

International - Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Ever since we received word from NMFS scientists, now almost 2 years ago, that the North Pacific albacore stocks might be approaching a status of being over-fished, a great deal of time and effort has been devoted to this subject. WFOA and AFRF began with meetings with Japan in October of 2004 and in January of 2005. At the IATTC Annual meeting in June 2005, we supported a resolution, at the request of the State Department, which calls on countries such as the United States and Canada to maintain the current level of catch of north Pacific albacore. The resolution passed by the IATTC on North Pacific albacore was purposely left vague so that environmental groups and/or NMFS would not immediately attempt to regulate the American albacore fleet. The IATTC claims jurisdiction over HMS out to 150 degrees west, from the equator north to 40 degrees north where much of the U.S. fishery occurs.