
**COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL
PACIFIC OCEAN**

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WCPFC-2005/WPXX
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Draft Resolution on North Pacific Albacore

Prepared by the United States

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPF Commission), having certain responsibilities and functions pursuant to the Convention of the same name (WCPF Convention) with respect to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean;

Observing that the best scientific evidence on the status of North Pacific albacore, as reported by the 19th North Pacific Albacore Workshop, held in 2004, and the 5th Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean, in March 2005, indicates that the current fishing mortality rate appears to be high relative to commonly used reference points, which is a cause for concern regarding the future status of the stock;

Recognizing that North Pacific albacore migrate between the WCPF Convention Area and the Antigua Convention Area in the eastern Pacific Ocean and that some WCPF Commission members' fisheries for North Pacific albacore straddle these two areas;

Further recognizing that the IATTC resolved at its 73rd meeting, in June 2005, that the total level of fishing effort for North Pacific albacore in the eastern Pacific Ocean not be increased beyond then-current levels;

Aware that the IATTC resolved that all of its members and cooperating parties should call upon the members of the WCPF Commission to consider, at their earliest opportunity, taking such action as may be necessary to ensure the effective conservation and management of North Pacific albacore in the WCPF Convention Area, including, as necessary, measures to reduce fishing effort to levels commensurate with the long-term sustainability of the resource;

Recalling that the IATTC has requested the WCPF Commission to take measures for North Pacific albacore similar to those that the IATTC has taken;

Acknowledging the importance of cooperating and consulting with the IATTC in order to achieve a consistent set of conservation and management measures for fish stocks that occur in the convention areas of both organizations and for areas of overlap between the two conventions, as provided for in Article 22(4) of the WCPF Convention and Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention;

[*Taking into consideration* the recommendations of the Northern Committee with respect to North Pacific albacore, which ...;]

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The WCPF Commission therefore resolves that:

1. The total level of fishing effort for North Pacific albacore in the WCPF Convention Area not be increased beyond current levels.
2. The WCPF Commission members shall take necessary measures to ensure that the level of fishing effort by their vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore in the WCPF Convention Area is not increased beyond current levels.
3. All WCPF Commission members shall report to the WCPFC Commission on a semi-annual basis: (1) all catches of albacore north of the equator and (2) all fishing effort north of the equator in fisheries directed at albacore. The reports for both catch and fishing effort shall be made by gear type and within and outside the WCPF Convention Area. Catches shall be reported in terms of weight. Fishing effort shall be reported in terms of the most relevant measures for a given gear type, including at a minimum for all gear types, the number of vessel-days fished. The reports for the first half of each calendar year shall be submitted no later than the following December 31 and reports for the second half of the year shall be submitted no later than the following June 30.
4. The Executive Director shall, through the Northern Committee and in coordination with the Scientific Committee and other scientific bodies conducting scientific reviews of this stock, monitor the status of North Pacific albacore and fisheries that harvest the stock, and at the third session of the WCPF Commission, in 2006, report on the status of and fisheries for the stock and as necessary, present any further recommendations of the Northern Committee for the conservation and management of the stock.
5. The Executive Director shall communicate this resolution to the IATTC and request that the two commissions engage in consultations with a view to reaching agreement on a consistent set of conservation and management measures for North Pacific albacore, and specifically, to propose that both commissions adopt as soon as practicable uniform conservation and management measures and any reporting or other measures needed to ensure compliance with agreed measures.

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