

# INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

## 100<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

Phoenix, Arizona (USA)

1-5 August 2022

### RESOLUTION C-22-04

#### HARVEST STRATEGY FOR NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

*The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Phoenix, Arizona (USA), on the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> Meeting:*

*Recalling* Resolutions C-05-02, C-13-03, and C-18-03 on North Pacific albacore tuna;

*Recalling* further its responsibility for the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area, and for the formulation of recommendations to its Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) with regard to the conservation and management of these resources;

*Observing* that the 2020 stock assessment of North Pacific albacore from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) indicates that North Pacific albacore tuna is neither being overfished nor is it in an overfished state;

*Further Observing* that the spawning stock biomass of North Pacific albacore tuna has remained stable at relatively high levels during the recent historical period, such that no management action has been required;

*Recognizing* that fishing effort limits continue to be an effective management tool for troll and pole-and-line fisheries targeting this stock in the convention area of the IATTC;

*Recognizing* that changes in oceanographic conditions are likely to influence ecosystem characteristics throughout the North Pacific Ocean, thereby resulting in potential changes to the population dynamics and distribution of this species;

*Recognizing* the importance of working with the WCPFC, as provided for in Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention, in order to manage North Pacific albacore tuna throughout its entire migratory range spanning/across the Pacific Ocean north of the equator;

*Recalling* further Article 22(4) of the WCPFC Convention that provides for cooperation with the IATTC regarding fish stocks that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

*Taking into account* Article IV of the Antigua Convention calling upon members of the Commission to apply the precautionary approach, as described in the relevant provisions of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, as well as the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, for the conservation, management and sustainable use of fish stocks covered by the Convention;

*Bearing in mind* that Article 7.5.3 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing indicates that regional

fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) should determine stock-specific target and limit reference points, the action to be taken if reference points are approached or exceeded, and measures to be taken to ensure that limit reference points will not be exceeded;

*Considering* the ISC has determined that its management strategy evaluation (MSE) work is complete and ready to form the basis for adoption of a harvest strategy for North Pacific albacore; and,

*Recalling* that, as directed in Resolution C-18-03, the IATTC Scientific Staff has made recommendations in respect of the ISC's MSE framework for consideration by the Commission;

*Further recalling* the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), at its 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, as well the IATTC Scientific Staff, recommended that the Commission use the results of the concluded MSE process to establish reference points and a harvest control rule (HCR) for North Pacific albacore tuna.

Agrees:

1. A harvest strategy, which includes the elements described in this Resolution, shall be adopted for all fisheries which harvest North Pacific albacore tuna in the Convention Area.

### **MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

- a. Considering the overarching objective of ensuring the sustainability of North Pacific albacore tuna and current fisheries supported by the stock in the eastern Pacific Ocean, the following management objectives are established:
  - i. Maintain Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) above the Limit Reference Point, with a probability of at least 80% over the next 10 years.
  - ii. Maintain depletion of total biomass around historical (2006-2015) average depletion over the next 10 years.
  - iii. Maintain fishing intensity (F) at or below the target reference point with a probability of at least 50% over the next 10 years.
  - iv. To the extent practicable, management changes (e.g., catch and/or effort) should be relatively gradual between years.

### **REFERENCE POINTS**

- b. For the purpose of the North Pacific albacore harvest strategy, the following reference points are established:
  - i. Target reference point (TRP) =  $F_{45\%}$ , which is the fishing intensity (F) level that results in the stock producing 45% of spawning potential ratio (SPR)
  - ii. Threshold reference point ( $SSB_{\text{threshold}} = 30\%SSB_{\text{current},F=0}$ ), which is 30% of the dynamic unfished spawning stock biomass
  - iii. Limit reference point (LRP) =  $14\%SSB_{\text{current},F=0}$ , which is 14% of the dynamic unfished spawning stock biomass

### **ACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF RISK**

- c. The risk of breaching the Limit Reference Point based on the most current estimate of SSB shall be no greater than 20%.

### **MONITORING**

- d. The IATTC staff shall collaborate with the ISC to conduct regular stock assessments of North Pacific albacore tuna every three years, at which time status relative to reference point in paragraph 1.b. will be evaluated.
- e. When performing a stock assessment, IATTC staff shall collaborate with the ISC to consider if the biology, environmental conditions, data sources, status of the stock, and/or other underlying assumptions have changed substantially enough to warrant revisiting the components in this harvest strategy.

### **HARVEST CONTROL RULES**

- f. By 2023, the Commission shall adopt harvest control rules as part of the harvest strategy for North Pacific albacore, consistent with Figure 1.
- g. The harvest control rules adopted pursuant to paragraph 1.f. shall outline *inter alia* the actions the Commission will take to manage North Pacific albacore tuna.
- h. The actions referenced under paragraph 1.g. shall be determined by the position of the most recent fishing intensity and biomass estimates relative to the reference points established pursuant to this Resolution.

### **OTHER PROVISIONS**

- 2. The Commission shall promote compatibility, starting with the definition of “reference points”, between the harvest strategy adopted through this Resolution, and any future harvest strategy adopted in the WCPFC with respect to North Pacific albacore.
- 3. The staff will coordinate with ISC to develop in 2023, criteria for the identification of exceptional circumstances.
- 4. The Director shall communicate this Resolution to the WCPFC Secretariat.

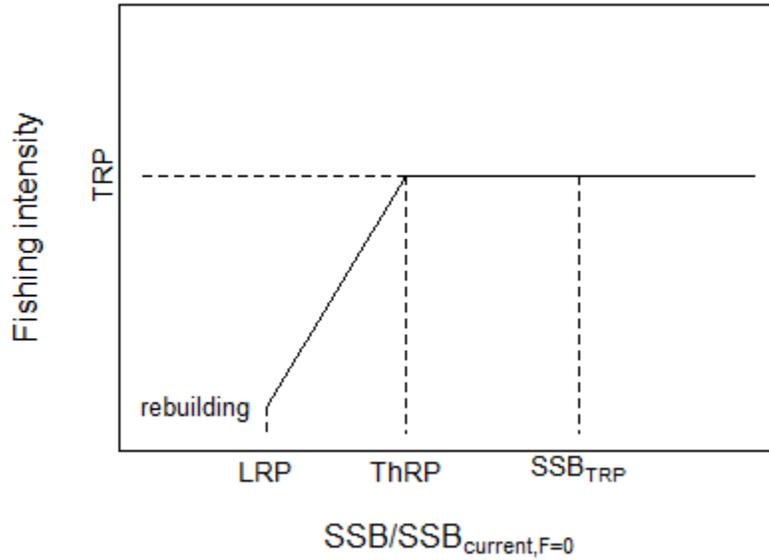


Figure. 1. Illustration of the harvest control rules with target reference point (TRP), threshold reference point (ThRP), limit reference point (LRP), and the expected SSB when fishing at the TRP ( $SSB_{TRP}$ ). The harvest control rules to be adopted pursuant to paragraph 1.f. are intended to include the triggering of a rebuilding plan if the  $SSB/SSB_{current,F=0}$  falls below the LRP.