

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
CHANGES TO ROUTINE MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2011-2012

Washington Recreational Albacore Bag Limit

The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) discussed the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposal to consider implementing a Federal per trip bag limit for albacore in the Washington recreational fishery.

The WDFW has proposed the concept of a bag limit for the recreational albacore fishery due to increases in recreational effort and catch, particularly by private vessels targeting albacore. The bag limit would apply to individual recreational anglers on a per trip basis, regardless of trip duration. This is proposed in lieu of a daily bag limit because albacore fishing trips from Washington ports typically average 1.5 days. WDFW will be conducting a series of public meetings to develop a range of alternatives for the Council to consider at its September meeting.

The HMSMT supports the concept and will review the alternatives when developed. In developing the alternatives, the HMSMT suggests using an approach similar to the analysis completed when developing alternatives for California albacore bag limits. The HMSMT also recommends that cross-boundary rule conflicts be avoided when developing the alternatives.

PFMC
06/12/10