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**The Pew Charitable Trusts'**  
**Opening Statement to Panel 1**  
**November 2022**

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes this opportunity to comment on important business that Panel 1 must address under this year's agenda. We would like to acknowledge reports that catches of bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack were down substantially in 2021 compared to recent years, and we urge Panel 1 members to ask questions of the scientists and the fishing industry stakeholders to try to ascertain the causes behind this decline. We note that the industry has maintained for many years that reductions on FAD fishing would lead to an increase in catches of yellowfin, so with the three-month FAD closure in effect in 2021, the reduction by nearly 50 thousand tonnes of yellowfin catch is particularly surprising and potentially concerning. In addition to discussing changing catch levels from 2020 to 2021, we urge Panel 1 members to consider the following items this year:

- **Take all necessary steps to ensure that management of fisheries targeting tropical tunas is in place next year** – while Panel 1 negotiations continue to be difficult, all members must take the necessary steps to keep management measures for bigeye, yellowfin, and the use of fish aggregating devices in place in 2023. If consensus cannot be reached on a new set of measures, Panel 1 should roll over the existing, strong Recommendation for another year. Rollover would have the added benefit that stock status should continue to improve and fisheries productivity should continue to increase at current fishing mortality levels.
- **Adopt proposal [PA1-503](#) on western skipjack management objectives** – this proposal from Brazil and South Africa starts an important conversation on management procedure (MP) adoption for the tropical tunas. Unlike fisheries targeting eastern skipjack, experts believe that fisheries targeting western skipjack do not interact substantially with bigeye or yellowfin. Therefore, MP development and adoption could proceed for that stock alone. A team of scientists from Brazil has already completed an interim management strategy evaluation (MSE) for this stock, and the SCRS is ready to begin receiving input from managers. This proposal – a good first step – should be supported by Panel 1 this year.
- **Advance MPs for fisheries targeting the other three tropical tuna stocks** – Panel 1 should request the budgeting of sufficient financial resources for development of a multi-stock MSE and should begin scheduling intersessional meetings to advance the dialogue between its members, the SCRS, and the relevant stakeholders.
- **Begin discussions of an allocation key for the yellowfin total allowable catch** – for several years, there has been an understandable focus on the bigeye recovery efforts, but now Panel 1 must begin addressing the lack of allocation for yellowfin to avoid a return to fishing well above the TAC.