

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON U.S. - CANADA
ALBACORE TREATY UPDATE

The majority of the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) requests that the Council write a letter to the U.S. Department of State asking for a two to three year phase-out of the fishing regime under the U.S./Canada Albacore Treaty beginning in 2014.

This request would be in line with the U.S. Department of State informing the Canadian head of delegation at the May bilateral meeting in Portland, Oregon, that after the 2013 regime a phase-out would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

The HMSAS notes the increased benefits to U.S. fishermen in increased per-vessel catches in 2012, better access to fishing grounds by smaller coastal vessels, as well as increased economic benefits to U.S. ports and businesses, because of the increased catches by U.S. vessels delivered in U.S. ports.

There was discussion on other ways to make an equitable future agreement involving reciprocal catches in each other's Exclusive Economic Zones instead of a complete phase-out of the regime. This approach could preserve future U.S. access to Canadian waters. The albacore harvesting sector representatives of the HMSAS oppose any reciprocal fishing.

PFMC
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