

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL FISHERY
MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS (RFMO)

A. The HMSAS suggests that the Council makes the following recommendations to the US delegation to the Northern Committee of the Western Central Pacific Commission:

- Improve communications between the US delegations to the IATTC and WCPFC to ensure continuity and consistency.
- An ad hoc committee is suggested within the two US delegations (see above) to consider definition of effort control for North Pacific albacore.
- Northern Committee assessments of striped marlin should continue in order to make conservation and management recommendations.
- Pending completion of the 2010 North Pacific albacore assessment there are no additional recommendations for North Pacific albacore management.
- Pending the completion of the 2009 stock assessment for swordfish there are no additional recommendations for swordfish management.
- Pending further information from the ISC on the most recent stock assessment, we have no additional advice on North Pacific bluefin tuna. We are concerned with the most recent assessment and recommend it be re-assessed as soon as possible.

B. In consideration of the proposed rule for WCPFC – Identifier #0648-AV63, it has been pointed out that there are different requirements for US vessels fishing east of 150°W in the IATTC area, and west of 150°W of the WCPFC area. These regulations pertain to the requirement for VMS, observers, and different vessel markings. We have been advised that these regulations were designed for larger industrial class type fishing vessels rather than the typical smaller pole and line and troll albacore vessels.

- The HMSAS strongly recommends exempting the US North Pacific albacore pole and line and troll fleets from these proposed regulations and advise the US Northern Committee delegation to pursue an exemption for the entire pole and line and troll North Pacific albacore fishery from these regulations.
- The HMSAS strongly recommends that the Council submit comments to the proposed rule, WCPFC – Identifier #0648-AV63, supporting the letter of comments from the Western Fishboat Owners Association letter of June 1, 2009 (Agenda Item F.1.a, Supplemental Attachment 3). The comment deadline is June 22, 2009.