

Canadian Statement to the Pacific Fishery Management Council

Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel

November 5, 2018

San Diego Marriott Del Mar

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to thank the Pacific Fishery Management Council for once again considering the issue of the *Canada-United States Pacific Albacore Tuna Treaty* and accepting my comments. The Treaty is a long-standing agreement between our two countries and provides a concrete link on a resource of common interest and value.

As many of you know, Canada attended this meeting in 2016 and previously in 2013. We continue to regard the Treaty of great importance in our bilateral relationship; one that provides mutual benefits to both parties.

Canada was very pleased with the Treaty's resumption in 2013; and the two subsequent three-year regimes including most recently from 2017-2019. We view the last six years as at time of positive relations on the water and the bilateral regime has been effective and beneficial to our respective fishing industries.

The Treaty has been important for the Canadian North Pacific albacore tuna industry and Canada is firmly committed to seeking its renewal beyond 2019. This fishery supports hundreds of Canadian jobs, and provides benefits to many coastal communities on Canada's west coast.

However, the benefits derived from the Treaty are not exclusive to Canada and the agreement is of considerable value to the United States. Albacore fishing in Canadian waters and access to Canadian ports provides economic value to the harvesters who fish and land there. The benefits that flow to

the U.S. extend beyond the fishing and port access to include the opportunities to build relationships with different buyers, access to different price points for the fish, and the ability to exchange foreign crews.

However, I want to revisit the issue of what we have in common in the Pacific albacore tuna fishery. As we have observed in many Canadian fisheries, changes in ocean conditions have led to greater uncertainty and unpredictability about aquatic species, including in their migration patterns. The Pacific Albacore Tuna Treaty provides both of our countries' harvesters with the flexibility necessary to harvest a highly migratory species. The ability to "follow the fish" means that both Canadian and U.S. harvesters can respond to the situation and adjust fishing plans in the moment.

In addition to the specific mutual benefits of the Treaty, Canada views its continuation as an important component of our strong bilateral fisheries relationship on many other high value stocks such as Pacific salmon, halibut and hake.

The Treaty also provides our countries with a solid foundation for cooperation in the international organisations that are responsible for the management of North Pacific albacore tuna. Canada and the U.S. have worked together as leaders within these international organisations to help ensure sustainable albacore tuna fisheries throughout the North Pacific. This is in no small part due to the good working relationship and common understanding that are products of engaging one another under the Treaty.

It is Canada's sincere hope that we will be able to begin a fruitful negotiation process later this year for a renewed regime in 2020 and that the PFMC will support this process.

Thank you.