

**Migratory Species Committee
Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab M**

Agenda Item IV: Highly Migratory Species Amendment 13: Three-Year Review of the Individual Bluefin Quota Program that Addresses the Directed Fisheries for Bluefin Tuna, and the Incidental Catch of Bluefin by the Pelagic Longline Fishery

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and possible formal comment

Council input and next steps: Staff from the Office of Highly Migratory Species (HMS) will give a presentation outlining draft Amendment 13 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan. Specifically, the proposed rule would consider several alternatives in managing bluefin tuna. Proposed changes would affect U.S. fishermen who target or incidentally catch Atlantic bluefin tuna. Proposed measures include modifications to individual bluefin quota shares, purse seine category and quota reallocation, angling category, setting a bag limit for the harpoon fishing category, and allowances to vessel to change permit categories under certain conditions. A link to the draft amendment is available to the Committee as “Background” in the Council’s Briefing Book materials (**Tab M No. 4b**). The Committee should review the amendment, ask questions of HMS staff, and consider providing any feedback in a formal letter during the public comment period. Public comment on draft Amendment 13 will be open until July 20, 2021.
