

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON ALBACORE MANAGEMENT

For the Council's information, the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) assembled all of the available U.S. West Coast albacore catch and effort data for the past 20 years (Attachment 1), by fishery. Effort estimates were not available for all West Coast fisheries and, while California maintains historical sport charter data going back to 1936, Oregon and Washington sport charter data are sparse prior to 1998, and private recreational data is not consistently available across all three states. However, at this point, the data in Attachment 1 represent the Team's best estimate of albacore catch and effort. Additionally, Canadian catch and effort data, including catch location, for 1995 through 2005 is presented in Attachment 2.

The Team notes that the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) identified that the meaning of the word 'current' in their resolution [The IATTC resolves that fishing effort "...not be increased beyond current levels."] needs to be clarified. However, in the absence of this clarification, the IATTC is planning to provide a progress report at their June meeting on how the respective nations are complying (or not complying) with the albacore resolution.

In terms of describing "current effort levels," the Team has had some discussion relative to which years would be appropriate. One concern that was expressed in the case of bigeye tuna overfishing was that only one year (2001) was chosen and the Team believes that a series of years should be considered to account for catch and effort variance. Also, catch and effort data for 2005 has some preliminary estimates and may not yet be reliable.

Since the U.S. West Coast albacore fisheries are not limited, and the IATTC resolution was in response to "the best scientific evidence," which "indicates that the species is either fully exploited, or may be experiencing fishing mortality above levels that are sustainable in the long term, and...that the recent stock assessment...suggests a need for management measures to avoid increases in fishing mortality..." the HMSMT recommends using catch (rather than effort) data for the IATTC progress report. From a stock status point of view, fishing mortality is what needs to be controlled and/or reduced (i.e., defining the amount of the pie that can be harvested); whereas, the number of harvesters (i.e., who gets to share the pie) is relative to the economic viability of the fishery. Economic viability of the fishery, of course, is very important; however, the amount of albacore harvested is more important for stock sustainability purposes than the number of fishery participants.

As an example, for the years 2001-2004, the average annual U.S. catch of albacore (summed over all fisheries) was 16,132 mt, with 3,328 mt being taken west of 150°W. longitude, which is the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission's (WCPFC) region, and 12,804 mt taken east of 150°W. longitude, which is the IATTC region. The HMSMT notes that, if this example (2001-04) were chosen to represent "current" levels, an entirely different set of years and/or qualifying criteria could be selected to determine participation in a future limited entry program (should one be developed and implemented).

HMSMT Recommendations:

1. Decide whether to provide guidance to the National Marine Fisheries Service and the State Department on defining “current” in IATTC resolution, or wait to see what IATTC comes up with at their June meeting (and respond in September)
2. If the Council decides to provide guidance to the IATTC, then the HMSMT recommends addressing the following issues:
 - a. Whether to use a series of years, rather than one year to define “current”
 - b. Whether to use catch, rather than effort data
3. Provide guidance to the HMSMT on whether to develop alternatives to address the IATTC and WCPFC resolutions
 - a. Whether to move forward with plan amendment for limited entry program
 - b. Whether to set a new control date

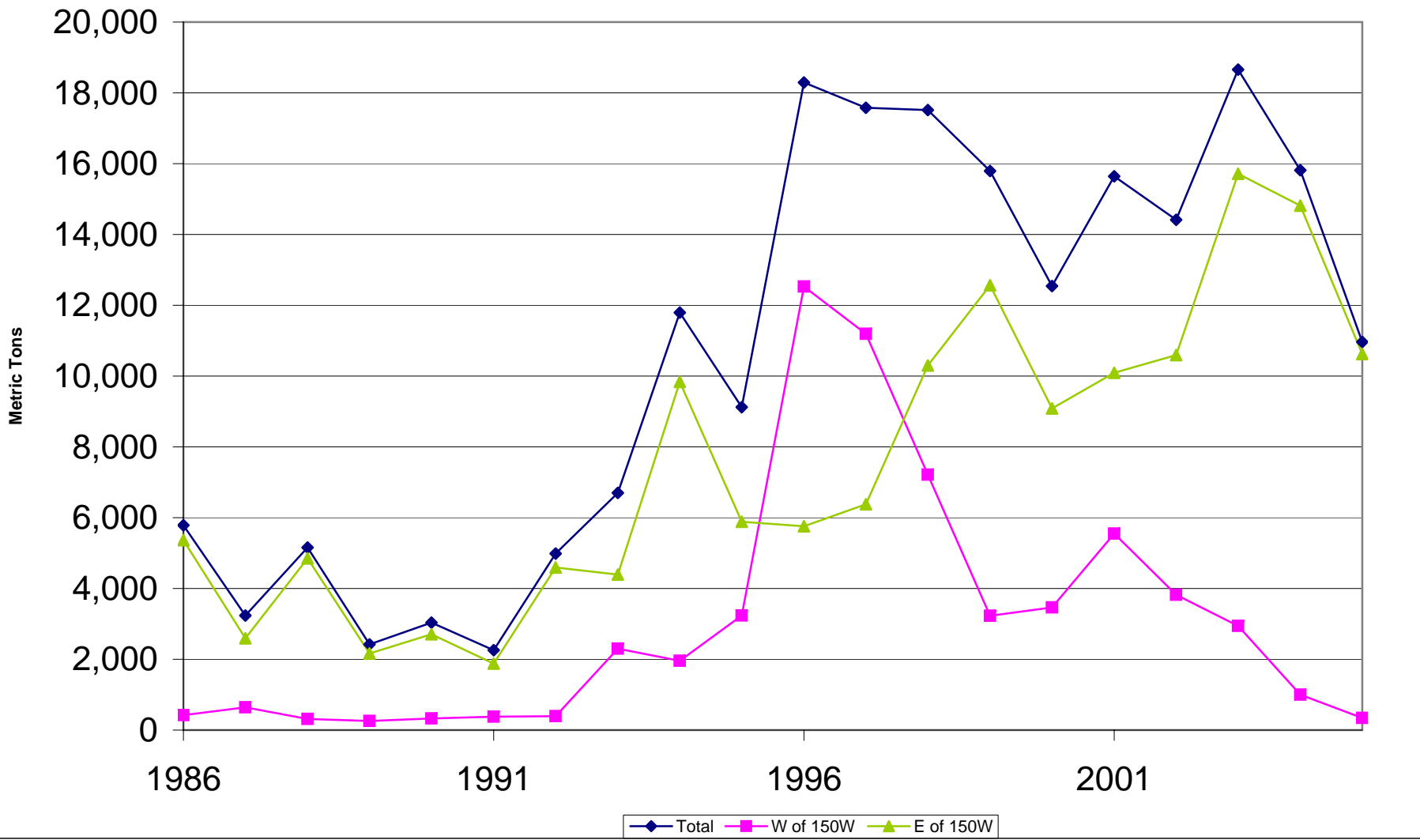
U.S. Catch and Effort Data for North Pacific Albacore

YEAR	SURFACE HOOK & LINE			SPORT Charter		SPORT Private (EEZ)	LONGLINE			OTHER BAIT-BOAT (EEZ)	GILLNET (EEZ)			PURSE SEINE (EEZ)		OTHER (EEZ)	TOTAL	West of 150W	East of 150 W
	Catch (mt)	Effort (days)	# Vessels	Catch (mt)	Effort (days)	Catch (mt)	Catch (mt)	Effort (hooks)	# Vessels	Catch (mt)	Catch (mt)	Effort (days)	# Vessels	Catch (mt)	# Vessels	Catch (mt)	Catch (mt)	Catch (mt)	Catch (mt)
1986	4,708	16,277	462	330	957	315	0	0	39	432	3	10,936	124	15	0	5,787	420	5,368	
1987	2,766	14,732	518	115	452	39	150		37	158	5	8,685	111	5	0	3,233	640	2,593	
1988	4,212	13,880	547	5	60	10	308		50	598	15	6,185	94	4	10	5,158	311	4,848	
1989	1,860	11,482	346	198	853	31	249		88	54	4	5,950	66	3	23	2,420	256	2,163	
1990	2,603	9,538	371	38	455	0	177	970,394	138	115	29	4,493	58	71	7	4	3,037	331	2,706
1991	1,845	9,420	179	10	99	0	313	11,441,302	144	0	17	4,713	61	0	0	71	2,256	378	1,878
1992	4,572	17,032	603	4	14	0	337	10,697,683	125	0	0	4,049	50	0	0	72	4,984	390	4,594
1993	6,254	21,415	518	4	12	0	440	12,038,774	129	0	0	5,484	66	4	0	6,698	2,303	4,396	
1994	10,978	26,072	686	1	10	19	546	10,859,494	156	0	38	4,627	47	1	213	11,795	1,959	9,836	
1995	8,045	25,650	464	14	56	46	883	13,039,899	132	80	52	3,773	68	0	0	1	9,121	3,236	5,886
1996	16,938	32,717	640	32	174	14	1,187	13,797,215	118	24	83	3,627	67	11	1	0	18,289	12,531	5,759
1997	14,252	45,572	1,121	717	2,191	818	1,652	14,827,349	130	73	60	3,019	61	2	5	1	17,575	11,194	6,382
1998	14,410	21,445	755	1,063	3,040	727	1,120	16,647,964	147	79	80	2,822	72	33	15	2	17,514	7,217	10,298
1999	10,060	34,643	705	2,662	4,398	1,274	1,540	18,332,090	130	60	149	356	64	48	5	1	15,794	3,231	12,563
2000	9,645	37,331	649	1,338	4,622	493	940	21,713,196	129	69	55	1,229	47	4	2	3	12,546	3,462	9,083
2001	11,210	26,566	870	2,024	6,334	830	1,295	23,691,849	125	139	94	1,604	40	51	7	0	15,643	5,549	10,094
2002	10,387	25,350	641	2,448	6,899	635	525	27,533,505	123	381	30	1,660	35	4	2	0	14,411	3,821	10,590
2003	14,102	23,442	836	2,675	6,791	1,236	524	30,473,166	129	59	16	1,402	28	44	2	0	18,656	2,940	15,717
2004	13,346	23,979	734	1,666	6,015	309	(356)	32,112,454	125	(126)	(12)	1,074	15	(1)	1	0	15,817	1,002	14,815
2005	9,122	23,557	652	1,381	3,997	77	(299)	0	125	(66)	(20)	982	16	(2)	1	0	10,967	343	10,624

Notes:

- EEZ means that the fishery operates entirely, or the data are only available for within the US West Coast EEZ
- Gillnet effort in days calculated by any drift gillnet catch per days fishing (not just albacore)
- Values in parentheses are considered preliminary
- Recreational data include fish taken in Mexico waters by CA based charter boats
- CA recreational data from RecFIN
- CA recreational private boat average weight for 1990-1992 based on average of all other years (9.69 kg)
- CA recreational CPFV average weight for 1990-1993 estimated as average for all other years (9.96 kg)
- CA recreational private boat data for 1986-2003 from MRFSS and for 2004-05 from CRFS
- OR recreational data from Oregon Recreational Boat Survey
- OR recreational average weight = 16 and 20 lbs in 2004 and 2005, respectively (used 18 lbs for other years)
- WA recreational data from Washington Ocean Sampling Program
- WA recreational avg weight = 19.2 lbs from 2005 charter logs and was applied to all years
- Recreational effort unit is one angler-day in CA, and one trip for OR and WA

Albacore Catch by All Gears



Excerpted from “The 2005 Canadian North Pacific Albacore Troll Fishery,” by Max Stocker, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Science Branch, Nanaimo, B.C. (April 2006).

Table 1. Fishery statistics for the Canadian north Pacific albacore tuna fishery.

Fishing Season	Total Catch (t)	Effort (v-d)	Total Vessels	CPUE (kg/v-d)	Logbook Coverage²
1995	1,720	5,909	284	291	22%
1996	3,591	9,164	292	392	28%
1997	2,433	4,637	197	525	38%
1998	4,188	6,032	213	694	51%
1999	2,641	6,776	233	390	74%
2000	4,465	8,691	238	514	70%
2001	4,985	9,826	244	507	81%
2002	5,022	8,235	229	610	81%
2003	6,735	8,315	193	810	98%
2004	7,842	9,914	220	791	95%
2005 ¹	4,810	8,525	208	564	94%

¹ 2004 data are preliminary.

² (Logbook Catch/Total Catch) x 100

Table 2. Catch and effort (%) by fishing area (Canada EEZ, U.S. EEZ, and Highseas) for the Canadian north Pacific albacore tuna fishery.

Year	Catch				Effort			
	Canada EEZ	U.S. EEZ	High-Seas	Total	Canada EEZ	U.S. EEZ	High-Seas	Total
1995	86	3	11	100	94	3	3	100
1996	24	40	36	100	40	47	13	100
1997	7	29	64	100	21	45	34	100
1998	7	44	49	100	21	53	26	100
1999	17	64	19	100	22	62	16	100
2000	9	74	17	100	13	77	10	100
2001	15	75	10	100	18	76	6	100
2002	8	86	6	100	8	87	5	100
2003	8	85	7	100	11	84	5	100
2004	17	81	2	100	21	76	3	100
2005	33	63	4	100	34	62	4	100

Table 1. North Pacific albacore catches (in metric tons) by fishing gear, 1952-2005¹.
Blank indicates no effort. -- indicates data not available. 0 indicates less than 1 metric ton. Provisional estimates in ().

YEAR	CANADA		JAPAN					KOREA		MEXICO	
	TROLL	PURSE SEINE	GILL NET	LONG LINE	POLE & LINE	PURSE SEINE	TROLL	UNSP. GEAR	GILL NET	LONG LINE	UNSP. GEAR
1952	71			26,687	41,787	154		237			
1953	5			27,777	32,921	38		132			
1954				20,958	28,069	23		38			
1955				16,277	24,236	8		136			
1956	17			14,341	42,810			57			
1957	8			21,053	49,500	83		151			
1958	74			18,432	22,175	8		124			
1959	212			15,802	14,252			67			
1960	5	136		17,369	25,156			76			
1961	4			17,437	18,639	7		268			0
1962	1			15,764	8,729	53		191			0
1963	5			13,464	26,420	59		218			0
1964	3			15,458	23,858	128		319			0
1965	15			13,701	41,491	11		121			0
1966	44			25,050	22,830	111		585			0
1967	161			28,869	30,481	89		520			
1968	1,028			23,961	16,597	267		1,109			
1969	1,365			18,006	31,912	521		935			0
1970	390			16,283	24,263	317		456			0
1971	1,746			11,524	52,957	902		308			0
1972	3,921		1	13,043	60,569	277		623			100
1973	1,400		39	16,795	68,767	1,353		495			0
1974	1,331		224	13,409	73,564	161		879			1
1975	111		166	10,318	52,152	159		228	2,463		1
1976	278		1,070	15,825	85,336	1,109		272	859		36
1977	53		688	15,696	31,934	669		355	792		0
1978	23		4,029	13,023	59,877	1,115		2,078	228		1
1979	521		2,856	14,215	44,662	125		1,126	0	259	1
1980	212		2,986	14,689	46,742	329		1,179	6	597	31
1981	200		10,348	17,922	27,426	252		663	16	459	8
1982	104		12,511	16,767	29,614	561		440	113	387	7
1983	225		6,852	15,097	21,098	350		118	233	454	33
1984	50		8,988	15,060	26,013	3,380		511	516	136	113
1985	56		11,204	14,351	20,714	1,533		305	576	291	49
1986	30		7,813	12,928	16,096	1,542		626	726	241	3
1987	104		6,698	14,702	19,082	1,205		155	817	549	7
1988	155		9,074	14,731	6,216	1,208		134	1,016	409	15
1989	140		7,437	13,104	8,629	2,521		393	1,023	150	2
1990	302		6,064	15,789	8,532	1,995		249	1,016	6	2
1991	139		3,401	17,046	7,103	2,652		392	852	3	2
1992	363		2,721	19,049	13,888	4,104		1,527	271	(15)	10
1993	494		287	29,966	12,797	2,889		867		(32)	11
1994	1,998		263	29,600	26,389	2,026		799		(45)	6
1995	1,720		282	29,075	20,981	1,177	856	81		440	5
1996	3,591		116	32,493	20,272	581	815	117		158	21
1997	2,433		359	38,950	32,238	1,068	1,585	123		404	53
1998	4,188		206	35,813	22,926	1,554	1,190	88		(218)	8
1999	2,641		289	33,365	50,369	6,872	891	127		99	23
2000	4,465		67	30,046	21,549	2,408	645	171		15	79
2001	4,985		117	28,819	29,430	974	416	96		64	22
2002	5,022		332	23,640	48,454	3,303	787	135		(113)	(28)
2003	6,735		126	20915	36121	627	922	106	(0)	(144)	(29)
2004	(7,842)		(126)	(15,593)	(32,316)	(6,046)	(922)	(106)	(0)	(68)	(106)
2005	(4,963)		(126)	(16,000)	(17,000)	(6,046)	(922)	(106)		(520)	(0)

¹ Data are from the 1st ISC Albacore Working Group, November 28 - December 2, 2005 except as noted.

Table 1. Continued - North Pacific Albacore

YEAR	CHINESE TAIPEI		U.S.						OTHERS		GRAND TOTAL	
	GILL NET	LONG LINE ²	POLE & LINE	GILL NET	LONG LINE	PURSE SEINE	SPORT	TROLL	UNSP. GEAR	LONG LINE ³		TROLL
1952					46		1,373	23,843				94,198
1953					23		171	15,740				76,807
1954					13		147	12,246				61,494
1955					9		577	13,264				54,507
1956					6		482	18,751				76,464
1957					4		304	21,165				92,268
1958					7		48	14,855				55,723
1959					5		0	20,990	0			51,328
1960					4		557	20,100	0			63,403
1961			2,837		5		1,355	12,055	1			52,608
1962			1,085		7		1,681	19,752	1			47,264
1963			2,432		7		1,161	25,140	0			68,906
1964			3,411		4		824	18,388	0			62,393
1965			417		3		731	16,542	0			73,032
1966			1,600		8		588	15,333	1			66,150
1967		330	4,113		12		707	17,814	0			83,096
1968		216	4,906		11		951	20,434	0			69,480
1969		65	2,996		14		358	18,827	0			74,999
1970		34	4,416		9		822	21,032	0			68,022
1971		20	2,071		11		1,175	20,526	0			91,240
1972		187	3,750		8		637	23,600	0			106,717
1973		--	2,236		14		84	15,653	0			106,836
1974		486	4,777		9		94	20,178	0			115,113
1975		1,240	3,243		33		640	18,932	10			89,696
1976		686	2,700		23		713	15,905	4			124,816
1977		572	1,497		37		537	9,969	0			62,799
1978		6	950		54		810	16,613	15			98,822
1979		81	303		--		74	6,781	0			71,004
1980	--	249	382		--		168	7,556	0			75,126
1981	--	143	748		25		195	12,637	0			71,042
1982	--	38	425		105		257	6,609	21			67,960
1983	--	8	607		6		87	9,359	0			54,527
1984	--	--	1,030		2	3,728	1,427	9,304	0			70,258
1985	--	--	1,498	2	0		1,176	6,415	0			58,170
1986	--	--	432	3			196	4,708	0			45,344
1987	2,514	--	158	5	150		74	2,766	0			48,986
1988	7,389	--	598	15	308		64	4,212	10			45,554
1989	8,350	40	54	4	249		160	1,860	23			44,140
1990	16,701	4	115	29	177	71	24	2,603	4			53,683
1991	3,398	12	0	17	313	0	6	1,845	71			37,253
1992	7,866	--	0	0	337	0	2	4,572	72			(54,796)
1993		5		0	440		25	6,254	0			(54,067)
1994		83	0	38	546		106	10,978	213		158	(73,248)
1995		4,280	80	52	883		102	8,045	1		137	68,197
1996		7,596	24	83	1,187	11	88	16,938	0	1,735	505	86,506
1997		9,119	73	60	1,652	2	1,018	14,252	1	2,824	404	106,533
1998		8,617	79	80	1,120	33	1,208	14,410	2	5,871	286	(97,967)
1999		8,186	60	149	1,540	48	3,621	10,060	1	6,307	261	124,917
2000		8,842	69	55	940	4	1,798	9,645	3	3,654	490	85,692
2001		8,684	139	94	1,295	51	1,635	11,210	0	1,471	127	89,644
2002		7,965	378	30	525	3	2,357	10,387		700	(127)	(104,292)
2003		(7,166)	59	15	524	44	2,214	14,102	(2)	(2,400)	(127)	(92,381)
2004		(4,988)	(125)	(9)	(360)	(1)	(1,506)	(13,432)	(0)	(2,400)	(127)	(86,107)

² Catches for 2000-2004 contain estimates of offshore longline catches from vessels landing at

³ Other longline catches from vessels flying flags of convenience being called back to Taiwan. The catches may be duplicated in Taiwan longline catches (November 2005).