



www.AmericanAlbacore.com
4364 Bonita Rd Box 311
Bonita, CA 91902
P (619) 941-2307 F (619) 863-5046



Western Fishboat Owners Association
P.O. Box 992723
Redding, CA 96099
Ph: 530.229.1097
F: 530.232.0107

June 5, 2015

Mr. David F. Hogan
Deputy Director Office of Marine Conservation,
U.S. Dept. of State
2201 C Street No
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Hogan,

On May 29, the Data Working Group to the US-Canada Tuna Treaty held its annual data exchange and Treaty Consultation. One topic that came up for discussion was permitting and licensing requirements under Canadian regulations. During the 2014 fishing season, at least four U.S. based albacore vessels were cited for violating Canadian regulations. Sylvie LaPointe, who led the Canadian Delegation, indicated she could not speak to the specifics surrounding the charges; but she did make some generalized comments regarding the need for a license to access Canadian ports. She further acknowledged this was a rule which was on the books prior to the 2014 fishing season; and had not been enforced prior to the 2014 fishing season. She went on to explain that implementation of this pre-existing regulation was deemed necessary for information gathering and national security purposes. She also indicated a similar regulation exists which requires U.S. vessels to obtain a license in order to enter the Canadian EEZ. Nevertheless, She pointed out that because U.S. vessels are currently required to Hail In and Out when entering and exiting the Canadian EEZ and because the U.S. provides a list of vessels which may enter the Canadian EEZ to target albacore, the need to enforce the regulation requiring a license to enter the Canadian EEZ to fish under the Treaty does not exist.

We are concerned our members may be subjected to possible fisheries violations in the event Canadian authorities decide to enforce the licensing requirement to fish in the Canadian EEZ. In order to give comfort and assurances to U.S. based albacore fishermen, we are requesting the State Department send a letter to the Canadian Government asking for a document which states its intention of not enforcing the

regulation which would otherwise require US based albacore fishermen to obtain a license to enter the Canadian EEZ. Those fishermen could carry that document aboard their vessel and have it available should they get boarded by representatives of the Canadian Government while at sea.

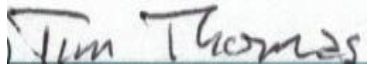
This, of course would not change the need for U.S. albacore vessel owners to obtain a Canadian permit if they desire to enter a Canadian port for any reason (pick up crew, re-supply, unload fish), other than under a force majeure situation.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Tim Thomas
President, AAFA

Wayne Heikkila
Executive Director, WFOA

Handwritten signature of Tim Thomas in blue ink.Handwritten signature of Wayne Heikkila in blue ink, underlined.