

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT
ON THE U.S.-CANADA ALBACORE TREATY

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) recommends that the Council as a stakeholder, and which has a designated representative on the U.S. delegation to the U.S./Canada Treaty negotiations, consider the following.

The fishing regime under the U.S./Canada albacore treaty will expire at the end of 2016. At this time, the U.S. west coast pole and troll albacore industry has requested a resumption of negotiations between the U.S. and Canada. The goal is to renew the expiring regime under the treaty if certain conditions listed below are met.

- Attribution for albacore caught by Canadian vessels in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) should apply indefinitely to all past and future catches. This is a priority for the U.S. albacore industry, given the potential for future international allocations of albacore through RFMOs to individual nations (see [Agenda Item I.3, Supplemental Attachment 4: Catch Attribution Arrangement for Draft Letter of Intent Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada](#)).
- Canadian vessel having access to the U.S. EEZ should remain at 45 vessels or less.
- U.S. albacore vessel access to Canada will remain the same as the 2014-2016 regime, i.e., at historic levels.
- Simplify and streamline the process for port access into Canada by U.S. vessels for landing albacore, vessel maintenance, crew pickup, and discharge, etc.
- Expedite the exchange of landing and catch data by Canada (similar to the U.S. through landing data updated on PacFIN on a regular basis).
- NMFS, Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation, or Department of Fisheries and Oceans Logbooks should be required on Canadian vessels fishing in the U.S. EEZ with catch data turned in to National Marine Fisheries Service under same requirements as U.S. vessels
- When entering the U.S. EEZ, Canadian vessels should be required to check in and out through the USCG as U.S. vessels do when entering Canada. This needs to be a budget item in future USCG budget requests.
- Before fishing begins under any future regime, copies of the duly executed Diplomatic Notes are shared amongst the various stakeholders.

The HMSAS recommends the Council support the resumption of negotiations by supporting the above conditions in their role as part of the US delegation. The HMSAS recommends that the Council again appoint a Council member to the U.S. delegation on the U.S./Canada treaty.