

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON
LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

H.R. 774: To strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention, and for other purposes.

The Antigua Convention updates the mandate and functions of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), established by treaty in 1949. The Antigua Convention received the advice and consent of the Senate on November 18, 2005. The Convention entered into force in August 2010, which has already entered into force for most other IATTC members, but the United States is not able to accede to the Convention because we lack implementing legislation. The United States took the lead to negotiate the new Convention. While the Administration has not taken a position on this particular bill, it has supported similar bills in past Congresses. The United States would benefit from acceding to the Antigua Convention, especially after we worked so hard to negotiate it and have encouraged all other IATTC member nations to ratify. H.R. 774 would allow the U.S. to operate under the Antigua Convention.

H.R. Bill 774 was introduced in February 2015 (see [Agenda Item I.1.a, Attachment 3](#)) and includes language to implement the Antigua Convention. NMFS is consulting with Department of State and does not have any substantive comments at this time.

PFMC
03/10/15