

## **American Fishermen's Research Foundation Involvement in Pacific Albacore Tuna Fishery Management ©**

*Prepared by American Fishermen's Research Foundation, 2005*

Back when the American Fishermen's Research Foundation (AFRF) was formed in 1971, fishermen and fish processors had the foresight to realize that at some point, the Pacific albacore tuna fishery would be subject to formal management. Thus, AFRF was formed to perform collaborative research projects that could be used when management occurred. Additionally, AFRF was formed under the management and administration of Western Fishboat Owner's Association (WFOA). WFOA focuses its resources and efforts primarily on marketing and political issues involving Pacific troll and pole & line caught albacore tuna by its members.

As AFRF continues to re-define itself in the climate of fisheries management and protecting the Pacific albacore tuna fishery using solid scientific data, and in the age of the "precautionary approach," AFRF has been involved as a Non-governmental Organization (NGO) at all Pacific albacore tuna management meetings. AFRF presents the albacore tuna troll and pole & line caught perspective from scientific and educational points of view at these management meetings. AFRF has contracted with outside, non-biased scientists to advise AFRF on management models and interpretation of data.

From the beginning, AFRF has sent representatives to international management meetings and multinational talks involving Pacific albacore tuna and has established itself as a credible, knowledgeable organization interested in the continued health and sustainability of the Pacific albacore tuna industry.

More recently, with the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) adoption of a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Highly Migratory Species (HMS), fishing within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) within 200 miles, requires a federally issued HMS permit. AFRF has been opposed to PFMC management of Pacific albacore tuna because the fishery is already managed internationally, through a variety of mechanisms and multinational agreements; such as the MHLC PrepCon VII, IATTC, and others; and since North American fishermen take a relatively small amount of the overall worldwide catch of Pacific albacore tuna.

Management of Pacific Albacore tuna is complicated at best, yet AFRF has continued to believe in the importance of keeping up on the issues, providing accurate scientific information where necessary, and relaying information back to its members and others; consequently, it has invested significant resources for these purposes.

For more information about AFRF involvement in Pacific albacore tuna fishery management go to [www.afrf.org](http://www.afrf.org) click on the "Highly Migratory Species Management" button on the left of the screen, or contact AFRF, P.O. Box 992723, Redding, CA 96099.