

PrepCon VI Bali Indonesia:

Good progress was made in several areas important to AFRF in the area of science. Working Group II finally arrived at a satisfactory procedure and organization to get scientific information to the Commission and to the Northern Committee. Information was given to the PrepCon that Japan had offered to be the host government for an ISC secretariat, if such an organization were to be established. A separate report on this meeting was made with the following major points: (1) PrepCon VII will be held December 6 - 7, 2004, with the first meeting of the Commission on December 9-11, 2004; (2) the Japanese will host an excess capacity and possible management options workshop in Sapporo, Japan, from July 14-16, 2004 which will likely set up what action the Commission will take at its initial meeting; (3) the first year's budget was set at just over \$1.56 million and an effort was made to cap the budget for the next three years at \$1.8 million annually; (4) it was decided that the each governments' share of the budget would be according to the following formula: as 10% base share, 20% country wealth share, and 70% share based on catch — the disparity between payment by the "green" countries and the EU (11.27%) and the fishing nations (71.89%), and the two groups' respective influence over the PrepCon and/or the Commission is obvious; and it was decided that the Chair of the PrepCon should hire a New Zealand "head-hunter" firm to bring to PrepCon VII up to five candidates, who will be interviewed by the Members of the Commission during the opening session of the Commission.

June Meetings - IATTC and Others:

Peter Flournoy is attending the Annual IATTC meeting in Lima, Peru. The important issues for AFRF are not necessarily seen as the most important issues by the U.S. Delegation. Turtles and limiting long line vessel capacities are not of direct interest to AFRF, although working on enforceable capacity limitations is in the interest of all American fishermen at this point in time. Information on the ISC findings with regard to North Pacific Albacore have been transmitted to the IATTC staff, however, it is not clear what the organization, which shares international jurisdiction over albacore, both north and south, with the CWPFC, intends. In addition, AFRF is beginning the process of becoming an NGO observer to the IATTC which will give our organization a separate and additional voice at these meetings, in addition to being part of the U.S. Delegation.

Again, with the passage of the U.S. - Canadian Albacore Treaty implementing legislation and the approval of regulations under that statute it was not necessary to travel to Washington to push this process. However, such a trip may be necessary later in June because of the plethora of recently announced Homeland Security (Coast Guard, Customs, Immigration) and FDA Bio-terrorism regulations announced in late May and early June. While initially these regulations appeared to primarily interfere with cooperation under the U.S. - Canadian Treaty, affecting scientific data and cooperation, it now appears these regulations may also interfere with the operation and marketing efforts of the fleet which can adversely impact AFRF.