

**MANAGEMENT:** by Peter Flournoy

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The rest of this year [2004] and next year [2005] will bring the biggest challenges to the Pacific albacore troll fishery that we have seen in the last 15 years.

Unfortunately, I was correct, even though at that time I was more focused on avoiding burdensome regulations as opposed to the health of the albacore stocks. For the rest of this year and next year, both areas present major challenges that if not handled correctly will finish the West Coast albacore fishery as we know it today. The U.S. albacore troll fleet faces the possibility of mandated observer programs and VMS requirements, limited entry as a result of albacore being declared “over-fished”, and a resource which may be in serious trouble due to fishing pressure from foreign fleets.

The primary goals of AFRF- WFOA in the areas of conservation and management of the resource are:

1. Maintain present access to the fishery in the North Pacific and improve access to the South Pacific albacore troll fisheries;
2. Improve the health and economic conditions of the fishery;
3. Guarantee that any impact of the PFMC HMS FMP is even handed as between the commercial fleet and the charter boat or rec fleets and be sure any new regulations never put the U.S. commercial fleet at a disadvantage compared to the international fleet;
4. Ensure that the Magnuson-Stevens Act, when amended, is changed so that it gives deference to international management measures and discourages U.S. unilateral action against its own fishermen.

Both AFRF and WFOA pursues these goals by educating domestic, as well as foreign, government officials about our fishery. This requires attendance at far too many meetings of government bureaucrats, regular contact with people in various agencies to develop their understanding of what is best for the fishery, as well as staying ahead of proposed regulations.