

PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

- **BACKGROUND:**

- A harvest control rule with initial rebuilding targets has been implemented
- Update assessment of Pacific bluefin tuna conducted in 2018
- Projections under Resolution C-14-06 (and C-16-08) predict that, even under a low-recruitment scenario, the stock will rebuild to the interim rebuilding targets.
- A new harvest control rule has been agreed upon by the joint t-RFMO meeting
- Several alternative harvest scenarios have been tested that comply with the proposed harvest control rule
- Data suggest that the two most recent recruitments (2016 and 2017) were large.
- Projections that take the 2016 large recruitment into consideration predict that catch could be increased while still maintaining a high probability of meeting the rebuilding targets.
- Given that the second large recruitment was not used in the projections, these increased catches are probably conservative.
- Catching larger fish increases the total catch in weight for a given level of rebuilding.
- If one of the scenarios is chosen as the basis for future catch limits, the choice should take into account both the desired rebuilding rate and the distribution of catch between small and large bluefin.

PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA

- **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- The current resolution (C-16-08) is adequate and, for this reason, no additional recommendations are made.
- Increased catches based on the scenarios analyzed are possible under the harvest strategy prepared by the joint t-RFMO working group. The choice of catch scenario should take into account the desired rebuilding rate and the distribution of catch between small and large bluefin.