

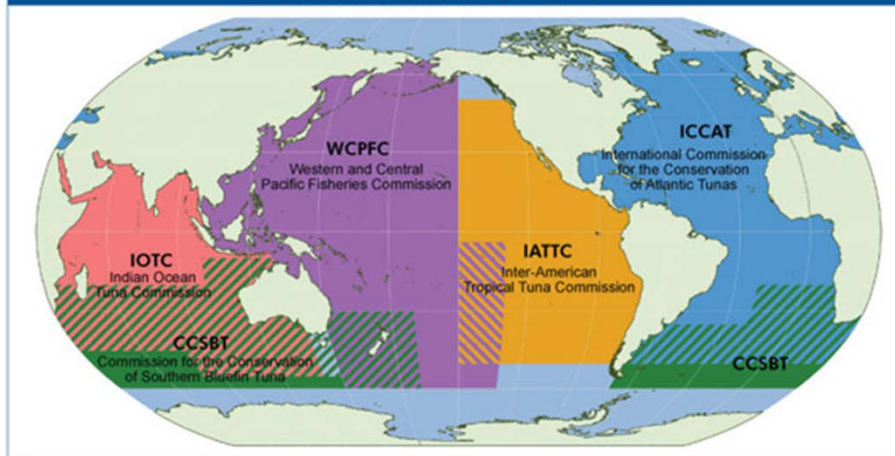
International Negotiations and Appointments

2017 Council Coordination Committee

May 15-18, 2017

Gloucester, MA





The United States is a contracting party to the following RFMOs and Treaties:

Atlantic

- Intl. Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic tunas
- North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
- Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
- Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission

Pacific

- Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
- International Pacific Halibut Commission
- Pacific Salmon Commission
- Central Bearing Sea Pollock Convention
- US/Canada Albacore Treaty
- US/Canada Pacific Hake/Whiting agreement
- South Pacific Tuna Treaty
- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
- South Pacific Regional Fishery Management Organization
- North Pacific Fisheries Commission

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

- 60% of the global tuna catch comes from WCPO
- US has 4 major tuna fisheries in WCPO
 - Distant water purse seine
 - Hawaii longline
 - West Coast albacore troll
 - American Samoa longline
- Existing multiyear WCPFC tropical tuna measure expires in 2017
 - US needs a strong lead negotiator to protect US interests while achieving conservation objectives
 - To support key US fisheries, increases are needed for:
 - US purse seine high seas fishing effort limits
 - Hawaii longline bigeye catch limits

WCPFC CMM 2016-01

Longline Bigeye Tuna Limits

CCM	Catch limit (mt)			
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Japan	19,670	18,265	18,265	16,860
Korea	15,014	13,942	13,942	12,869
Chinese Taipei	11,288	10,481	10,481	9,675
China	9,398	8,224	8,224	7,049
Indonesia	5,889	5,889	5,889	5,889
USA	3,763	3,554	3,544	3,345
NZ, AU, EU, PI	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Small Island Developing States and Territories	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit

- Longline bigeye limits are not based on science

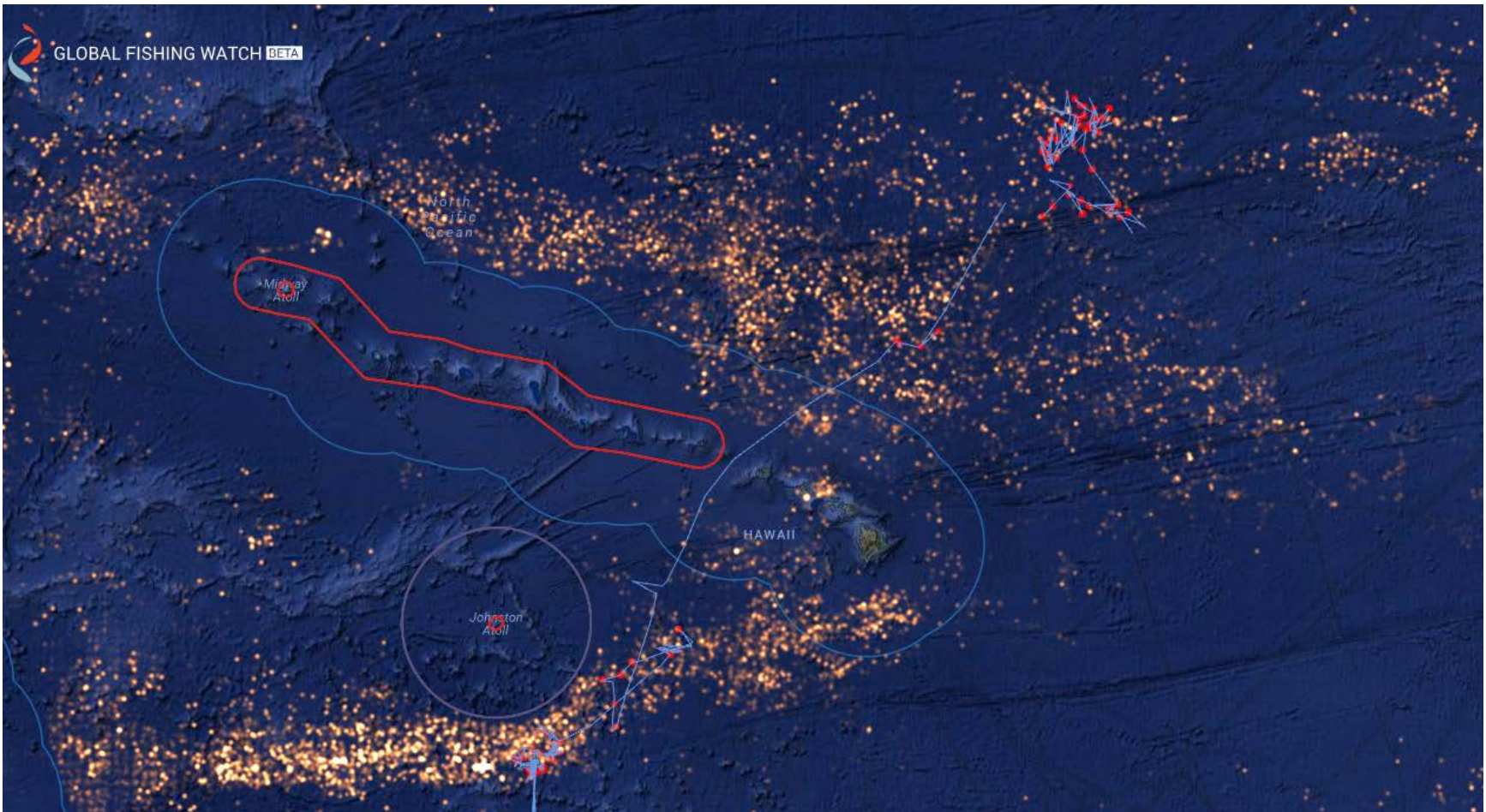
- Limits are based on historical catches from 2001-2004, which don't represent current conditions

- Indonesia was given an arbitrary limit

- Japan only catching 70% of its quota

Weakened US tuna fisheries = Weakened US influence in WCPFC While China Keeps Constructing Vessels

- Previous administration accepted reductions to:
 - US purse seine high seas effort limits
 - Hawaii longline bigeye catch limits
 - Eliminated key fishing grounds in US waters (marine monuments)
- China has increased its fleet and catch in WCPO
 - 2007- 10 purse seine and 100 longline vessels
 - 2016- 20 purse seine and 450 longline vessels
 - Chinese vessels are heavily subsidized
 - Longline vessels fishing the high seas adjacent to US EEZ and competing with US vessels to supply fish to US markets



- Chinese Taipei flagged longline vessel – Chi Hong No889
- Fishing north and south of US EEZ around Hawaii Archipelago and fishing adjacent to US EEZ around Johnston Atoll (December 2016- May 2017)

Source: Global Fishing Watch

(Likely) New United Nations High Seas Convention

- Focused on protection of marine biodiversity occurring in the high seas
 - Led by E-NGO groups calling for high seas MPAs (up to 40% of high seas)
- Currently in beginning stages, with 3 out 4 preparatory meetings completed
- Negotiations on new legally binding convention will likely occur in 2018 or 2019
- What is the US government position on the development of this new international convention and how might it effect US fisheries that operate on the high seas?

International Appointments

consistent with “Ensuring Access to Pacific Fisheries Act of 2016”

North Pacific Fisheries Commission

- 5 commissioners
 - 2 shall be an officer or employee of
 - Dept. of Commerce
 - Dept. of State
 - Coast Guard
 - Chair or designees of the 3 Pacific RFMCs
 - North Pacific
 - Pacific
 - Western Pacific

South Pacific RFMO

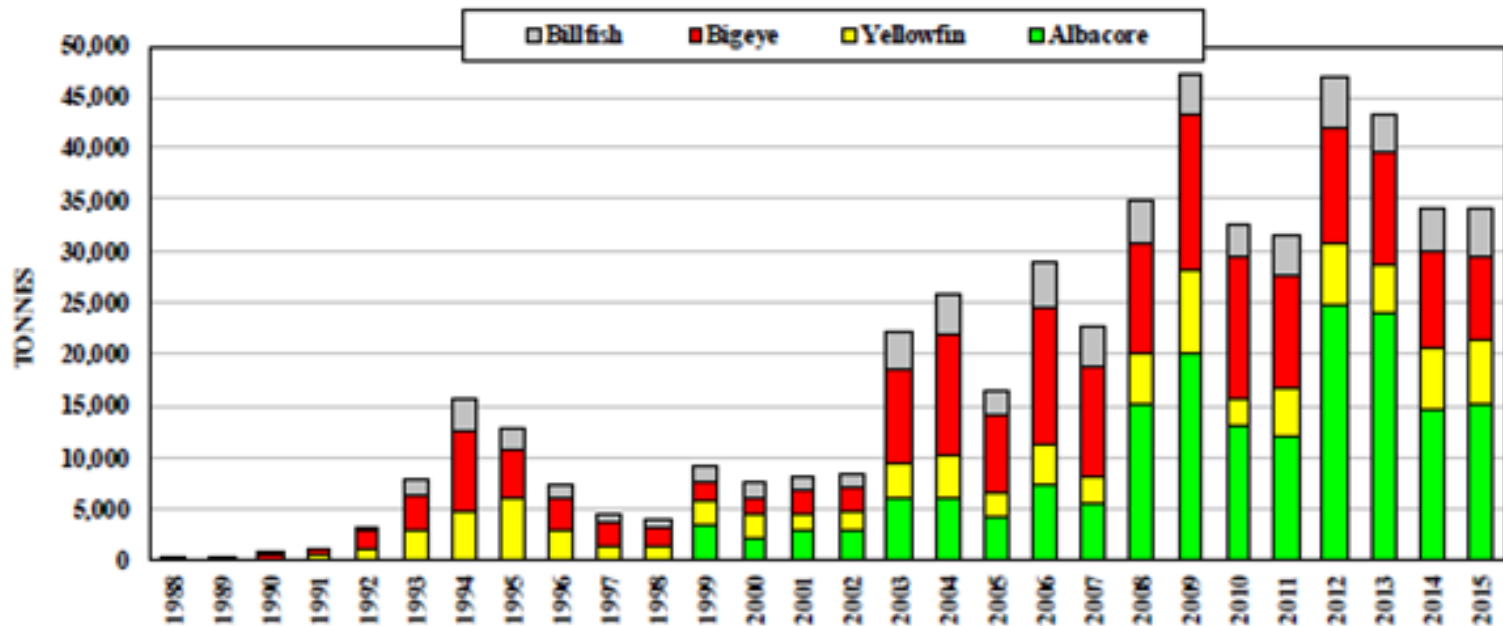
- 3 US commissioners:
 - At least 1 from:
 - Dept. of Commerce
 - Dept. of State or
 - Coast Guard
 - Chairperson or designee of Western Pacific Council

CCC consideration and Action

- 1) CCC should recommend that the United States develop proposals for international management that support US fisheries while achieving international conservation objectives
- 2) CCC should recommend that NMFS and State Department consult with the RFMCs on the status and future development of the UN High Seas Biodiversity Convention

Questions?

The Rise of China in Pacific Tuna Fisheries



Longline catch of Chinese vessels operating in WCPO

