



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802- 4213

OCT 3 6 2006

150409SWR2005SF00321: JAR

Dear U.S. PURSE SEINE TUNA FLEET,

Re: IATTC FISHERY MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR 2006

At the June 2004 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) meeting, the Parties adopted a Resolution for a *Multi-Annual Program on the Conservation of Tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean for 2004, 2005, and 2006* for the conservation and management of yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO). This Resolution offered a choice of a six-week purse seine fishery closure beginning either August 1 or November 20 of each year. In addition, the Resolution also required the closure of each country's longline fishery for bigeye tuna in the EPO if and when the 2006 catch reaches the estimated level of catch in 2001. A copy of the resolution can be found on the IATTC home page at www.IATTC.org. The Department of State (DOS) has approved the IATTC recommendation. This is to notify you of the conservation measures for 2006. For more information see 70 FR 70549 (November 22, 2005).

Purse Seine Fishery. In 2005, comments were received during the proposed rule comment period with respect to the timing of the closure. Most comments received noted that a closure later in the fishing year gave better public notice, minimized the disruption of planned fishery operations, and was in keeping with the historic timing of closures for this purse seine fishery and the ability for the industry to prepare for and plan the closure. The United States has chosen the six-week period beginning November 20, 2006, to close the purse seine fishery for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tunas in the Convention Area. For the purposes of this closure, the Convention Area is defined as the area bounded by the coastline of the Americas, the 40° N parallel, the 150° W meridian, and the 40° S parallel.

Longline Fishery. For 2006, the U.S. longline bigeye fishery was closed July 6, 2006, which National Marine Fisheries Service scientists projected as the date the 150 metric ton limit was to be reached.

I appreciate your cooperation in observing the closure of the purse seine fishery in the Convention Area from November 20 through December 31, 2006, for the purse seine fishery.

Sincerely,

For

Rodney R. McInnis
Regional Administrator

