

DRAFT INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
RESOLUTION ON ALBACORE TUNA

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Department of State jointly developed a resolution to be presented by the U.S. delegation to the June 20-24, 2005, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Resolution (IATTC) meeting addressing concern over high levels of fishing effort directed at albacore tuna. The resolution calls upon Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Parties, fishing entities and regional economic integration organizations to take action so that the level of fishing effort by vessels targeting North Pacific albacore in waters under their jurisdiction or operating under their jurisdiction on the high seas is not increased. Attachment 1 provides the full text of the resolution.

At their April 21, 2005, meeting the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) discussed this resolution and formulated several recommendations to be included in a fast-track letter from the Council to Mr. Rod McInnis describing Council concerns related to this matter. Pages 8-9 in Attachment 2 summarizes HMSAS discussion on the resolution. The fast-track letter was forwarded to Mr. McInnis on May 10 in order that it could be considered at the fourth meeting of the General Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of the IATTC (see Attachment 3), held on May 12 in Long Beach, California.

As reflected by the potential effects of this resolution, the Council has increasing interest in decisions taken at the level of regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs) such as the IATTC. In this regard, and in response from a request by the Council at their April 2005 meeting, a letter was sent to Mr. Stetson Tinkham, the Department of State representative on the Council, asking for increased participation in Council activities. Attachment 4 reproduces the letter.

Council Task: Council Discussion.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 1: Draft Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Resolution on Albacore Tuna.
2. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 2: Meeting Summary of the April 21, 2005, HMS Advisory Subpanel Meeting.
3. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 3: Letter from Donald Hansen to Rodney McInnis discussing HMS matters of interest to the Council.
4. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 4: Letter from Donald Hansen to Stetson Tinkham requesting increased Department of State participation at Council meeting with respect to HMS matters.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Discussion

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