

THE HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY PANEL (HMSAS) REPORT ON
ALBACORE MANAGEMENT

U.S. / Canada Albacore Treaty: The HMSAS recommends no action at this time. The treaty is in the third year of reduction and will default to a 75% level of effort if no agreement is reached. Further meetings are scheduled for later this year between the U.S. and Canada.

The HMSAS notes that it does not appear that albacore fishing mortality is increasing and there is uncertainty about what is meant by “not increase current effort.” Therefore, the HMSAS does not support initiating a limited entry program at this time. However, the HMSAS requests that the Highly Migratory Species Management Team look at quantifying particular factors (listed below) that will affect the decision making process and requests that a subcommittee composed of HMSAS, NMFS staff, and others engaged in this exercise. The HMSAS recommends a progress report be prepared for the September Council meeting.

Factors to consider:

- Vessel size and historical landing data
- Duration of participation
- Factors that affect landings such as albacore availability, market prices, individual vessel size
- Duration of participation by vessel size
- Recreational catch history
- Canadian removals and deliveries
- Regulatory issues
- Environmental effects on albacore availability
- Analyze degree of dependence on albacore fishery

PFMC
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