

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT
UNITED STATES-CANADA-PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA TREATY

The U.S. delegation met on April 16-17, 2014, at the NMFS offices in Portland, Oregon, lead by David Hogan (Deputy Director, Office of Marine Conservation, U.S. Department of State). Representatives from NMFS, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, U.S. Coast Guard, the Pacific Fishery Management Council, Washington Trollers Association, American Albacore Fishing Association, Western Fishboat Owners Association, American Fishermen's Research Foundation, Oregon Albacore Commission, West Coast Seafood Processors, and a member of Senator Ron Wyden's staff participated.

Agreement was reached on a 3-year regime covering the 2014-2016 seasons that essentially rolled over the terms of the 2013 regime. The fishing seasons remain the same: the fishing season for the United States extends from June 15 to October 31st in Canadian waters; and from June 15th to September 15th for Canada in U.S. waters during each of the three years. Canadian port access for U.S. vessels extends from June 15th to December 31st; U.S. port access for Canadian vessels extends from June 15th to September 15th of each year. Canada will limit its vessels accessing the U.S. EEZ to 45, with the same replacement provisions that were used during the 2013 regime. The United States will limit its vessels accessing the Canadian EEZ to historical levels.

The meeting was adjourned with the agreement to finalize the annexes of the new regime. Canada noted that they will likely have to apply the treaty provisionally until the updates are official. The United States noted that it will include in the exchange of letters transmitting the updated annexes its view that this is a phase out regime and, therefore, the United States does not plan to enter into negotiations for another regime under the treaty when the 2014-2016 regime ends. Both sides also agreed to work together to reach out to China and others regarding their shared concerns in the management of albacore tuna in the wider Pacific Ocean.