

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
ALBACORE MANAGEMENT

At the March Council meeting, the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) requested the final resolution of this agenda item be reached via the fast-track process after the Team's meeting on May 8-9, 2006. The HMSMT did not discuss albacore management issues at our meeting in March, but we will discuss the following albacore management issues in May:

1. Characterization of recent and historical U.S. fishing effort in response to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) resolutions.
2. Renegotiation of the U.S./Canada albacore treaty (and review of albacore landings data for U.S. and Canadian vessels).
3. Recreational bag limits for albacore.
4. Reconsideration of the current control date for highly migratory fisheries, such as albacore troll.

Our original plan was to discuss these items in May and provide a report to the Council in June, since the IATTC meeting is scheduled to begin on June 22, 2006. However, the National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Region requested that we prepare a report on these issues that could be circulated through the Council family via e-mail prior to the June meeting (e.g., by May 19). However, the HMSMT notes that the Council may wish to provide an opportunity for review and comment on the Team's report by the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel; this could also be done via e-mail (e.g., between May 19 and May 26). The Council could then reach final resolution via e-mail by May 31.

PFMC
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