

March 19, 2006

Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97720-1384

Attn: Don McIssac, Executive Director

Dear Mr. McIssac:

In reference to the input request stated in the section "Limited Entry: no longer avoidable ..." in the Western Fishboat Owners Association newsletter dated March 15, 2006, I would like to say that our West Coast fishing fleet has little effect on the tuna catch compared to the rest of the world. However, my fear is that we will be paying a disproportionate share of the sustainability of tuna.

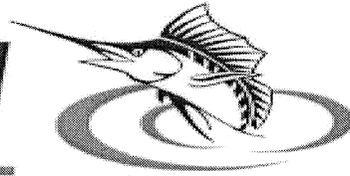
My greatest fear is that the decision will be made to base future catch on past landings. This has the same effect as "taking from the poor and giving to the rich." Those of us that recently purchased boats capable of catching tuna, experienced mechanical problems, were unable to travel extensive miles off shore, had an "off season" due to ocean currents and weather, and are being forced out of the salmon troll fisheries, will be the members to take it on the chin.

I believe the fairest method would be to restrict new applications for PHMS permits.

Gene Fisher

Gene Fisher

West Bay FISHERIES, INC.



49 Pier 2, Port of Astoria, Astoria, OR 97103
(503) 325-6636 fax (503) 325-3373

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MAR 22 2006

PFMC

Dear Council Members:

I am writing this letter to urge you to support the renewal of the US/Canadian Albacore treaty with reciprocal landing privileges.

My name is Reid McIntyre with West Bay Fisheries in Astoria, Oregon. In 2005 West Bay unloaded Albacore from both US and Canadian vessels. We unloaded product for Canadian, US, and New Zealand companies. We unloaded Albacore for two different Canadian companies which purchased high quality blast/bled albacore from both US and Canadian vessels. One of the Canadian companies we unloaded for, purchased a large volume of Albacore. Of that volume, here is the number of deliveries and the percentage of where they purchased it from:

148 deliveries for 45% of their total Albacore purchased. Purchased from US vessels delivering into the US.

28 deliveries for 15% of their total Albacore purchased. Purchased from Canadian vessels delivering into the US.

18 deliveries for 27% of their total Albacore purchased. Purchased from US vessels delivering into Canada.

45 deliveries for 13 % of their total Albacore purchased. Purchased from Canadian vessels delivering into Canada.

I have been involved in unloading Albacore in the Astoria area for about the last 10 years. During that time both the American and Canadian vessels have been instrumental in boosting the local economy in Astoria. The Canadian fishermen, just like the American fishermen, come in to deliver their catch and spend money to get ready for their next trip. This influx of foreign money into our local coastal economies is beneficial to everyone involved. If Canadians are not allowed to deliver their catch into the US, their costs go way up by having to run their fish all the way back to Canada. There is also lost fishing time on these migratory fish. If the Americans can not deliver their fish into Canada, they do not get the high Canadian prices that they are receiving for delivering their fish. If the Canadians are not allowed to deliver into the US, the unloading stations, truckers, employees, restaurants, motels, grocery stores, marine stores, rental car companies,

mechanics, marinas, welders, fuel companies and other various entities lose out. Our coastal economies rely on this influx of foreign revenue provided by the Canadian Albacore fleet.

The Canadian fleet that can fish in US waters has been reduced to manageable levels in recent years to ensure that there is not over fishing in our waters. I do not see that being an issue for dissolving the treaty. The Canadian fleet and the Canadian buyers have been the catalysts for producing and buying the highest quality Albacore. The Americans have learned from this and have followed their lead to produce this quality of Albacore and reap the high prices. A majority of the Albacore fleet has changed over from producing the tradition cannery grade quality, to producing the sashimi grade quality of Albacore. The majority of this fish is sent to Canada. I believe the Canadians have helped the American fishermen, and the Canadians and Americans fish well together in each others waters.

I guess I may be missing the boat, but I do not see any positive reason for dissolving the US/Canadian treaty that has been in place since 1981. I think if you look at the big picture, this has been a win win situation for both countries for 24 years, and it will continue to be for years to come.

For these reasons, please renew the US/Canadian treaty with reciprocal landing privileges.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reid McIntyre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Reid McIntyre
West Bay Fisheries

Subject: Albacore Control Date

From: "Oregon Coast Maritime Services" <ocms@presys.com>

Date: Mon, 27 Mar 2006 17:12:55 -0800

To: <Kit.Dahl@noaa.gov>

Dear Mr. Dahl,

I'd appreciate it if you would make this available to your associates on the HMSAS and any others who may be interested. I'd also appreciate a response from you. I understand the HMSAS is seeking clarification on whether the Mar 9, 2000 control date is still legally viable or should be updated. If the council truly wants to reduce capacity in the albacore fishery & bring it back to historical levels I can't imagine using a date "post" the present one. If anything it should really be Mar 9, 1997 as after our banner season of 96' the effort increase was dramatic. That is when this fishery totally changed from what it had been for years both offshore & nearshore. Now we have Canadians down here in force, impacting our markets & using our facilities to the disadvantage of the US fishermen. I personally know fishermen who were unable to sell their catch as Canadian boats off loading ahead of them filled the fishbuyers order. Same thing with dock space-US guys unable to find space next to docks & having to "raft" up with no shore power. Going to the gear store & some Canadian just bought the last of the jigs etc. If you review records I'm sure you'll see very few Canadian boats here prior to 96' & things were cool.

Back to the "cut-off" date. After the 96' season there was a huge influx of US boats from other fisheries, predominately shrimpers & draggers. The boats in these fisheries will be participating in the 06' fishery, especially the shrimpers as they can't make a dime now with the influx of cheap Canadian shrimp & sky high fuel prices. They also are large boats that have a great hold capacity for the most part. I **STRONGLY** urge the HMSAS to keep the March 9, 2000

control date or even set it back further, but PLEASE don't advance it unless your desire is to increase harvest capacity. I might also note that many times I've heard fishermen who have setup there boats for albacore mention and this is pretty close to a quote " There's no way the council will use the Mar 9, 2000 date as to many of us have geared up after that date. They just can't do that". Yes they were aware of the control, but setup anyway in anticipation of what appears to be happening right now and looks like they may be "rewarded" for ignoring the date set by the council. I might also mention I sold a boat that I owned because it hadn't fished priot to the Mar 9, 2000 date (even though I had for years) and purchased one that had, just for that reason and now I just can't beleive I may have went thru all of that hassle and financial loss for nothing trying to be in harmony with the law!! I urge the council to protect the albacore & reduce the harvest capacity by maintaining the present control date as a minimum or better yet going to a Mar 9, 1997 date to truly reflect the historical fishery for limiting entry & have the will & courage to refrain from bending to political influence/pressure.

**Sincerely, Ron Sloan
Owner/Captain F/V Wet & Wild**

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Version: 7.1.385 / Virus Database: 268.3.1/292 - Release Date: 3/24/2006

	Content-Description: "AVG certification"
Part 1.2	Content-Type: text/plain
	Content-Encoding: quoted-printable

Subject: West Coast Albacore Limited Entry
From: Beatrix Salmon <sunnyb@centurytel.net>
Date: Tue, 28 Mar 2006 14:02:05 -0800
To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

PFMC Council Members,

My name is Mike Shedore. I am a commercial albacore/salmon fisherman. I currently own a combination bait/jig albacore vessel, F/V Cinda S and have been an owner/operator and participant in the hook and line (troll) albacore fishery in both the North and South Pacific fisheries since 1977. I also own and operate a small custom canned tuna business.

During the course of my career in this fishery, I have been a chartered research vessel by NMFS three different times, most recently in the summer of 2005 where a tagging project was completed involving the surgical implant of electronic tracking tags in albacore tuna.

I am past vice president of WFOA and was a director in the Newport, Oregon district for many years. Currently, I am a director in an organization (Northwest Albacore Producers Association) made up of albacore vessels in all three coastal states.

I urge the council to place the issue of limited entry in the West Coast Albacore Fishery on the agenda for consideration.

The time to do this is now. This fishery is probably the LAST OPEN ACCESS FISHERY anywhere in the country, and allowing this open entry to continue unchecked is not defensible. It is obvious to those of us with long time participation and considerable economic investment in this fishery, that there has and continues to be increased speculative entry into this fishery, and this fact alone compromises the future viability and stability of the coastal albacore fishery.

There were 1,157 albacore logbooks submitted to NMFS for the coastal albacore season in 2005. Each logbook represents an individual vessel. This number is outrageous and easily could double, if there were movements of vessels from closed fisheries in any part of the country into the West Coast albacore fishery. The continued position of allowing open entry into the West Coast albacore fishery threatens the economic viability, status of the resource, and the safety from fleet crowding to both long time commercial and recreational interests coastwide.

I believe that the Council at this time is obligated to address this issue and control effort potential. We are part of the negotiations on an international level with various entities that represent all the participants in the North Pacific albacore fishery. The IATTC and WCPFC have passed resolutions that have been agreed to by the various countries that effort control must be addressed. For the record, the Hawaiian based tuna fishery is in fact limited access. With the potential somewhere down the line for quota based management, we must get our fishery in order now.

There is strong support for maintaining the March 9, 2000 control date. I urge you to do so.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mike Shedore
Northwest Albacore Producers Association
F/V Cinda S
P.O. Box 146
Astoria, Oregon 97103
503 440 7499
360 642 2977

email sunnyb@centurytel.net