



**Surveillance Report 1
American Albacore Fishing Association (AAFA) –
North Pacific Albacore Pole & Line and Troll/Jig Fishery**

Certificate No.: MML-FC-014

Moody Marine Ltd.
December 2008

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1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

Scope against which the surveillance is undertaken: MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing as applied to the AAFA Pacific Albacore Pole & Line and Troll/Jig Fishery.

Species: Albacore tuna *Thunnus alalunga*

Area: North Pacific

Method of capture: Pole & Line and Troll/Jig

Date of Surveillance Visit:	17-18 June 2008			
Initial Certification	Date:		Certificate Ref: MML-FC-	
Surveillance stage	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Surveillance team:	Lead Assessor: Paul Knapman Assessor(s): Joe Powers Mike Laurs			
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2.0 INTRODUCTION

This report contains the findings of the first surveillance cycle in relation to the American Albacore Fishing Association (AAFA) North Pacific Pole & Line and Troll/Jig Fishery. The surveillance audit was carried out in accordance with the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Fisheries Certification Methodology (FCM) Version 6.

An announcement of the surveillance site visit was published on the MSC website on 2nd June 2008 (See appendix A) and opportunity was provided to stakeholders to meet with or submit information on the fishery to the assessment team.

No stakeholder representation or comments were received. However, relatively soon after the fishery was certified Moody Marine Ltd received correspondence from Dr. John D. Hall of Zephyr Fisheries LLC, expressing concern with regard to the bycatch of salmon smolts in bait fisheries associated with the pole and line fishery. This was investigated by the surveillance team as part of the audit. The outcome of which is presented below.

The surveillance team met with the client and with a Gary Sakagawa, of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Chair of Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Scientific Committee. Discussions took place and evidence was gathered on the status of the stock, the performance of the fishery throughout the year, measures to meet the Condition of Certification and changes in management.

Publication of the final surveillance report was significantly delayed owing to a member of the surveillance team having to convalesce after a major operation soon after the surveillance visit.

It should also be noted that Paul Knapman undertook the role of lead assessor for this audit in place of Andrew Hough who was part of the original assessment team. Paul is Moody Marine's North America Regional Manager and fishery auditor.

3.0 RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following section provides a tabulated format within which general information about the status of the stock and the fishery for this reporting period is provided along with the surveillance team's observations, conclusions and recommendations on the current status of the fishery and the client's progress toward meeting the single Condition of Certification.

With respect to the Condition, the following table sets out the original assessment scoring guideposts and scoring commentary and the requirements of the original Condition alongside the heading 'Activity assessed'. This identifies the areas in which the fishery was determined to perform below the level required by the MSC standard during the initial assessment, and the required actions to address these issues.

As required by the MSC assessment methodology, AAFA produced an Action Plan setting out the stages involved in addressing the Conditions raised. This is set out in the table alongside the heading 'AAFA Action'. NB. This Action Plan was deemed to be adequate by the original main assessment team.

According to the terms of the Action Plan, the client has provided information on the work undertaken to date.

This progress has been evaluated by the Moody Marine surveillance team ('Observations' and 'Conclusion') against:

1. the commitments made in the Action Plan;
2. the intent of the original Condition; and,
3. the original scoring indicator, guideposts and commentary.

The influence of any overall legislative and management changes in the fishery are also taken into consideration.

When the Condition has been judged to have been met, a re-evaluation of the scoring allocated to the relevant Performance Indicator(s) in the original MSC assessment will be included within the evaluation.

Item	Comments
1	Stock status
Observations	<p data-bbox="459 268 1417 300">North Pacific Albacore</p> <p data-bbox="459 300 1417 405">The stock assessment of North Pacific Albacore was updated in late 2006 and reviewed by the International Scientific Committee for tuna and tuna-like species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) in July 2007. The results were similar to the previous assessment (2004) upon which the original MSC certification was based.</p> <p data-bbox="459 447 1417 720">The new assessment indicated that the spawning stock biomass (SSB) fluctuated around an average of about 100,000 mt for two decades 1966-2006, increasing from about 74,000 mt in 2002 to about 153,000 mt in 2006. Additionally, the 2007 SSB was projected to increase slightly to 165,800 mt due to stronger year classes in 2001 and 2003. The 2006 SSB is approximately 53% above the overall time series average (1966-2005). Projections from 2007 to 2020, using an average recruitment productivity of 27.75 million fish, and F equal to 0.75 (average 2002-2004), indicate that the SSB will equilibrate at about 92,600 mt by 2015 (90% CI=62,700-129,300 mt).</p> <p data-bbox="459 762 1417 1476">The population is being fished at roughly F17%SPR (i.e., F2002-2004 = 0.75). This result is similar to the 2004 assessment. F= 0.75 is high relative to commonly used F reference points. For example common F reference points are F30%SPR or F40%SPR. Therefore, the assessment expressed concern at the decline in total albacore catch since 2002. This led to the scientific committee recommending: "Previous scientific advice, based on the 2004 stock assessment, recommended that current fishing mortality rate (F) should not be increased. It was noted that management objectives for the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) are based on maintaining population levels which produce maximum sustainable yield. Due to updating, and improvements and refinements in data and models used in the 2006 stock assessment, it is now recognized that Fcur (0.75) is high relative to most of the F reference points (Table 1). On the other hand, the same analysis indicates that the current estimate of the SSB is the second highest in history but that keeping the current F would gradually reduce the SSB to the long-term average by the mid 2010s. Therefore, the recommendation of not increasing F from current level (Fcur(2002-2004)=0.75) is still valid. However, with the projection based on the continued current high F the fishing mortality rate will have to be reduced. The degree to which, when and how reductions should occur will depend on which reference points are selected and the desired probability and practicability of success of attaining these reference points in a time frame to be agreed. The ISC requires additional guidance on these issues from the management authorities in a timely manner to work further on these issues."</p> <p data-bbox="459 1518 1417 1570">The Table below provides results from equilibrium analysis of biological reference points (BRP) for North Pacific albacore associated with Model D1:</p> <ul data-bbox="459 1581 1417 1728" style="list-style-type: none"> (a) candidate target and limit reference points; (b) corresponding fishing mortality rates (F, yr⁻¹); (c) current F (2002-04) relative to target F or limit F reference points; (d) MSY proxy or equilibrium catch (1,000 mt); and (e) SSBMSY proxy or equilibrium SSB (1,000 mt). <p data-bbox="459 1770 1417 1900">The current F (0.75) reflects the fully-selected F (observed for age groups 8 and 9+) from the mean (geometric) of F-at-age estimates from 2002-04. All catch and SSB estimates are based on the assumption of constant recruitment of 27.75 million fish per year. All SSB statistics are based on the assumption of a 'May 1' reference spawning date.</p>

(a) Candidate Target Reference Points	(b) Target F (yr^{-1})	(c) Ratio of Current F To Target F	(d) MSY Proxy (1,000 mt)	(e) SSBMSY Proxy (1,000 mt)
$F_{40\%}$	0.32	2.31	75	226
$F_{35\%}$	0.38	1.97	79	198
$F_{0.1}$	0.45	1.68	83	171
$F_{30\%}$	0.45	1.67	83	169

(a) Candidate Limit Reference Points	(b) Limit F (yr^{-1})	(c) Ratio of Current F To Limit F	(d) Equilibrium Catch (1,000 mt)	(e) Equilibrium SSB (1,000 mt)
$F_{20\%}$	0.65	1.16	91	113
F_{Max}	2.07	0.36	100	10
$F_{\text{SSB-Min}}$	0.81	0.93	94	83
$F_{\text{SSB-10\%}}$	0.70	1.07	92	102
$F_{\text{SSB-25\%}}$	0.66	1.14	91	110

Essentially, the scientific committee is warning that fishing rates are in excess of common benchmarks and that even though formal benchmarks have not been adopted by the Commissions, there is a need to establish mechanisms to cap the fishing mortality (and effort) and to plan for reductions within the next few years. These results are not materially different than the previous assessment. However, it reiterates the need for developing an effort reduction strategy.

Management actions in Response to Status

In Resolution C-05-02 of the 2005 IATTC meeting it was resolved (among other things) that:

1. The total level of fishing effort for North Pacific albacore tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean not be increased beyond current levels.
2. The CPCs shall take necessary measures to ensure that the level of fishing effort by their vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore tuna is not increased;
3. All CPCs shall report all catches of North Pacific albacore tuna by gear type to the IATTC every six months.

In response to the new assessment information, at the 2008 IATTC meeting it was recommended that the fishing mortality averaged for 2002-2004 be used as the "current" fishing mortality as applies to (1). Also, paragraph (3) calls upon all CPCs to report all catches of North Pacific albacore tuna every six months; however, since the limit in the resolution is in terms of effort the six-monthly reports include information on effort as well as catch, in terms of the most relevant measures for a given gear type. The technical aspects of the effort data to be supplied could be established by the IATTC in collaboration with scientists of the interested member countries.

Similarly, the WCPFC made the same recommendation described in Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2005-03 for CCMs not to increase fishing effort for North Pacific albacore. Summaries of actions in response to this reported at their September 2007 meeting included:

- Japan: North Pacific albacore is taken by purse seine, longline and pole and line fleets which are subject to strict capacity and other controls. Japan noted that the catch of these fleets is declining.
- Chinese Taipei: Consistent with the advice of the ISC Chinese Taipei reported

	<p>it is constraining fishing effort to 2004 levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USA: Albacore is taken in surface troll fisheries and the Hawaiian longline fishery both of which are closely monitored. Research effort is underway to obtain an accurate measure for current effort in these fisheries. • Korea: Albacore is not a target species for Korean fleets. It is taken by longliners as a by-catch. • Canada: reported that its troll fleet is 95% compliant with the logsheet reporting requirements for this fishery and that recent effort has decreased from 220 to 171 vessels. • Vanuatu: reported that less than 40 Vanuatu flag longliners are active in this fishery and that there is no intention to increase vessel numbers. <p>Taking into account these reports the WCPFC agreed to maintain the existing requirement not to increase fishing effort for north Pacific albacore.</p>
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Item	Comments
2	The Fishery
Observations	<p>Figures produced by the Pacific Fishery Management Council show that in 2007 the total US landings of albacore tuna from the States of Washington, Oregon and California by 638 vessels using longline, pole and line, troll/jig and purse seine was 12,754 tons.</p> <p>The value of the catch was in the region of \$21.5 million with an average price of \$1,688 per ton.</p> <p>Approximately 3,000 tons of albacore tuna was landed by the 42 members of AAFA.</p> <p>From the information that was provided it was not possible to distinguish whether the landings of albacore tuna originated from the North (i.e. a different unit of certification) or South Pacific. However, we were told that the majority of fishing within the reporting period took place in the North Pacific.</p>

Item	Comments
3	Condition of Certification - The Stock is at an appropriate level to maintain long term productivity.
Activity assessed	<p>This Condition relates to Principle 1, performance indicators: 1.1.4.1:</p> <p>1.1.4.1</p> <p>100 scoring guidepost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stock is highly likely to be consistently above precautionary reference levels. <p>80 scoring guidepost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stock is likely to be above precautionary reference levels. <p>60 scoring guidepost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stock is likely to be above the limit reference levels and trends in the stock are positive. <p>Score 75</p>

	<p>Condition</p> <p>The present stock assessment suggests that the stock may be “<i>either fully exploited or sustaining fishing mortality above levels that are sustainable in the long term</i>”. Accordingly, management resolutions have been provided by IATTC/WCPFC for a cap on existing effort and expedited reporting of catches. Also, a re-examination of stock assessment data has been initiated by ISC. Actions required of AAFA in this regard are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AAFA to promote and support the management actions put forward, notably limitations on effort. Communications supporting such management measures should be made to the PFMC and/or NMFS. Records should be provided by AAFA of communications and responses. 2. AAFA to provide a summary to Moody Marine on US’s responses to IATTC/WCPFC management resolutions, as provided by NMFS and/or PFMC. (A meeting of International Scientific Committee (ISC) Albacore Working Group was held in December 2006, and is due to report in March 2007. This will provide updated information on stock status and, depending on the latest information, may make further recommendations for management actions). 3. Should the existing resolution be withdrawn following the ISC report, then this condition would be considered closed. 4. If additional resolutions are proposed, then these should be supported as in 1 above. <p>Timescale.</p> <p>Point 1: If still appropriate, should be pursued immediately upon certification.</p> <p>Point 2: AAFA should provide this information within 6 months of certification.</p> <p>Point 4: Should further resolutions be passed by IATTC/WCPFC in this regard, supportive actions should be initiated at the earliest possible opportunity thereafter.</p>
<p>AAFA Actions</p>	<p>AAFA seeks to promote and support the responsible management actions being put forward, including international resolutions calling for fishing effort not to be increased. Attendance and participation in the discussions and meetings of the appropriate scientific and regulatory bodies afford AAFA opportunities to present its position and views in support of such actions.</p> <p>AAFA continues its practice of keeping up to date, attending, and participating in the key discussions and meetings of the appropriate scientific, regulatory, and government bodies tasked with policy and management responsibilities for North and South Pacific albacore and the stock’s pole & line and troll/jig fisheries. These bodies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC); • PFMC’s Highly Migratory Species – Management Team (HMS-MT); • PFMC’s Highly Migratory Species – Advisory Subpanel (HMS-AS); • General Advisory Committee (GAC) to the U.S. Section to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC); • National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS);

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA);
- Department of Commerce;
- Department of State;

AAFA's actions in accordance with this plan, include:

a. Submission of a letter to PFMC expressing AAFA's continued support for ongoing efforts, based on best available science, toward the long term sustainability of the stock, and compliance with international resolutions calling for fishing effort not to be increased.

b. Submission of a letter (via e-mail) to NMFS & NOAA expressing (among others) AAFA's support for provisions of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act of 2006 (rMSA) for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the stock.

c. Attendance and participation at PFMC sessions (including ancillary HMS-MT and HMS-AS meetings) to convey AAFA's support for development and adoption of appropriate management measures and progress to ensure compliance with international resolutions regarding the North Pacific albacore stock.

d. Attendance and participation at HMS-MT and HMS-AS meetings to express AAFA's support and assistance in the development of appropriate characterization of "*current effort*" in response to international resolutions regarding the North Pacific albacore stock.

e. Attendance and participation at GAC meetings to convey AAFA's support for development and adoption of appropriate management measures for the North Pacific albacore stock.

f. Continued attendance, participation, and submission of communications to appropriate management bodies in accordance with current practice.

AAFA will provide to Moody Marine a summary on U.S. responses to IATTC/WCPFC management resolutions, as provided by NMFS and/or PFMC, when such materials become available. The North Pacific albacore stock assessment is presently being conducted by the ISC and its Albacore Working Group and the initially scheduled March, 2007 release has been pushed back to late July, 2007.

AAFA anticipates receiving the updated ISC stock assessment in late July, 2007, and **will provide** Moody Marine with copies in a timely manner. Responsive documents and updates of North Pacific albacore stock assessments will be forwarded to Moody Marine in a timely manner following receipt.

If additional resolutions are proposed, then these should be supported as in point 1 above.

AAFA plans to continue its practice of keeping up to date, attending, and participating in the key discussions and meetings of the appropriate scientific, regulatory, and government bodies tasked with policy and management responsibilities for North and South Pacific albacore and the stock's pole & line and troll/jig fisheries as set forth in point 1 above.

Significant developments and/or additional resolutions will be forwarded to Moody Marine in a timely manner following receipt, and AAFA would continue with its

	efforts in support of responsible management.
Observations	<p>The client has devoted substantial effort and demonstrated significant progress regarding conditions placed on the certification of the AAFA North Pacific albacore troll/bait fishery. These have included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The development of a written Code of Conduct for its members and supporters that acknowledges, affirms, and promotes responsible and sustainable albacore fisheries. 2. The provision of extensive verbal and written testimony to the PFMC supporting sustainability of the U.S. North Pacific albacore fisheries, including limiting entry and other possible fishery management actions and implications for the U.S. West Coast albacore pole and troll fisheries. <p>In 2006 AAFA participated in and provided oral testimony supporting actions related to North Pacific albacore sustainability at several PMFC meetings including the PMFC Highly Migratory Fisheries Committee in May and full meetings of the PMFC in June and September.</p> <p>In 2007 AAFA requested that the PFMC take actions related to management of the North Pacific albacore resource by the submission of a letter acknowledging and supporting the Council's efforts to develop the information necessary to characterize U.S. fishing effort for North Pacific albacore in compliance with the IATTC Resolution regarding capping fishing effort on albacore. The letter also highlighted the need to establish a 10 year moratorium on Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permits for those gear types that harvest significant amount of albacore.</p> <p>In 2008 requested in writing or oral testimony that the PFMC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign its HMS Management Team and HMS Advisory Subpanel to initiate discussions toward developing a program to maintain albacore vessel effort in accordance with historical levels. • Undertake efforts to improve the accuracy of the HMS permit database by initiating a review of the permit database aimed at removing permits that have little or no landings data associated with them. • Recommend that the Council establish a moratorium on the issuance of new HMS permits that would negatively impact albacore sustainability. • Amend the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to address the anticipated impacts of a significant increase in effort, catch, or by-catch by particular gear types. • Recommended that the PFMC make recommendations to the Western and Central Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee regarding the development of Biological Reference Points. • Consider incorporating appropriate Biological Reference Points and develop corresponding management measures designed to achieve International Scientific Committee recommendations on catch and effort of North Pacific albacore in order to maintain Spawning Stock Biomass at or above levels reasonably certain to ensure sustainability at a desired level of harvest. • Implement means for achieving and maintaining compliance by all participating nations with effective and efficient enforcement of management provisions. • Establish an incentive-driven system to reward "early adopters" for initiating rapid action and compliance with international measures.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop incentive measures throughout national and international fishery management practices to promote fishing methods and gear types that provide greater selectivity, reduced by-catch, and progress toward management goals. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. AAFA has also provided leadership in emphasizing the need for communication and coordination of efforts between the WCPFC and the IATTC concerning the international management of North Pacific albacore. 4. The client has also been active and provided substantial support and leadership as an informal member of US delegation regarding the U.S. and Canada Treaty on North Pacific albacore.
Conclusion	<p>There are four parts to the Condition, summarised as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AAFA to make representations to advocate and support limitations of fishing effort; 2. AAFA to provide a summary US response to IATTC/WCPFC management resolutions; 3. If additional management resolutions are proposed to improve stock status, then AAFA should support them as in 1 above. 4. If stock status improves and the need to cap fishing effort is removed the Condition would be considered closed. <p>AAFA have achieved the first two points and confirmed their commitment to continue to advocate fishing effort limitations.</p> <p>In accordance with the fourth point, because the management resolution to cap fishing effort remains in place, the Condition remains open.</p>

Item	Comment
4	<p>Any complaints against the certified operation; recorded, reviewed and actioned</p> <p>Moody Marine Ltd received correspondence from Dr. John D. Hall of Zephyr Fisheries LLC, expressing concern with regard to the bycatch of salmon smolts in bait fisheries associated with the pole and line fishery. This was investigated by the surveillance team as part of the audit.</p> <p>No documentation could be found that confirmed there was or has been significant bycatch of salmon smolts in the bait fisheries. In addition, discussions with academic, Federal, and State fisheries experts revealed no problems or issues concerning this topic. It is considered that if any bycatch occurs it would likely be very minimal since most salmon smolts move into the ocean in the late spring and early summer before albacore are available for pole-and-line fishing, most of which takes place in the late summer and early fall months. Also, salmon smolts apparently are very rarely, if ever, mixed with northern anchovy, which is targeted for bait. In addition, presently there are only a relatively small number of boats, perhaps less than 15, that employ this method of albacore fishing along the West Coast of the U.S.</p>

Item	Comment
5	Any relevant changes to legislation or regulations
	<p>Within the last year AAFA has introduced and implemented its own certificate sharing programme.</p> <p>Because AAFA operates under the Californian Fish Marketing Act there is a requirement within the "Act" that the Certificate-Sharing Program be limited to AAFA members. AAFA has created a two tier membership that allows full or partial membership. Both forms of membership allow participation in the MSC program, however, only full membership affords full privileges and voting rights.</p> <p>We were made aware that some other fisheries organisations had taken issue with the AAFA requirement to become at least partial members. The efficacy or legitimacy of this requirement is beyond the scope of our expertise, requiring more of a paralegal capability. We understand that the MSC have reviewed the program and are content with the approach.</p> <p>AAFA has provided Moody Marine with updates on their membership thereby ensuring that a record of vessels that form part of the certificate sharing program is maintained.</p> <p>The following provides a summary of the nine point certificate sharing program:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Certification Requirements. Each Fishery Vessel joining the Certificate-Sharing Program must recognize and comply with any and all requirements and conditions of MSC certification and this Certificate-Sharing Program. 2. Audit Requirements. Pursuant to the MSC certification requirements, the certification for the Fisheries is valid for five (5) years. Annual audits by an independent certification body serve to confirm that any conditions for continued certification are being met. Additional, supplemental audits may be arranged if believed necessary. 3. Rights of Certificate Client. As the Client, AAFA has the exclusive right to recognize U.S. vessels eligible to share the MSC certification for the Fisheries. 4. Client Responsibilities. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Audits, Assessments & Conditions. AAFA will be responsible for coordinating ongoing audits and certification maintenance. AAFA is responsible for implementing and administering the Certificate-Sharing Program to enable additional Fishery Vessels to join the unit of certification. B. AAFA Designation of Program Participants. Each Fishery Vessel wishing to participate in the Program shall enter into an agreement with AAFA in the form acceptable to AAFA (the "Program Agreement") pursuant to which they agree to the terms set forth in this Certificate Sharing Program (including, but not limited to, the commitments in Section 6). Upon entering into a Program Agreement, AAFA will proceed to verify the qualification of such Fishery Vessel as a Participant in the Program. Upon confirmation of qualifications, AAFA shall prepare written designation of the Participant Fishery Vessel and record such designation in a certification roster for verification, distribution, and communication to MSC. C. Program Marketing Coordination, Traceability and Custody Verification.

Item	Comment
5	<p data-bbox="474 220 1052 249">Any relevant changes to legislation or regulations</p> <p data-bbox="516 254 1416 405">AAFA shall coordinate and facilitate all landings, sales, negotiations, marketing and/or distribution of all MSC Landings and MSC Committed Landings of Participants, in order to ensure orderly marketing, efficient distribution, necessary traceability, verification of Fishery origination, and eligibility for MSC logo and further chain of custody requirements.</p> <p data-bbox="474 409 1036 438">D. Payment to Participants; Revenue Distribution.</p> <p data-bbox="516 443 1416 531">AAFA shall coordinate payments to Participants, in accordance with quantity, MSC status, and character of Fishery landings transacted, negotiated prices and allowable deductions.</p> <p data-bbox="474 535 1416 657">E. Program Interpretation and Amendment. AAFA shall have the sole responsibility to interpret the terms and conditions of the Program and may amend the terms and conditions of the Program from time to time, as it deems necessary or advisable.</p> <p data-bbox="474 690 1011 720">Participation for AAFA Shareholder Members.</p> <p data-bbox="474 753 1416 875">As the Client for MSC certification, AAFA vessels (“AAFA Participants”) are included on the Fishery certificates as eligible participants. Continued compliance with certificate requirements is agreed, along with renewed acceptance of the commitments, terms and conditions of this Program, including:</p> <p data-bbox="474 909 1386 968">A. Use only pole & troll gear (described in the MSC Certification Reports) to fish albacore;</p> <p data-bbox="474 972 1416 1123">B. Support the principles and practices set forth in AAFA’s Code of Conduct; including AAFA’s efforts to meet certification conditions, including promotion and advancement of MSC standards, sustainable fishery practices and products, education, and responsible fishery management.</p> <p data-bbox="474 1127 1416 1220">C. Participate in other reasonable activities requested by AAFA, MSC, or the certification body to maintain certification, including as set out in the Statement of Support.</p> <p data-bbox="474 1224 1416 1283">D. Take necessary steps and reasonable actions to catch and deliver high quality frozen or iced albacore.</p> <p data-bbox="474 1287 1336 1316">E. Maintain current and accurate U.S. vessel registration and fishery permits;</p> <p data-bbox="474 1320 1416 1413">F. Comply with NMFS albacore fishery logbook submission requirements and authorize NMFS to inform AAFA of logbook compliance status. (See accompanying Logbook Authorization).</p> <p data-bbox="474 1417 1416 1568">G. Pay established Program Fees which represent a fair proportion of the costs of obtaining and maintaining the certification, including but not limited to costs and expenses of Program development, administration, assessments, audits, addressing conditions, marketing, promotion, education, complying with MSC requests, and any corrective actions and overhead.</p> <p data-bbox="474 1572 1416 1757">H. Market, sell, and/or distribute all Fishery landings through Client in accordance with Participant commitments and requirements of Program and Fishery certifications (MML-FC-014, MML-FC-015) and MSC Chain of Custody (FFC-1165), as appropriate; Comply with Client’s Fishery landing, notification, delivery, and offloading requirements. This applies to all albacore landings of AAFA Participants.</p> <p data-bbox="474 1761 1416 1854">I. Provide documentation and other information as necessary or required for Program participation, including cooperation with verification efforts and inspection by MSC, accredited certification body or agent.</p> <p data-bbox="474 1887 1084 1917">5. Participation for Certificate-Sharing Participants.</p>

Item	Comment
5	Any relevant changes to legislation or regulations
	<p>AAFA is extending the benefits of using the MSC logo to those Fishery Vessels that qualify under the certificate requirements and agree to the commitments, terms and conditions of this Program for “Certificate-Sharing Participants,” including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Use only pole & troll gear (described in the MSC Certification Reports) to fish Albacore; B. Support the principles and practices set forth in AAFA’s Code of Conduct; including AAFA’s efforts to meet certification conditions, including promotion and advancement of MSC standards, sustainable fishery practices and products, education, and responsible fishery management. C. Participate in other reasonable activities requested by AAFA, MSC, or the certification body to maintain certification, including as set out in the Statement of Support. D. Take necessary steps and reasonable actions to catch and deliver high quality frozen or iced albacore; E. Maintain current and accurate U.S. vessel registration and fishery permits; F. Comply with NMFS albacore fishery logbook submission requirements. <i>Optional:</i> Participants may authorize NMFS to inform AAFA of logbook compliance Status. G. Pay established Program Fees which represent a fair proportion of the costs of obtaining and maintaining the certification, including but not limited to costs and expenses of Program development, administration, assessments, audits, addressing conditions, marketing, promotion, education, complying with MSC requests, and any corrective actions and overhead. H. Market, sell, and/or distribute Fishery landings through Client in accordance with Participant commitments and requirements of Program and Fishery certifications (MML-FC-014, MML-FC-015) and MSC Chain of Custody (FFC-1165), as appropriate; Comply with Client’s Fishery landing, notification, delivery, and offloading requirements. This applies to all MSC Committed Landings of Certificate-Sharing Participants. I. Provide documentation and other information as necessary or required for Program participation, including cooperation with verification efforts and inspection by MSC, accredited certification body or agent. <p>7. Program Fees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Program Participation Fee. In order to apply to become a MSC Program Participant, each Fishery Vessel must submit a Program application package accompanied by the established Program Participation Fee. The Program Participation Fee is necessary to a complete application. The Program Participation Fee is a one-time fee, provided the application is approved and the Program Participant maintains continuous participation in the Program and compliance with Program requirements. For AAFA shareholder members, the Program Participation Fee is included in their AAFA fees. B. Program Renewal Fee. In order to maintain ongoing Participant status, each Participant shall pay an annual Program Renewal Fee in addition to maintaining compliance with all Program terms and conditions. The Program Renewal Fee is nonrefundable and shall be payable each year by the manner and terms established. The Program Renewal Fee is necessary to maintain Participant status, even if no landings are anticipated. Failure to pay a Program Renewal Fee will result in termination of Participant status. For AAFA shareholder members, the Program Renewal Fee is included in their annual AAFA fees. C. Program Landing Fee.

Item	Comment
5	Any relevant changes to legislation or regulations
	<p>MSC Committed Landings by Participants shall be assessed a Program Landing Fee based upon offload weight at the point of landing. The Program Landing Fee may establish different fees for different types of offloads with respect to variables such as certificate-related status, condition of catch, refrigeration method, and other applicable parameters related to offloading.</p> <p>8. Costs and Expenses. Program fees shall be established to reimburse Client for costs and expenses related to maintaining MSC certification and compliance with certification, assessment, and audit conditions, including but not limited to expenses of third-party certifying organizations, costs of retaining consultants and/or experts as may be reasonable to assist Client and/or Participants in efforts toward compliance with Program or certification conditions, and other reasonable costs related to Program implementation or administration.</p> <p>9. Opt-Out; Failure to Pay. A Certificate-Sharing Participant may opt-out of the Program beginning in any calendar year by delivering written notice to Client on or before December 31 of the immediately preceding year. Certificate-Sharing Participants who opt-out shall terminate their designation of qualification for Program participation and will have to reapply for redetermination of qualification for Program participation. Any Participant who has any or all portion of its Program Fees remaining unpaid 30 days after written notice is mailed to Participant's address of record, may be deemed to have opted out of the program.</p>

Item	Comment
6	Any relevant changes to management regime.
	<p>The existing US/Canada Tuna Treaty lapsed at the end of March 2007 owing to the failure of both countries to agree to new measures for limiting access to each other's EEZ. This has resulted in a pre-agreed default position being activated where access to each other's EEZ is limited to 94 vessels for a maximum of 4 months or 376 vessels fishing months.</p> <p>Discussions on the Treaty are expected to continue between Canada and the US throughout 2008.</p>

Item	Comment
7	Overall Conclusions
	<p>The overall management of the fishery continues to at least the level as during the main assessment.</p> <p>The client has devoted substantial effort and demonstrated significant progress regarding conditions placed on the certification of the AAFA North Pacific albacore troll/bait fishery.</p> <p>Because the IATTC/WCPFC management resolution to cap fishing effort remains in place the Condition remains open.</p> <p>The client has confirmed their intent to continue to participate in the management and</p>

	<p>advisory forums and, among other things, advocate the reduction of fishing effort on the stock.</p> <p>MSC Certification should therefore continue and surveillance audits continue to the same schedule.</p>
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Information Sources:

The American Albacore Fishing Association (AAFA) Certificate Sharing Program For The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification of U.S. Vessels Of The North Pacific & South Pacific Albacore Pole & Troll Fisheries. 2008

The American Albacore Fishing Association (AAFA) Membership Information. 2008.

Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean Northern Committee, Third Regular Session, Summary Report, 11–13 September 2007, Tokyo, Japan

Excess Harvesting Capacity in U.S. Fisheries, A Report to Congress, Mandated under Section 312(b)(6) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, April 28, 2008

Fisheries Landing Data - <http://www.psmfc.org/pacfin/data/rALBC.woc07>

International American Tropical Tuna Commission, Fishery Status Report No. 5, Tunas and Billfishes in the Eastern Pacific Ocean in 2006, La Jolla, California, 2008.

International American Tropical Tuna Commission, 78th Meeting, Panama, 24-27 June 2008 Documentistic -78-06b, Conservation Recommendations (revised).

International American Tropical Tuna Commission, 70^a Reunion – 70th Meeting Antigua, Guatemala, 24-27 June 2003. Resolution C-03-05. Resolution on Data Provision.

International American Tropical Tuna Commission, 73rd Meeting, Lanzarote (Spain), 20-24 June 2005. Resolution C-05-02. Resolution on Northern Albacore Tuna.

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) & Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council Sustainable Tuna Roundtable Meeting Report, April 21, 2008, Manos Conference Centre, Brussels, Belgium.

National Marine Fisheries Service, 2003. Evaluating bycatch: a national approach to standardized bycatch monitoring programs. NOAA, NMFS, Silver Spring, MD. 88 p.

Pacific Fisheries Management Council, June 2008, information:

- Agenda Item D.2.b, Supplemental HMSAS Report
- Agenda Item C.3.b, Supplemental HMSMT Report
- Agenda Item D.2.b, Supplemental HMSMT Report
- Agenda Item D.1.b, Supplemental HMSAS Report
- Agenda Item C.3.a Attachment 1 HMSAS Report

Report of the Seventh Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific, Plenary Session, Busan Korea, July 2007.

NB. AAFA also provided us with an extensive list of correspondence they have had in this reporting cycle with the management agencies responsible for the management of the fishery.

Contacts

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Gary Sakagawa, NMFS and Chair of WCPFC Scientific Committee

Standards and Guidelines used:

1. MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing
2. MSC Fishery Certification Methodology Version 6. September 2006
3. TAB Directives – all