

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT

This agenda item covers two general topics: status of the Canada-United States Pacific Albacore Tuna Treaty and the upcoming Eighth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC8), December 5-9, 2011.

Canada-United States Pacific Albacore Tuna Treaty

At the September 2011 meeting the Council discussed the status of this treaty but was not in a position to make any recommendations since this topic had not been publicly noticed in the meeting agenda. Attachment 1 is the treaty text and annex amendments agreed to in 2009. The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel raised the question of whether the Council should make a recommendation on treaty termination. The treaty stipulates that the treaty may terminate upon written notice from either party, on December 31 of the calendar year following the date of such notice. Annex B stipulates the U.S. ports where Canadian vessels may land catch (Astoria, Bellingham, Coos Bay, Eureka, Newport, and Westport) and Canadian ports where U.S. vessels may land catch. Annex C limits the number of Canadian vessels fishing for albacore in U.S. waters to 110 annually during a June 15-October 31 fishing season. U.S. vessels may fish in Canadian waters with the “number of vessels reflective of historical levels.”

A Data Working Group (DWG) meeting is scheduled for October 19 with the objective “to evaluate and resolve data gaps for both countries in how each collects and reports their fisheries data at the annual data consultations. The outcomes of the DWG effort should be such that members of both delegations are completely informed and any concerns regarding data transparency are removed” (DWG Terms of Reference). DWG outcomes will be reported to the Council by NMFS. U.S. and Canadian delegations are scheduled to meet November 30-December 1, 2011, to discuss the treaty.

Attachment 2 presents PacFIN data on Canadian and U.S. albacore landings, 2001-2010.

WCPFC8

The premier issue for the WCPFC this year is adoption of a replacement measure for Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2008-01, CMM for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, which is a 3-year measure, 2009-2011. Attachment 3 is a discussion paper from the WCPFC Chairman about a replacement measure for 2008-01. Attachment 4 is a letter from Japan commenting on this paper.

The WCPFC Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) met September 28 to October 4, 2011. The principal mission of the TCC is to review the Commission’s monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) measures such as the Regional Observer Program, Vessel Monitoring System, and Record of Fishing Vessels. The TCC also makes recommendations on adding / removing vessels from the Commission’s IUU vessel list and on the sufficiency of applications for Cooperating Nonmember status. In addition to these topics the annual TCC meeting has

developed into a preview of many of the issues to be discussed at the Regular Session. Pertinent outcomes of the TCC meeting will be reported to the Council as available.

In addition to adoption of a replacement measure for the management of tropical tunas proposals to address the following issues are likely to be discussed at WCPFC8:

- Purse seine setting on whale sharks and cetaceans
- Vessel chartering arrangements
- Catch documentation
- Port state measures
- Compliance monitoring scheme
- Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) entry and exit notification scheme
- Northern Committee work plan for development of precautionary management framework for North Pacific albacore

Those interested in more information on these issues can check the WCPFC website for delegation papers on these topics (<http://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/2011/8th-regular-session-commission>).

Council Action:

- 1. Consider a Recommendation on the status of the Canada-U.S. Albacore Treaty.**
- 2. Make Recommendations to the U.S. Delegation to the Eighth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.1.a, Attachment 1: Canada-U.S. Treaty on Pacific Albacore Tuna Vessels and Port Privileges, Including Annex Amendments.
2. Agenda Item I.1.a, Attachment 2: Canadian Albacore Landings at Selected U.S. West Coast Ports.
3. Agenda Item I.1.a, Attachment 3: WCPFC Circular 2011-24, Discussion of a Possible Way Forward in the Development of a Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye, Yellowfin, and Skipjack Tuna in the WCPFC Convention Area.
4. Agenda Item I.1.a, Attachment 4: WCPFC-TCC7-2011-DP/17, Japan's Comments on WCPFC Circular 2011-24.
5. Agenda Item I.1.c, Public Comment: Letter from the Western Fishboat Owners Association.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kit Dahl
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider a Recommendation on the status of the Canada-U.S. Albacore Treaty; Make Recommendations to the U.S. Delegation to the Eighth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

PFMC 10/13/11