

June ____, 2009

Re: Proposed Rule for WCPFC

Dear Senator / Representative:_____:

I reside in your district at _____and would like to share my thoughts with you on an issue of importance to me and the economic well being of _____.

As a commercial albacore fisherman based in the U.S I am troubled by the proposed NMFS Rules for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

I as a U.S. albacore fisherman have deep concerns of the economic effects the new proposed rules will have on my business.

The rules will require all vessels fishing albacore west of 150W in the WCPFC convention zone have on board and never turn off a VMS unit which will cost about \$4,000 plus about \$700 per year for the service. These are to track our vessels while at sea an elsewhere. They will make no difference in this fishery as it is very clean and operates around no closed zones.

If these are a requirement in the WCPFC zone I see them also being required in the IATTC zone east of 150W into the west coast. My question is why should a U.S, fishermen fishing in a well managed clean fishery with no resource problems have to take on another added expense? I feel the government should pay for these units and operational costs.

Also, vessels may be required to carry observers at a cost to the vessel also. Again the above comments apply as well as a question about who will reimburse the vessel for lost time if observer needs to be brought into port?

I remind you that the U.S. troll fleet is a small vessel fleet that fishes in far from shore. Vessels range from 35 -120 feet with an average of about 55 – 60 feet. Most are family owned and operated, with small crews, and very eco friendly gear. Many of these boats fish far offshore weeks from nearest harbors. When compared to high seas purse seiners and longliners our vessels are far from equal both in size, capacity, crew size, and economics.

Sincerely,