

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA STOCK ASSESSMENT

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) generally agreed to follow the lead of the HMSMT and support the establishment of international reference points for North Pacific Albacore.

The HMSAS discussed and was concerned by the August 2, 2007, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) General Advisory Committee (GAC) conference call where it was suggested effort be reduced from by 10-30 percent. The HMSAS is concerned that that in the absence of a thoughtfully designed management program, if, in the future, the stock is declared to be in an overfished state, reactive and draconian measures would have to be implemented.

Despite how other countries fish, the U.S. is locked into and restricted by the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Other participating countries are not encumbered by such laws. In the North Pacific, the Japanese and U.S. are the major participants and need to take the lead. The U.S. Departments of Commerce and State need to put forth more effort in this regard, especially by encouraging Japan and others to cooperate in responsible harvesting.

The HMSAS also emphasizes the importance of getting accurate information of the catch and landings of the illegal, unregulated, and unreported vessels operating in the North Pacific.

PFMC  
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