

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES  
INCLUDING U.S. – CANADA ALBACORE TREATY AREA FISHERY UPDATE

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) would like to bring to the Council's attention, the letter from Robert Turner to David Hogan (dated January 6, 2015) concerning the recreational and incidental catch of bluefin tuna by Japan and other Asian countries, and the anecdotal information that China has not been reporting important fisheries information. As stated in the letter, "NMFS also requests that the DOS solicit from China information on the size of its fleet each year since 2005, the number of vessels expected to join the fleet in the near future, and China's data reporting protocols (i.e., what, how, and when is the information collected)." The HMSAS points out that the information on the Chinese catch and bycatch, in addition to vessel numbers, is critical to obtain for the international management of North Pacific albacore and other highly migratory species.

The increase in effort and capacity of the Chinese fleet is well-illustrated in the informational paper submitted by Western Fishboat Owners Association (H.2.e, Supplemental Public Comment).

As indicated in the NMFS Report (H.2.c, NMFS Report), insufficient information was received from China, and very limited information was received from Taiwan, Korea, and Japan.

The HMSAS urges that more information be available in time for international negotiations at the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the Northern Committee meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

PFMC  
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