

**American Albacore Fishing Association  
American Fishermen's Research Foundation  
Oregon Albacore Commission  
Western Fishboat Owners Association**

July 10, 2014

Guillermo A. Compean - Director  
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission  
8604 La Jolla Shores Dr.  
La Jolla, CA 92037-1508

Re: PROPOSAL IATTC-87 J-1 - SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES

Dear Director Compean,

Western Fishboat Owners Association (WFOA), American Albacore Fishing Association (AAFA), Oregon Albacore Commission (OAC), and American Fishermen's Research Foundation (AFRF) strongly believe uniform scientifically based Biological Reference Points (BRPs), Limit Reference Points (LRPs), and Target Reference Points (TRPs) should be established across the Pacific, especially and specifically for North Pacific and South Pacific albacore. Therefore the U.S. albacore troll and pole harvesters support IATTC Proposal 87-J-1 - EVALUATION OF CANDIDATE TARGET AND LIMIT REFERENCE POINTS AND DECISION FRAMEWORK FOR NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE, to be submitted by the U.S. in Lima, Peru. Our position remains consistent with WFOA's letter of December 20, 2012 to you addressing the need for uniform and science based reference points across the management spectrum for albacore tuna.

With regard to highly specific pre-determined Harvest Control Rules (HCRs), the position of U.S. harvesters has not changed. These should be based upon science, particularly where there are different gear types taking the same species at different stages in their maturities and in widely varying parts of the ocean. The West Coast albacore harvesters continue to encourage the U.S. government, in cooperation with Japan and Canada in the North Pacific, and New Zealand and the Pacific Island States in the South Pacific, to fund scientific research in this area. The harvesters have funded such research in the past and have pledged to continue to do so. Mutual cooperation of similar interests and stakeholders is very important so intelligent choices can be made with regard to HCRs that will actually resolve any concerns with the fisheries affecting a species where the LRP is being exceeded.

The ISC is making good progress in its efforts to recommend species specific BRPs. We hope the scientific staff of the IATTC will continue to make progress in this area so the two RFMOs concerned with Pacific albacore can act in concert. We believe the draft U.S. proposed resolution, if passed, will result in substantial progress in the right direction.

We also believe that the Northern Committee of the WCPFC has already arrived at a HCR which is, given the current state of the scientific information, quite appropriate. It is also one which has been endorsed by Dr. William Fox. That is, the members of the NC have pledged to take action

and establish regulations to resolve any concerns brought to their attention by the ISC at their September meeting, which occurs after the July ISC Plenary.

Sincerely,

Wayne Heikkila  
Executive Director –WFOA

Natalie Webster  
Director of Operations – AAFA

John LaGrange  
President – AFRF

Rick Goche  
President - OAC

cc: Richard Deriso- Chief Scientist/Research Coordinator IATTC  
Mark Helvey – NOAA/NMFS