

## **Summary**

### **U.S.-Canada Annual Albacore Treaty Meeting**

#### **April 26-27, 2005**

#### **Long Beach, California**

Under the Treaty, albacore fishing vessels of Canada and the United States who annually register to do so are permitted to fish in each others' EEZ during the summer albacore season. The Treaty was amended in 2004 to require: (1) limits on the number of vessels allowed to fish in the other country's zone that will reduce the total number of vessels fishing in each zone over a three year period; (2) mechanisms to monitor vessel movements between zones; (3) vessel marking and identification requirements to facilitate enforcement; (4) regularly scheduled exchange of scientific and fishery information; (5) annual Treaty consultations.

On April 28, 2005, representatives of the governments of Canada and the United States met to review the 2004 fishing season and to plan for the 2005 fishing season, which will begin on June 1<sup>st</sup>. While some problems in the fishing notification system and the use of U.S. ports by Canadian vessels were identified in the 2004 fishery, both countries agreed that the first season was a success. Changes to the system in 2005 include: (1) the ShipCom hail-in, hail-out requirement will be the official basis for counting fishing months for both countries; (2) in order to comply with new Trade Act provisions, U.S. processors may act as the international carrier for purposes of obtaining a bond to cover any Canadian vessels that wish to offload at approved U.S. ports; (3) vessels months available to Canadian vessels that fish in the U.S. EEZ will decline to a total of 601 for the 2005 season, down from the 680 vessel months allocated for the 2004 season; (4) vessel months for U.S. vessels will remain 680 due to carryover of unused vessel months from the 2004 season. NMFS is preparing a revised user guide for the 2005 season.