

# Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council Updates

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Western Pacific Fishery Management Council

Presentation to False Killer Whale Take Reduction Team  
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# Recent Council Actions Related to Hawaii Longline Fisheries

- 2015 & 2016 Territory Bigeye Catch Limit Specification (Implementation of Amendment 7)
  - Striped Marlin Action, implementation of 457 mt catch limit for WCPO NP striped marlin
- Not anticipated to change the nature of the fishery (e.g., fishing effort)

# Pelagics Fishery Ecosystem Plan

## Amendment 7 (2014)

- Authorized a management framework to establish catch or effort limits applicable to the U.S. Participating Territories.
- Authorized U.S. Participating Territories to use, assign, allocate, and manage the catch and effort limits agreed to by the WCPFC through Specified Fishing Agreements with U.S. vessels permitted under Pelagics FEP.
  - Specified Fishing Agreements are funded to support fisheries development projects in a Territory's Marine Conservation Plan
  - Requires annual Council review and specification of Territory limits
- Prior to Amd 7, Congress provided authority for Territory arrangements (2011-2013)
- Congress also directed Council to develop amendment to implement such authority (resulting in Amd 7)

# 162<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting Action (same as 2014)

- Recommended the specification of 2,000 mt annual longline bigeye catch limits for US Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and CNMI
- Recommended specification of 1,000 mt annual bigeye limits that Territories can transfer to US longline vessels for 2015 and 2016
- Recommendation and supporting NEPA analysis currently under review
- US limit is typically reached in October; territory quota typically applied in November and December

# Striped Marlin

- WCPO NP striped marlin evaluated to be overfished by NMFS
- Council required to take action to address its contribution to international overfishing
- WCPFC CMM 10-01 establishes total fishery catch limits for striped marlin based on 80% of 2000-2003 catches
- For Hawaii, this is equivalent to 457 mt, most (> 95%) caught by longline vessels
- Charter vessel fishery catches about 40% of non-longline striped marlin catch
- Longline accountability measure set at 434 mt (95%), after which no more retention
- Troll/handline fishery unlikely to exceed 457 mt

# Other Related Activities

- **SSC Subcommittee review of the FKW boundaries and bycatch proration method**
- **Supporting project to develop a tier system for PBR**
- **Collaboration with HLA, PIFSC and Others to obtain funding to test a catch-triggered deterrence device for mitigating depredation (more later)**
- **Assisted HLA in developing video training on releasing hooked FKWs (more later)**



Questions?