HIGHERLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
NORTH PACIFIC ALABCORE TUNA FISHERIES ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) supports the Economic Analysis produced by Lisa Wise Consulting (LWC). The HMSAS recognizes that LWC had limited time and funding to do a complete, detailed, and thorough report. The HMSAS recognizes this analysis as a first step in defining a number of aspects of the fishery. The HMSAS encourages the Council to support further building on this analysis by supporting future funding and informational/technical support.

The HMSAS feels the final paragraph on Page 47 of the report encompasses the most important findings of this report and reads as follows:

“The U.S. was once a world leader in tuna landings and processing. Due to prohibitions in Mexican waters, the dolphin bycatch movement, mercury scares, loss of U.S. canneries, reliance on foreign markets, competition from foreign fleets with little or no regulatory oversight and lower operating costs, fishermen expressed the belief that the U.S. West Coast albacore fishery is already very effectively regulated. Rising costs in fuel and labor are another constraining factor. While U.S. albacore landings have remained constant, other nation’s percentages have grown (particularly Japan). This is believed to be hard evidence that the fishery could be in jeopardy if effort or catch restrictions were imposed. . .”

The HMSAS concurs that the next segment of the final paragraph is most important in summing up the analysis:

“. . . The commercial albacore industry participants interviewed for this report acknowledge that biological factors are important in setting policy but should not be relied on solely, that market and economic factors should be included in policy decision making. It is hoped that through this work the dialogue between regulators and industry participants is improved and the significance of non biological influences is taken into greater account as regulators set domestic policy and comply with international treaties.”

PFMC
06/08/11