



AMERICAN ALBACORE FISHING ASSOCIATION
www.AmericanAlbacore.com
4364 Bonita Road, #311
Bonita, California 91902
Tel: (619) 641-2307 • Fax: (619) 863-5046 • Toll Free: (866) 851-3918

RECEIVED
RECEIVED

JUL 29 2013
JUL 29 7 31

Mr. Dan Wolford, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

PFMC
PFMC

Re: AAFA Paper on Biological Reference Points and Harvest Control Rules

Dear Chairman Wolford and Council members:

The American Albacore Fishing Association (AAFA) represents U.S. fishermen and vessels responsible for a sizeable portion of the U.S. harvest of albacore from the North and South Pacific. AAFA was the first tuna fishery in the world to be certified sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council.

With continued support for effective international management of Pacific albacore, AAFA support the development of appropriate target and limit biological reference points, as well as efforts to identify scientifically sound harvest control rules.

Accompanying this letter please find a position paper from AAFA on this subject.

Sincerely,

Steve Moore
Board Member
American Albacore Fishing Association



AMERICAN ALBACORE FISHING ASSOCIATION

www.AmericanAlbacore.com

4364 Bonita Rd Box 311

Bonita, CA 91902

P (619) 941 2307 F (619) 863 5046

June 11, 2013

Guillermo A. Compeán
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037-1508, USA
Fax: 585-5467133
info@iattc.org

Re: Position on Harvest Control Rules / BRP's Albacore Tuna

Dear Mr. Compeán,

American Albacore Fishing Association, AAFA was the first tuna fishery in the world to achieve MSC certification. In 2012, AAFA was the first tuna fishery in the world to achieve re-certification. The re-certification requirement is as follows:

AAFA will work actively through the PFMC (and the US delegations to the IATTC and WCPFC to promote the development and determination of appropriate target and limit reference points (or measures or surrogates with similar intent or outcome) for the North Pacific albacore tuna stock. These efforts will be aligned with AAFA's support for appropriate measures to increase compliance with conservation and management measures of the appropriate RFMOs.

American Albacore Fishing Association (AAFA) supports the development of target and limit reference points and is very supportive of the IATTC's scientific staff's initial steps in this direction.

American Albacore Fishing Association (AAFA) supports the establishment of scientifically based harvest control rules for all tunas. AAFA is also supportive of the development of collaborative research programs with the harvesters. AAFA feels collaborative research programs with the harvesters will promote accurate assessments, which are critical for harvest control rules.

While the American Albacore Fishing Association fully and actively supports the IATTC's scientific staff's early development of harvest control rules, we have certain concerns, both IATTC and WCPFC, BRPs and HCRs, when agreed upon, are the same across the entire Pacific. If it is not possible to achieve consensus on the same points and rules, they compliment each other and are not in conflict.

In conclusion, AAFA would like to compliment the IATTC on this progress and we look forward to promoting, through our efforts as members of the U.S. delegation and through the status as an IATTC Observer.

Sincerely,



Natalie Webster
Director of Operations
American Albacore Fishing Association

Cc: Ed Stockwell - U.S. Commissioner
Don Hansen - U.S. Commissioner
Rod McInnis - U.S. Commissioner
Bill Fox - U.S. Commissioner
Dave Hogan - U.S. Department of State