

REPORT ON THE MEETING BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CANADA
TO DISCUSS THE U.S.-CANADA ALBACORE TREATY

Buzz Brizendine, Council Member

The meeting took place at the Metropolitan Hotel, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, November 30-December 1, 2011. The U.S. delegation was led by Mr. David Hogan, U.S. State Department. National Marine Fisheries Staff, including Mr. Mark Helvey, and representatives of the west coast albacore fishery also participated.

The purpose of negotiation was to discuss a possible fishing regime for the 2012 fishing season and beyond. Shortly before the meeting the U.S. delegation received a letter from the American Albacore Fishing Association and the Western Fishboat Owners Association requesting that the fishing regime be suspended for the 2012 season (see Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 2).

The U.S. represented the position stated in the joint letter and no agreement was reached at the meeting on a replacement for the fishing regime that expired December 31, 2011. The U.S. and Canada agreed to the following tasks:

- 1) Canada will review the U.S.'s request to extend the time period for catch attribution for vessels fishing in the other party's waters.
- 2) Canada will look into developing a process for third-party administration of a self-imposed levy on their fishermen to fund albacore research.
- 3) The parties will continue to discuss suitable conditions for a reciprocal access agreement, including limits on the number of vessels, the length of the season, vessel size, etc.
- 4) The parties will reconvene the Data Working group as soon as possible.
- 5) The parties will investigate the economic benefits of the Treaty to U.S. port businesses and possibly form an Economic Working Group.
- 6) Harvesters will develop and endorse a mutually-agreed upon Code of Fishing Conduct governing on-the-water behavior and a dispute resolution process.

PFMC
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