



AMERICAN ALBACORE FISHING ASSOCIATION

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November 8, 2010

Attn: Mark Cedergreen, Chairman
PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Re: Agenda Items C.1.c & J.1.c: Enforcement & IUU Fishing

Mr. Chairman and members of the Council,

My name is Jack Webster. I just returned from participating in the albacore fishery. I have been fishing albacore for over 25 years and I am president of the American Albacore Fishing Association.

AAFA represents over 70 U.S. vessels that rely on a healthy and sustainable albacore fishery.

We support responsible management to help ensure a better future for our fishery. But we are concerned that management might restrict the fleets that comply with the law, while not addressing Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

To be successful, international management efforts need to ensure that IUU fishing is detected and stopped.

I was one of the vessels that spoke with the Coast Guard during their recent air patrol. A number of U.S. boats were encountering net-marked fish. They had fresh net-cuts and we were finding a lot of them. Not many fish escape from a high seas drift gill net. It's not a good sign that we saw so many net-marked fish.

Drift gill net boats move pretty quickly from place to place. This can make it difficult to catch the IUU vessels. We appreciate the Coast Guard's efforts and would like to see more enforcement.

With high fuel costs and changing fishery conditions, we don't have as many boats out there as we used to. So illegal fishing takes place and we don't see it.

We want to help catch these IUU boats and get them off the water. And we hope we can work more closely with enforcement to make that happen. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jack Webster, President
American Albacore Fishing Association