4,255 (2012), inconsistent with Table 2 (4,097)
3. Table for Figure 9 has a total of 877 (2012), inconsistent with Table 2 (905). Need to add in 'other gear'
4. Figure 12. Separate spearfish from 'other marlins'
5. Table 8. Change bycatch to released and add a Total Catch column to both deep and shallow set tables
6. Figure 40. Include seamount monchong in species composition from offshore handline fishery.
7. For revenues, use the previous or old way of computing values and add a footnote that revenues are for fish sold in Hawaii.
8. Add a sentence to beginning of Hawaii module that the module does contain data on fish landed in other States.

### International Module

- 1. Table 6. The determinations of overfishing and overfished will follow the NMFS Status of U.S. Fisheries Report, which the PPT understands contains the official status determinations for each stock, updated quarterly.**
- 2. Include text in caption as follows: ‘The stock status determinations in Table 6 regarding overfishing, approaching overfished, and overfished are based on the status determination criteria in the WPRFMC Pelagics FEP and recent stock assessments and may be preliminary, pending final action by NMFS. The current official stock status determinations by NMFS are noted where applicable.’**
- 3. NMFS PIFSC will review estimates of natural mortality rates (M) for PMUS and each year the PPT will update those estimates in the annual report for the purpose of specifying the corresponding minimum stock size thresholds (MSSTs).**

#### **Guam**

- 1. Tables 1-2. Remove Dogtooth tuna, rainbow runner, barracudas and yellowfin landings**
- 2. Change ‘bycatch’ to ‘releases’ in Table 4b**

#### **CNMI**

- 1. Use secondary axis for figures that include charter vessel data**
- 2. Tables 1-2. Remove Dogtooth tuna, rainbow runner, barracudas and yellowfin barracuda landings**
- 3. Change ‘bycatch’ to ‘releases’ in Table 5**