

U.S.-CANADA ALBACORE TREATY UPDATE

As reported at the March 2013 Council meeting, the U.S. and Canada have been in negotiations over a fishing regime, as described in Annex C of the [U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty](#), governing reciprocal access to each country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by albacore vessels from the other country for the 2013 fishing season. At a meeting between the US and Canada in Portland, Oregon, April 16-17, 2013, the two parties successfully concluded an agreement in principle on the fishing regime for 2013. Attachment 1 is a summary report by Council staff attending the meeting.

The key elements of the agreement are as follows:

- Term of Regime: 2013 only.
- Level of Participation: 45 Canadian vessels allowed in the U.S. EEZ, the number of U.S. vessels allowed in the Canadian EEZ is not limited.
- Length of season: June 15-September 15 for Canadian vessels, June 15-October 31 for U.S. vessels.
- Capacity Issues: The first 45 vessels on the ranked list of eligible vessels put forward by Canada in May 2012 may fish in the U.S. EEZ; vessel replacement requests were subject to approval by an intergovernmental review body through June 1, 2013.
- Code of Conduct/Etiquette: Fishing industry organizations will address the issue of vessel behavior and code of conduct on the fishing grounds. The issue is referred to in the inter-governmental correspondence.
- International Cooperation and Management. Catch attribution to be described in exchange of notes along the lines as the previous negotiation but for an indefinite term. A jointly-funded research mechanism organized by fishing industry organizations is referred to in the inter-governmental correspondence.

The US also made it clear, that 2013 represents the beginning of a phase-out period for reciprocal access. The details of the phase-out, such as its duration and the number of vessels allowed access in each step of the phase-out, will be the subject of a future negotiation.

Although the 2013 fishing regime will already be in place by the onset of the June Council meeting, the Council may wish to comment on elements of any future regime including the proposed phase-out of reciprocal access.

Council Action:

Adopt, as Necessary, Recommendations for the Fishery Regime Pursuant to the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 1: Summary of April 16-17, 2013, Meeting Between the U.S. and Canada to Discuss Albacore Treaty Issues (Prepared by Council Staff).

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kit Dahl
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt, as Necessary, Recommendations for the Fishery Regime Pursuant to the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty

PFMC
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