



2020 Council Calendar

All meetings will be held virtually, unless otherwise noted.

JUNE

2

11th meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Scientific Advisory Committee, La Jolla, CA*

6

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Advisory Panel meeting, Saipan (ChST)

8

United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development's Virtual Ocean Literacy Summit

9-11

136th Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) meeting

9-11

Capitol Hill Ocean Week*

17-18

General Advisory Committee to the US Section of the IATTC and Scientific Advisory Subcommittee*

22-25

182nd Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council meeting, Honolulu

JULY

13-17

34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, Italy*

15-20

20th International Scientific Committee Plenary meeting*

28-31

5th Joint IATTC-Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee Working Group on Pacific Bluefin Tuna Management meeting, Fukuoka, Japan

AUGUST

10

South Pacific Albacore Roadmap Intersessional Working Group (in person meeting) (WCPFC), Apia, Samoa*

13-14

IATTC and Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program Annual meetings, La Jolla, CA

SEPTEMBER

9-11

137th SSC, (in person meeting) TBD

15-18

183rd Council meeting, (in person meeting) (TBD: Mariana Archipelago)

** Not Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council meetings.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development's Virtual Ocean Literacy Summit will be held June 8, 2020. Council staff will be on a panel to discuss the role of ocean literacy in transforming ocean knowledge into action. For more information and to register for the virtual meeting, go to <https://education.ocean.org/olsummit>.

136th Scientific and Statistical Committee meeting will be held June 9 to 11, 2020, via web conference. Visit www.wpcouncil.org/meetings-calendars for more information on the web conference connection and agendas. Major agenda items include the 2019 annual SAFE report; main Hawaiian Island uku fishery review; American Samoa bottomfish fishery status and rebuilding plan; Endangered Species Act consultations; COVID-19 impacts on pelagic fisheries; and status determination of oceanic white tip sharks and striped marlin.

The 182nd meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council will convene June 23 to 25, 2020, via web conference. Major agenda items include COVID-19 regional impacts; community engagement and public relations efforts; review of Guam and PRIA MCPs (action items); stock status determination for oceanic whitetip shark and striped marlin; and 2021 US and Territorial bigeye tuna specifications (final action).

Action Items at the June 2020 Council Meeting

The 182nd meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council will convene June 23-25, 2020. The meeting will be held by web conference. For the web conference connection and agenda, go to www.wpcouncil.org/meetings-calendars. The Council will consider and may take action on the issues summarized below.

2021 Longline-Caught Bigeye Tuna Catch and Allocation Limits for American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI): The US Pacific territories are Participating Territories of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), which develops longline-caught, bigeye tuna quotas for member countries, such as the United States, operating in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). Participating Territories and Small Island Developing States, however, are not subject to limits in recognition of their aspirations to develop their fisheries. Nonetheless, at a time when bigeye tuna in the WCPO was considered subject to overfishing, the Council recommended and the Secretary of Commerce approved the setting of annual catch limits for longline-caught, bigeye tuna for the US Pacific Territories as well as the authority for the Territories to transfer a portion of their limit to US vessels permitted under the Council's Pacific Pelagic Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) for the Western Pacific Region. At its 182nd meeting, the Council will consider the catch and allocation limits for the Territories for 2021. The bigeye stock is currently considered to be neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing based on the 2017 stock assessment and its 2018 update.

Guam and Pacific Remote Island Areas Marine Conservation Plans: The Marine Conservation Plans (MCPs) for Guam and the Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIAs) expire in 2020. At its 182nd meeting, the Council will review the new draft MCPs for their consistency with the Council's Mariana Archipelago and PRIA FEPs. After review by the Council, the MCPs are transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for approval. The Guam MCP is developed by the governor of Guam and outlines projects that can be funded by forfeitures from illegal foreign fishing in the US exclusive economic zone (EEZ) waters around Guam or by funds deposited in the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund (WPSFF) as a result of Guam's allocation of a portion of its longline-caught bigeye tuna annual limit to US vessels that are federally permitted and other sources. The PRIA MCP is developed by the Council and outlines projects that can be funded through the WPSFF from forfeitures from illegal foreign fishing in the US EEZ around the PRIAs and other sources. The PRIAs include Howland and Baker Islands, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Atoll, Palmyra Atoll and Wake Island. Approved MCPs are valid for a period of three years and can be modified at any time and resubmitted for approval. 🐟