

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

85TH MEETING

**Veracruz Veracruz, (Mexico)
10-14 June 2013**

PROPOSAL IATTC-85 J-1

SUBMITTED BY CANADA

DRAFT PROPOSAL ON NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The current Resolution for albacore was adopted in 2005, and limits the total level of fishing effort for North Pacific albacore to “current levels” – however, the Commission has not agreed to an operational definition of the “current levels”.

Canada’s proposal, a previous version of which was almost adopted during the 83rd Meeting of the Commission and discussed again during the 84th Extraordinary Meeting of the Commission in October 2012, seeks to address this by limiting fishing effort for North Pacific albacore in the Convention Area to 2002-2004 average levels. This is consistent with the advice coming out of the 2011 stock assessment, and with the existing measure in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), which is also mandated with the conservation and management of the stock.

The second purpose of the proposal is to improve the reporting on effort levels for vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore. To strengthen the reporting used to assess the effectiveness of this measure, we propose to adopt the reporting templates as developed by the WCPFC.

While the Antigua Convention calls on the Commission to apply the Precautionary Approach, the Commission has yet to apply such a framework in its true sense to any of the fisheries it manages. This proposal is a move towards adopting a precautionary approach based management framework for the stock, including target and limit reference points, and pre-agreed decision rules, should those reference points be breached.

As we want to avoid duplication of efforts with the work being undertaken by the WCPFC in this regard, we propose that any recommendations developed by the WCPFC’s Northern Committee on limit and target reference points should be reviewed by the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee.

This proposal is consistent with the Commission’s efforts to promote compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and the WCPFC for shared stocks.

RESOLUTION ON NORTHERN ALBACORE TUNA

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), having responsibility for the scientific study of tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area, and for the formulation of recommendations to its members and cooperating non-members (CPCs) with regard to the conservation and management of these resources,

Observing that the 2011 stock assessment of North Pacific albacore from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) indicates that the stock is not being overfished nor is it in an overfished state;

Mindful that the effectiveness of Resolution C-05-02 is unknown and considering that the ISC is expected to complete a new stock assessment in 2014;

Taking note that there currently does not exist a common interpretation or understanding of the term “current effort”, and that the IATTC staff has recommended that an operational definition of current effort, including a baseline reference period, be developed;

Recognizing the importance of working with the WCPFC, as provided for in Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention, in order to manage North Pacific albacore tuna throughout its migratory range;

Noting the work of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission’s (WCPFC) Northern Committee in determining the extent their Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and participating Territories (CCMs) are implementing the WCPFC’s North Pacific albacore resolution is based on a 2002-2004 baseline;

Recalling further Article 22(4) of the WCPFC Convention that provides for cooperation with the IATTC regarding fish stocks that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Taking into account Article IV of the Antigua Convention calling upon members of the Commission to apply the precautionary approach, as described in the relevant provisions of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Code of Conduct, as well as the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, for the conservation, management and sustainable use of fish stocks covered by the Convention; and,

Considering the ongoing work within the WCPFC towards the development of a precautionary approach framework for North Pacific albacore, which will include target and limit reference points, as well as pre-agreed decision rules should those reference points be breached;

The IATTC therefore resolves that:

1. The total level of fishing effort for North Pacific albacore tuna in the Convention Area not be increased beyond current levels.
2. The CPCs shall take necessary measures to ensure that the level of fishing effort by their vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore tuna is not increased.
3. The CPCs shall use the average level of fishing effort from 2002-2004 as the baseline to establish current effort.
4. All CPCs shall report to the Director by December 1st, 2013, using the template (attached in Annex A), a list of all their specific fisheries or fleets that had any catch of North Pacific albacore between 2007-2012; whether the catch occurred in the Convention Area, or entire North Pacific; whether or not those fisheries are targeting North Pacific albacore; and the average annual catch between 2007-2012.
5. All CPCs shall report to the Director by December 1st, 2013, using a template attached in Annex B, a list of their fishing effort for those fisheries targeting North Pacific albacore. Fishing effort shall be reported in vessel days.
6. The Director shall direct the IATTC scientific staff to review the data template for its completeness

and to determine the effectiveness of the current effort-based approach for managing North Pacific albacore fishing does not exceed 2002-2004 levels and report their findings thirty (30) days prior to the 2014 annual meeting.

7. The Director shall, in coordination with the ISC and other scientific bodies conducting scientific reviews of this stock, including the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee, monitor the status of North Pacific albacore tuna and report on the status of the stock at each annual meeting.
8. The Scientific Advisory Committee shall review work undertaken within the WCPFC towards the development of a precautionary approach framework for North Pacific albacore that includes target and limit reference points and pre-agreed decision rules, and make recommendations in respect of such a framework for consideration by the Commission.
9. The Commission shall continue efforts to promote compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and the WCPFC in their goals and effectiveness with respect to North Pacific albacore.
10. The provisions of paragraph 2 shall not prejudice the rights and obligations under international law of those developing coastal CPCs in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for North Pacific albacore is limited, but that have a real interest in, and history of, fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for northern Pacific albacore tuna in the future.
11. The Director shall communicate this Resolution to the WCPFC Secretariat.
12. This Resolution replaces Resolution C-05-02.

Average annual catch of North Pacific albacore

CPC	Data pertain to IATTC Area only or entire North Pacific?	Fisheries with ANY catch of NP albacore	"Fishing for" NP albacore? (Y/N)	2006–2010 average annual catch
X				
Total catches for CPC X:				
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
Y				
Total catches for CPC Y:				
Catches in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				
% of total catch in fisheries "fishing for" NP albacore:				

Annex B

CPC	Area ¹	Fishery ² /gear type	2002–2004 Average		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
			No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days	No. of vessels	Vessel days

¹ Data pertain to IATTC Convention Area only or entire North Pacific?

² Fisheries “fishing for” NP albacore

RESOLUTION ON NORTHERN ALBACORE TUNA

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Observing that the 2011 stock assessment of North Pacific albacore from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) indicates that the stock is not being overfished nor is it in an overfished state; mindful that the effectiveness of Resolution C-05-02 is unknown and considering that the ISC is expected to complete a new stock assessment in 2014;

Taking note that there currently does not exist a common interpretation or understanding of the term "current effort", and that the IATTC staff has recommended that an operational definition of current effort, including a baseline reference period, be developed;

Recognizing the importance of working with the WCPFC, as provided for in Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention, in order to manage North Pacific albacore tuna throughout its migratory range;

Noting the work of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission's (WCPFC) Northern Committee in determining the extent their Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and participating Territories (CCMs)s are implementing the WCPFC's North Pacific albacore resolution is based on a 2002-2004 baseline;

Recalling further Article 22(4) of the WCPFC Convention that provides for cooperation with the IATTC regarding fish stocks that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Taking into account Article IV of the Antigua Convention calling upon members of the Commission to apply the precautionary approach, as described in the relevant provisions of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Code of Conduct, as well as the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, for the conservation, management and sustainable use of fish stocks covered by the Convention; and,

Considering the ongoing work within the WCPFC towards the development of a precautionary approach framework for North Pacific albacore, which will include target and limit reference points, as well as pre-agreed decision rules should those reference points be breached;

The IATTC therefore resolves that:

1. The total level of fishing effort for North Pacific albacore tuna in the Convention Area not be increased beyond current levels.
2. The CPCs shall take necessary measures to ensure that the level of fishing effort by their vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore tuna is not increased.
3. The CPCs shall use the average level of fishing effort from 2002-2004 as the baseline to establish current effort.
4. All CPCs shall report to the Director by December 1st, 2013, using the template (attached in Annex A), a list of all their specific fisheries or fleets that had any catch of North Pacific albacore between 2007-2012; whether the catch occurred in the Convention Area, or entire North Pacific; whether or not those fisheries are targeting North Pacific albacore; and the average annual catch between 2007-2012.
5. All CPCs shall report to the Director by December 1st, 2013, using a template attached in Annex B, a list of their fishing effort for those fisheries targeting North Pacific albacore. Fishing effort shall be reported in vessel days.
6. The Director shall direct the IATTC scientific staff to review the data template for its completeness and to determine the effectiveness of the current effort-based approach

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- Deleted: of the eastern Pacific Ocean
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- Deleted: best scientific evidence on North Pacific albacore tuna from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean indicates that the species is either fully exploited, or may be experiencing fishing mortality above levels that are sustainable in the long term, and ¶
- Deleted: Taking note that the IATTC staff has said that the stock assessment for Northern Pacific albacore tuna suggests a need for management measures to avoid increases in fishing mortality, and ¶
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for managing North Pacific albacore fishing does not exceed 2002-2004 levels and report their findings thirty (30) days prior to the 2014 annual meeting.

7. The Director shall, in coordination with the ISC and other scientific bodies conducting scientific reviews of this stock, including the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee, monitor the status of North Pacific albacore tuna and report on the status of the stock at each annual meeting.

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8. The Scientific Advisory Committee shall review work undertaken within the WCPFC towards the development of a precautionary approach framework for North Pacific albacore that includes target and limit reference points and pre-agreed decision rules, and make recommendations in respect of such a framework for consideration by the Commission.

9. The Commission shall continue efforts to promote compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and the WCPFC in their goals and effectiveness with respect to North Pacific albacore.

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10. The provisions of paragraph 2 shall not prejudice the rights and obligations under international law of those developing coastal CPCs in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for North Pacific albacore is limited, but that have a real interest in, and history of, fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for northern Pacific albacore tuna in the future.

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6. The CPCs call upon the members of the WCPFC to consider, at the earliest opportunity, taking such action as may be necessary to ensure the effective conservation and management of North Pacific albacore tuna throughout its range including, in particular, measures to ensure that fishing effort on the stock in the WCPFC area does not increase and, as necessary, measures to reduce fishing effort to levels commensurate with the long-term sustainability of the resource. ¶
7. The Commission through the Director shall communicate with the WCPFC and request them to take similar measures. ¶

11. The Director shall communicate this Resolution to the WCPFC Secretariat.

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12. This Resolution replaces Resolution C-05-02.

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