MSC Surveillance Report

American Western Fishboat Owner Association (WFOA)
Albacore Tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) **North Pacific Fishery**

for the
WFOA Certificate No: GTC-F-001

Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation (CHMSF)-British Columbia
Albacore Tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) **North Pacific Fishery**

for the
CHMSF Certificate No: GTC-F-002

Date of Submission:

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Client Name	The Western Fishboat Owners Association (WFOA) USA	
Fishery Units	• Species: Albacore tuna *Thunnus alalunga;* • Geographical Area: North Pacific Ocean; • Method of Capture: Troll & Jig • Method of Capture: Pole & Line	
Client Name	The Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation (CHMSF), Canada	
	• Species: Albacore tuna *Thunnus alalunga;* • Geographical Area: North Pacific Ocean; • Method of Capture: Troll & Jig	
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Assessment Team	Dave Garforth, (Lead Assessor) Max Stocker, Assessor	
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Summary

This report contains the findings of the first surveillance audit in relation to two certificates of the North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fishery:

1. The American Western Fishboat Owners Association (WFOA) North Pacific Albacore tuna Troll & Jig and Pole & Line Fishery. (2 separate Units of Certification).

2. The Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation (CHMSF) North Pacific Troll & Jig Albacore tuna Fishery. (One Unit of Certification).

The surveillance audit reports for each fishery client are combined into one single report due to the obvious connections between management systems under US/Canadian Treaty, the treatment of North Pacific Albacore Stock as a single stock by scientific and management bodies and their associated committee and working group arrangements. Additionally, the combination of surveillance audits has allowed a coordinated and effective assessment, supported by each client and resulting in cost savings and a reduction in resource requirements on the various management organizations and stakeholders included in the assessment.

Global Trust determines that in each case:

- **The American Western Fish Boat Owners Association (WFOA) North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fisheries (Pole & Line and Troll & Jig) and;**

- **The Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation (CHMSF) North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fishery (Troll & Jig)**

Continue to operate a well managed and sustainable fishery and therefore, continued certification to the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing is awarded.

On behalf of the MSC clients, WFOA and CHMSF, Global Trust would like to extend thanks to the management organizations and stakeholders of the North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fisheries who took part in this surveillance audit.

• Lead Assessor: Dr. Max Stocker. Dr. Stocker is a scientist with 30 years of extensive experience in fisheries science providing conservation advice for management.
• Lead Auditor: Mr. Dave Garforth. Mr. Garforth is the Technical Director of Global Trust. Mr Garforth is a lead IRCA approved and CoC/traceability auditor

1. Introduction

This report sets out the results of the initial annual surveillance assessment of:

- The American Western Fish Boat Owners Association (WFOA) North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fisheries (Pole & Line and Troll & Jig) and;
- The Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation (CHMSF) North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fishery (Troll & Jig).

To be awarded an MSC certificate for the fishery, the applicants agreed in a written contract to develop an action plan for meeting the required 'Conditions' against the performance indicators that scored below 80% in the initial assessment. Action Plans for each Condition were submitted by each fishery client and these were approved by GTC as the certification body of record.

The applicant also agreed in a written contract to be financially and technically responsible for surveillance visits by an MSC accredited certification body, which would occur at a minimum of once a year, or more often at the discretion of the certification body (based on the applicant's action plan or by previous findings by the certification body from annual surveillance audits or other sources of information).

Announcement of Surveillance Audit

An announcement of the surveillance site visit was published on the MSC website on the 21st December 2010 to provide an opportunity to stakeholders to meet with or submit information on the fishery to the assessment team. Additionally, written notification was sent to the list of stakeholders representing the consultation plan during the initial assessment of this fishery and in many cases follow up mails were also made to ensure that stakeholders had been provided with sufficient opportunity to participate in consultation.

Table 1 provides a list of the stakeholders and management organizations engaged in the process either through meetings, conference call or submission of information. These consultations focused on the questions and evidence that demonstrates the status of the North Pacific albacore stock, the performance of the fishery throughout the year and measures that supported the fulfilment of the Conditions of Certification placed upon WFOA and CHMSF at the initial certification decision.

Meetings with the following management and scientific organizations of the US and Canadian Albacore tuna fishery that were held:

- **Pacific Fishery Management Council**
- **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**
- **IATTC**
- **NMFS, Southwest Fisheries Science Center**
- **BC Dept. Of Environment**
- **Fisheries and Oceans, Canada**
- **NOAA/NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center** (by conference call)

A number of scientific and meeting reports were also examined by the surveillance team in producing this report, as detailed in the information sources section.

2. The Surveillance Process

The Surveillance Audit followed the current version of MSC procedures and methodologies and implemented by Global Trust accredited MSC Procedures (QP).

MSC Fishery Standard v1.1 Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing
Fisheries Certification Methodologies V6.1
Fisheries Assessment Methodology V2.1
TAB Directive 033 v1. Condition Setting and Reporting
TAB Directive 014 v1.1: Guidance on Setting Certification Conditions
TAB Directive 015v2.1: Harmonised Fishery Assessments
TAB Directive 029 v2: Revised Requirements for Stakeholder Consultation in Fishery Assessments
Policy Advisory 7 v2 Use of Confidential Information in Fishery Assessments
Policy Advisory 12 v2: Further Guidance on Scoring Reference Points in Principle 1
Policy Advisory 17 v1: Guidance on Condition Setting
Policy Advisory 19 v1: Clarification on assessment team membership for fishery surveillance audits
N.B TAB D-032 v1: Amendments to the Fisheries Assessment Methodology

The Surveillance Audit was comprised in general of:

1. A review and evaluation of the fishery status, scientific evaluation and changes to the management regime and regulation since the initial assessment with respect to confirming that the fishery continues to meet the MSC Principles and Criteria for certification.

2. A review and evaluation of the client activities and evidence that supports the implementation of the Action Plans agreed at the original certification of each fishery.

The surveillance audit consisted of the announcement to stakeholders and interested parties as required through the MSC website and more direct stakeholder contact with the original stakeholders that took part in the initial assessment and management organizations that comprise the management system and regime for North Pacific Albacore tuna. Through this process, a stakeholder consultation plan was developed as part of the on-site assessment.

Individual letters were sent to stakeholders and management agencies, with follow up e-mails and information on the objectives of the surveillance audit. From this, a surveillance on-site meeting plan was organized and appointments for each individual meeting set. Due to the nature of the management of North Pacific Albacore, and the geographic location of the respective clients; Pacific coast Canada and Pacific coast USA, the on-site assessment covered a range of geographic locations with meetings held in Vancouver and Victoria; British Columbia; Portland, Oregon and La Jolla, California.

One scheduled meeting was not undertaken and one potential meeting was cancelled after a telephone conversation to confirm that the stakeholder was content with the general fishery status *viz a viz* MSC Certification.

- On site Surveillance Audit dates were February 1-9th 2011.
- On-site audits were performed by Max Stocker, Lead Assessor and Dave Garforth, Lead Auditor.

Meetings generally consisted of a 90-180 minute discussion with an pre-set generic agenda used in each case. The agenda was set out so as to allow specific stakeholder interests and concerns to be covered through a structured approach. Client fishery meetings had their own specific Agendas and consisted of a more lengthy exchange and consultation.

Information and notes from the consultation phase of the assessment were combined with a review of formal documentation from science and management agencies, regulatory amendments and the direct evidence collected during each of the client consultation meetings. The review was performed using the standard MSC procedures, FAM and TAB/PA's and relevant to the surveillance audit.

Overall, the surveillance audit took place at various periods, both on-site and off-site from January 3rd to March 16th 2011.

3. Summary of stakeholder and client meetings

Arising out of the stakeholder consultation plan preparation a considerable number of stakeholders were contacted directly by surface mail and e-mail. Arising out of this process a final direct consultation plan for the audit was undertaken. Table 1 details the dates, meeting locations and organizations that were consulted through direct meetings or conference calls during the on-site surveillance assessment.

All meetings were conducted by the Surveillance Team Assessors; Max Stocker and Dave Garforth.

Table 3 of Consultation Meetings during on Site Surveillance Assessment of the North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fishery

Name Organization	Present at Meetings	Location	Venue	Date/Time	Purpose
Pacific Fishery Management Council 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101 Portland, Oregon 97220-1384	Kit Dahl	Portland	PFMC Offices	2th February 2011- 0900-1100	Review/discuss up-dates to the management regime for the US fishery/Discuss US/Canada Treaty.
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife 2040 SE Marine Science Drive Newport, Oregon 97365	Cyreis Schmitt, Gway Kirchner	Portland	Sheraton Hotel, Portland Airport	2th February 2011 1200-1400	Discussion on the State fishery management regime, fisher performance and a review of up-dates (e.g. new bait fishing requirements) to the management system.
WFOA P.O. Box 992723 Redding, California 96099	Wayne Heikkila, Executive Director, Dr.Vidar Wespestad	Portland	Aloft Hotel, Portland	3rd February 2011- 0730-12.30	Substantial client meeting to review fishery performance, any changes to client group, evidence from action plan towards meeting Conditions.
WFOA Client Representative Meeting International Law Offices of San Diego, 740 North Harbor CA.	Peter Flournoy,	By conference call Victoria	Magnolia Hotel, Victoria	6th February 2011 -11.00-12.30	Conference call for additional information of WFOA activities towards meeting Conditions.
IATTC 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive La Jolla CA 92037-1508	Rick Deriso , Alexandre da Silva, Martin Hall	La Jolla, CA	IATTC, 8860 NOAA Scripps Building, Shores Drive, San Diego	4th February 2011 0900-1100	Review/discuss up-dates to the stock assessment for Pacific Albacore with emphasis on the selection of BRP's for the stock.
NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center 3333 North Torrey Pines Court La Jolla, CA	Sarah Schoffler, Fishery Biologist, Craig Herberer, Steve Stohs Steve Teo John Childers, Suzanne Kohin.	La Jolla, CA	NMFS 8860 NOAA Scripps Building, Shores Drive, San Diego	4th February 2011- 1500-1630	Joint meeting for the scientific evaluation and management system for Pacific Albacore. Review/discuss up-dates to the scientific research, plan, assessment, management regime up-dates, fishery reporting and statistical up-date.
CHMSF 4829 Maplegrove Street Victoria, BC CANADA	Lorne Clayton, Executive Director	Victoria, BC	Magnolia Hotel	7th February 2011/0900-1300	Substantial client meeting to review fishery performance, any changes to client group, evidence from action plan towards meeting

V8Y 3B9					Conditions.
BC Dept. Of Environment 3rd Floor 2975 Jutland Rd Victoria, BC	Bob Williams, Fiona Mac Raild, Barron Carswell & Sandy Argue; Consultant to BC Dept. Of Environment	Victoria,	BC Ministry Offices, Victoria, BC	7th February 2011 3-5pm	Discussion and review on the State fishery landings and transfer to the supply chain.
David Suzuki Foundation. Vancouver Canada	Scott Wallace	Vancouver	Telephone discussion held.	8th February 2011	Telephone discussion to confirm that no matters were arising wrt. MSC certification.
Fisheries and Oceans, Canada Suite 200-401 Burrard St. Vancouver BC	Cynthia Johnston, John Holmes	Vancouver	DFO Offices	8th Feb 2011	Joint meeting for the scientific evaluation and management system for the Canadian Pacific Albacore fishery. Review/discuss up-dates to the scientific research, plan, assessment, management regime up-dates, fishery reporting and statistical up-date.
NOAA/NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center 2570 Dole Street, Honolulu, HI	Jon Brodziak	Vancouver	Quality Hotel, Vancouver,	9TH Feb. 11-11.45 am Conference call	Summary review of the assessment and up-dates to the management regime for the fishery.

4. Fishery observations

In 2009 the total all Nations catch of North Pacific albacore was 77,939 tonnes (t), and was about 9,000 t higher than the 2008 catch. The 2009 catch is near the long-term average catch (1971-2000) of 76,965 t. The Canadian and US troll vessel catch was 16,385 t or 21% of the total all Nation North Pacific albacore catch.

There were a few isolated incidences of reports of North American trollers observing allegedly, illegal high seas gill net operations and that they have notified authorities of the incidences. In the summer of 2010 U.S. vessels notified authorities in Hawaii that resulted in an aircraft being deployed to the sighting area. However, the aircraft arrived on the scene too late to locate any vessel. There was no evidence of reported IUU activity from US or Canadian Albacore registered fishing vessels expressed during the assessment.

Canada

In 2009, the Canadian fleet of 135 vessels operated primarily within the coastal waters of the United States and Canada and in adjacent high seas areas. No Canadian vessels reported operating within the WCPFC convention area in 2009, continuing a pattern that began in 2006. All reported catch and effort occurred east of 150°W. Estimates of North Pacific albacore catch and effort in 2009 are 5,685 t and 6,631 vessel days (v-d), respectively, based on logbook compliance rate of 99%. These figures represent 4% and 13% increases in catch and effort relative to 2008, with approximately 92% of the catch occurring within the US EEZ, 7% in the Canadian EEZ, and 1% on the high seas. Nominal catch rate was 857 kg/v-d in 2009, representing an 8% decline relative to 2008. Reported bycatch of other tuna or billfish species, sharks, sea turtles and sea birds was negligible in 2009, consisting of 59 yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*) averaging 2.93 kg in size, and 9 Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*), averaging 6.4 kg in size.

The area of operations for the 2010 fishery consisted primarily of the coastal waters of the United States and Canada and adjacent high seas waters as far west as 147°W. Since 2006, the Canadian fleet has confined its activities to the IATTC convention area north of the equator. Fleet size, catch, and effort were 157 vessels, 6,449 t, and 7,527 v-d, respectively, representing increases of 16%, 13%, and 12% relative to 2009. Logbook compliance in 2010 is 96% as of mid-February 2011. Despite greater fishery activity in 2010, nominal catch rate remained at 857 kg/v-d. Reported bycatch in 2010 consisted of 3 small albacore (released because they were considered too small to market), 1 shark (species not identified), 6 skipjack tuna (*Katsuwomis pelamis*), 4 yellowfin tuna (*T. albacares*), and 45 yellowtail (*S. lalandi*).

Forty-four vessels out of a fleet of 135 vessels (33%) participated in an on-board length sampling program that was implemented in 2009 and turned in 14,685 fork length measurements. Although participation is voluntary, the data from this program are an ongoing license requirement. The observed fork lengths of albacore measured from the Canadian catch (1.5% sampled) ranged from 50 cm (2.63 kg) to 90 cm (15.25 kg). One mode at 64-66 cm fork length (5.50-5.75 kg) was present in the length frequency data corresponding to 2-yr old fish. There were also some larger fish consisting of 3-yr old fish observed. In 2010, 34 vessels out of 157 (22%) participated in the length sampling program and turned in 9,772 (1.05% sampling rate) fork lengths, ranging from 51 to 90 cm. Two modes were present at 64-65 cm and 74-75 cm, corresponding to 2- and 3-yr old fish, respectively.
The 2010 fishery was marked by a northward shift in the distribution of albacore and resulting changes in the fishery. Evidence of this shift include the pronounced mode in the 2010 length-frequency data at 74-75 cm, corresponding to 3-yr old fish, and the absence of this mode in the 2009 data. The abundance of these larger and older fish is greatest south of 40 °N, which is further south than the Canadian fishery operates but is observable in length-frequency data reported for the US troll fleet, which is divisible into northern and

southern areas on the basis of differences in length-frequency modes. As a result of the northward shift in albacore distribution, the Canadian fleet was 16% larger than in 2008 and 2009 since more vessels could fish successfully in Canadian waters and the number of US registered vessels fishing in Canadian waters under the terms of the Can-US Tuna Treaty was 67, which is about three times more than usual in the past five years. The Canadian fleet caught 2,348 t of albacore in the coastal waters of Canada in 2010, which is the highest catch on record (1995-2010).

The 2009 bycatch included 4,289 skipjack tuna reported by one vessel. Although this quantity is not negligible, subsequent investigation by Canadian officials found that this report was an error resulting from the misidentification of albacore with slightly different markings by an inexperienced crew. Scientific reports of the Canadian fishery in 2008 and 2009 to the WCPFC, the IATTC and the ISC wrongly indicate that bycatch by the Canadian fleet is retained; it is a condition of licence that harvesters return species other than albacore unharmed, i.e., bycatch is not retained. Corrective measures that will be implemented for the 2011 fishery include the publication of an erratum in all scientific reports and the distribution to harvesters of a photo identification sheet of common tuna and bycatch species.

Canadian scientists collaborated with colleagues from the U.S. in a pilot project aging juvenile albacore (57-90 cm) with otoliths and dorsal fin rays. Otoliths and fin rays from 49 fish were aged at the Pacific Biological Station, with reported ages ranging from 1 to 5 years. An inter-laboratory comparison is planned for 2011 between Canada and the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, CA, as a quality control process for each laboratory. Canada also began a project to develop tools to forecast albacore availability in temperate waters based on environmental data such as sea surface temperature, salinity, sea surface height, and ocean productivity. The initial model, based on GLM analysis, has shown promise, explaining 75% of the variability in reported catch. Further work will focus on model validation, increasing the size of the dataset for parameter estimation purposes with pooled records from both US and Canadian vessels (1995-2009 only), and improving the model structure for predictive and forecasting purposes with new variables such as time-lagged Northern Oscillation, Upwelling, and Pacific Decadal Oscillation indices, thermocline depth, satellite data on chlorophyll concentrations and temperature fronts, and information on collaborative search practices in fishing fleets.

USA

Preliminary figures for United States albacore fisheries were presented at ISC 10. The biggest USA fishery is the troll/pole-and-line fishery. The troll fishery has averaged 10,000-12,000 t annually over the last 5 years and the preliminary figure for 2009 is 10,938 t. The pole-and-line fishery catches about 1,200 t. Other fisheries contribute small amounts to the total catch. The Hawaii-based USA Long-Line fishery averages about 300 t historically.

The U.S. troll fishery according to PacFin data landed 10,886 t mainly in Washington State ports of Westport and Ilwaco, followed by Oregon ports of Astoria/Warrenton, Newport, and Coos Bay. California had small landings in 2010. In 2010 catches of U.S. vessels in the Canadian EEZ were fairly good. Nearly 70 U.S. boats checked into the Canadian EEZ and they reported good catches as far north as the Queen Charlotte Islands.

California

The HMS FMP requires a federal permit with a surface hook-and-line gear endorsement for all U.S. commercial and recreational charter fishing vessels that fish for albacore within the West Coast EEZ. This endorsement is also required for U.S. vessels that fish albacore on the high seas and land their catch in

California, Oregon, or Washington.

In California, 130 commercial surface hook-and-line vessels landed over 348 t of albacore in 2009. In the year before saw only 72 vessels landing 383 t. More than 50% of the 2009 landings were delivered to the Eureka area.

Oregon

In Oregon, commercial landings of albacore tuna in 2009, predominantly jig-caught (troll-caught) fish, have totaled 4,599 t. This represents an increase of 14 % over the 2008 landings of 4,026 t. In 2009, a total of 418 vessels made 1,314 landings of albacore in 2009. During the 2009 season Newport received 50% of the Oregon albacore landings, while Astoria received 26% of the statewide landings. Sampling of Oregon's commercial albacore fishery is a cooperative effort between the ODFW, NMFS, and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

5. Stock status observations

2006 North Pacific albacore stock assessment

The most recent albacore stock assessment was completed in December 2006 using fishery data through 2005. Stock status and conservation advice were provided to the ISC7 Plenary (July 2007) and to NC3 (September 2007). No formal update of stock status has been conducted since the 2006 assessment.

The findings of the 2006 ALBWG assessment were:

Spawning stock biomass (SSB) estimates fluctuated around the modeled time series average (1966-2005) of 100,000 t. The estimated spawning stock size in 2006 of about 153,000 t was approximately 53% above the overall time series average (1966-2005). Current fishing mortality (average for 2002-2004) was estimated at 0.75. Under the 'current' level of *F*, the population was being fished at roughly *F*17%. The current level of fishing mortality (i.e., spawning potential ratio of *F*17%) is high relative to commonly used reference points. Recruitment (age 1 fish) estimates fluctuated over the period 1966-98. A declining trend was observed from the late 1960s to the late 1980s. In recent years recruitment has fluctuated around the long term average of 27.75 million fish. Projections (2006-2020) with average recruitment (27.75 m) and *F*2002-2004 = 0.75 indicated that the spawning stock biomass (*SSB*) would decline to an equilibrium level of 92,000 t (with 80% CI of 69,000-116,000) by 2020.

The 2006 assessment also considered biological reference points. The biological reference points considered fell into two categories: (1) reference points that may potential be candidates as *F*-based MSY proxies, namely *F*40%, *F*30%, and *F*0.1; and (2) candidates to serve as *F*-based 'limit' proxies, namely *F*20% *F*Max, *F*SSB-Min, *F*, and *F*.

Given these findings the ALBWG emphasized the need for nations to closely monitor the albacore population over the coming years to ensure the stock is responding favorably to present fishing practices in the North Pacific Ocean. The conservation advice (see below) developed by the ISC in 2007 led to the following conservation and management measures:

IATTC Resolution C-05-02:

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.*
4. *The Director shall, in coordination with other scientific bodies conducting scientific reviews of this stock, monitor the status of North Pacific albacore tuna and report on the status of the stock at each annual meeting;*
5. *The CPCs shall consider future actions with respect to North Pacific albacore tuna as may be warranted based on the results of such future analysis.*
6. *The CPCs call upon the members of the WCPFC to consider, at the earliest opportunity, taking such action as may be necessary to ensure the effective conservation and management of North Pacific albacore tuna throughout its range including, in particular, measures to ensure that fishing effort on the stock in the WCPFC area does not increase and, as necessary, measures to reduce fishing effort to levels commensurate with the long-term sustainability of the resource.*
7. *The Commission through the Director shall communicate with the WCPFC and request them to take similar measures.*
8. *The provisions of paragraph 2 shall not prejudice the rights and obligations under international law of those coastal CPCs in the EPO whose current fishing activity for northern Pacific albacore tuna is limited, but that have a real interest in, and history of, fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries for northern Pacific albacore tuna in the future.*

WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures CMM 05-03:

1. *The total level of fishing effort for North Pacific albacore in the Convention Area north of the equator shall not be increased beyond current levels.*
2. *The Members, Cooperating Non-Members and participating Territories (hereinafter referred to as CCMs) shall take necessary measures to ensure that the level of fishing effort by their vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore in the WCPF Convention Area is not increased beyond current levels;*
3. *All CCMs shall report all catches of North Pacific albacore to the WCPFC every six months, except for small coastal fisheries which shall be reported on an annual basis. Such data shall be reported to the Commission as soon as possible and no later than one year after the end of the period covered.*
4. *All CCMs shall report annually to the WCPFC Commission all catches of albacore north of the equator and all fishing effort north of the equator in fisheries directed at albacore. The reports for both catch and fishing effort shall be made by gear type. Catches shall be reported in terms of weight. Fishing effort shall be reported in terms of the most relevant measures for a given gear type, including at a minimum for all gear types, the number of vessel-days fished.*
5. *The Northern Committee shall, in coordination with International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean and other scientific bodies conducting scientific reviews of this stock, including the WCPFC Scientific Committee, monitor the status of North Pacific albacore and report to the Commission on the status of the stock at each annual meeting, and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary for their effective conservation.*
6. *The Commission shall consider future actions with respect to North Pacific albacore based on recommendations of the Northern Committee.*
7. *The CCMs shall work to maintain, and as necessary reduce, the level of fishing effort on North Pacific albacore within the Convention Area commensurate with the long-term sustainability of the stock.*
8. *The WCPFC Executive Director shall communicate this resolution to the IATTC and request that the two Commissions engage in consultations with a view to reaching agreement on a consistent set of conservation and management measures for North Pacific albacore, and specifically, to propose that both Commissions adopt as soon as practicable uniform conservation and management measures and any reporting or other measures needed to ensure compliance with agreed measures.*

2010 qualitative North Pacific albacore update

The ISC Albacore Working Group (ALBWG) conducted a qualitative update at its meeting on 12-13 July 2010 using available fisheries data from 2006 to 2009. The Japanese longline CPUE age 6-9+ was used as an index of spawning stock biomass. The qualitative update conducted by the ALBWG found that catches in most fleets (country x gear combination) have declined or been stable since the 2006 stock assessment; nominal effort as measured by the number of vessels has also declined or been stable in most fleets since the 2006 stock assessment; and the North Pacific Japan longline age 6-9+ SSB index has declined from previous high levels and appears to be relatively stable since the 2006 stock assessment.

From these findings, the ALBWG concluded the following:

1. *A new stock assessment will be necessary to fully understand the implications of the new data available since the last stock assessment;*

2. *The 2006 stock assessment estimated that albacore spawning biomass reached an historical high in 2005 and then projected a decline thereafter. The age 6-9+ index shows that SSB has declined from previous high levels and appears to be relatively stable since the last stock assessment;*

3. *The WG did not focus on recruitment in its latest qualitative review and is unable to provide insight into recruitment in recent years beyond observations in previous Plenary reports; and*

4. *Nominal effort in most fisheries (as measured by the number of vessels) appears to have declined slightly or been stable since 2005. Although catches exhibit more inter-annual variability than effort, with the largest variation occurring in the Japan pole-and-line fisheries, most fisheries catches have declined or remained relatively stable over the same period. This could mean that F2009 is less than the F2002-2004 (0.75 yr-1) used in the 2006 stock assessment projections. Alternatively, F2009 may be as high as the value used in the stock assessment projections since the level of recruitment after 2005 is not known.*

Overall the conservation advice was not changed in 2010. The advice of no increase in effort beyond "current levels" remains. The ISC 10 Plenary offered no new conservation advice but reiterated the advice based on the advice of ISC 7:

"*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 IATTC and 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 F2002-2004 (0.75) is high relative to most of the F reference points [commonly used in fisheries management] (see Table 5a in Annex 5) [of the ISC7 Plenary Report].*

On the other hand, the same analysis indicates that the current [2005] 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 (F2002-2004=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."

Based on analyses conducted by the ALBWG since ISC9 the ISC Plenary highlighted the following points:

1. Both the ISC9 and ISC10 Plenaries note that there is increasing uncertainty concerning the status of North Pacific albacore in the absence of a new stock assessment.
2. The ISC10 Plenary notes that there is no strong positive or negative signals in the age 6-9+ SSB index since

the last stock assessment.
3. The next stock assessment is expected to be completed in early 2011 and the results will be presented at ISC11.
4. The ISC9 Plenary reported that the estimated value of FSSB-ATHL is 0.75yr-1 for a 25-year projection period using fishery data through 2008. This value is similar to F= 0.75 yr-1, estimated in the last stock assessment.

The ALBWG is holding a stock assessment workshop March 9-26, 2011 to conduct a new North Pacific albacore assessment using data through 2009 at National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Shimizu, Japan. The results of the workshop will be presented at ISC11 in July hosted by the US.

Biological Reference Points

The ALBWG has estimated a suite of potential MSY-proxy reference points including F40%, F35%, F30%, F20%, F0.1, and FMAX, in stock assessments since 2000. More recently, the ALBWG has developed minimum SSB reference points that are F-based estimators to ensure that SSB will not decline below historically estimated SSB levels for any pre-specified probability.

At the NC4 meeting, an interim objective to maintain the spawning stock biomass (SSB) above the average level of its ten historically lowest estimates (ATHL) with a probability greater than 50% was adopted and at ISC9 the ALBWG estimated the associated F-based reference point (FSSB-ATHL) using a 25-yr projection period to be 0.75 yr-1. These F-based minimum SSB reference points, including FSSB-ATHL, are implicitly consistent with a goal of maintaining albacore SSB at levels that historically supported the productive, large-scale fisheries conducted in the North Pacific for more than 50 years.

Possible biological reference points for North Pacific albacore were recently reviewed during the Northern Committee, Sixth Regular Session, WORKSHOP ON BIOLOGICAL REFERENCE POINTS. The following observations were noted:

'The ALBWG has developed minimum spawning stock biomass (SSB) reference points that are F-based estimators (FSSB) to ensure that SSB will not decline below historically estimated SSB levels, including the average level of the ten historically lowest estimates of SSB (ATHL). The WG also identified a simulation framework based on the FSSB suite of reference points that illustrates the tradeoffs between uncertainty, risk, threshold levels, and reference point estimates. To use this framework, managers need to clearly specify management objectives for the stock, SSB threshold level, level of certainty concerning future SSB, their risk tolerance/avoidance, and the length of the projection period since the results will differ under shorter or longer projection periods. The WG did not endorse any particular reference point(s) at this time. but noted the following: (1) SSB-min occurs at beginning of SSB time series and is not reliably estimated by the stock assessment model, (2) estimates of SSB-X%, where X = lower 10-50 percentiles, are more robust statistically than SSB-ATHL, and (3) the probability that future SSB will fall below a limit reference point threshold in one or more years should be less than 50% (e.g., 5%), i.e., greater certainty is needed considering the risk to the stock.'

The Northern Committee at its 6th meeting (NC6) in September 2010 confirmed that the interim management objective for North Pacific albacore is to maintain SSB above the average level of its 10 historically lowest observed points (ATHL). The fishing mortality rate that would likely cause SSB to fall below this level with a probability greater than 50% is referred to as the interim reference point (IRP).

6. Relevant changes to Legislation and Regulations

International

At the 6th regular session in 2010, the WCPFC reviewed the existing conservation and management measures for North Pacific albacore and the following proposal was made:

"The NC Chair presented a proposal to revise CMM 2005-03 on North Pacific albacore (WCPFC-2009/DP06). The NC Chair acknowledged the concerns of FFA members regarding the authority of the NC for the Convention Area north of 20° north latitude only, but highlighted the importance of a CMM that covered the entire distribution of the stock, which in the case of North Pacific albacore extends to the equator. It was noted that IATTC has in place a similar measure that covers all of its Convention Area north of the equator. The NC Chair proposed that the Commission adopt the proposed CMM under its mandate to manage stocks in the Convention Area over their entire range."

However, further consideration of this measure was deferred until 2010.

United States

- Amendment 2 to the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan was transmitted by PFMC to the National Marine Fisheries Service for Secretarial review on January 27, 2011. PFMC adopted Amendment 2 in June 2010. Amendment 2 makes the HMS FMP consistent with advisory guidelines for National Standard 1 in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), as amended (50 CFR 600.310). National Standard 1 (NS1) mandates that "Conservation and management measures shall prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield (OY) from each fishery for the U.S. fishing industry." For North Pacific albacore the international exception to setting allowable biological catches (ABCs) and ACLs would be applied but would not be exempt from setting MSY/OY. Amendment 2 will be announced in Federal Register.

- NMFS implementation of the WCPFC Convention (15 CFR Part 902; 50 CFR Part 300) effective February 22, 2010, requires vessels fishing in the convention area (west of 150°) to have operating VMS on board.

- NMFS issued a final rule to initiate collection of a permit fee for vessel owners participating in the participating in HMS in the US west coast EEZ. The final rule (50 CFR Part 660) became effective on August, 27 2009. The HMS permits are issued under regulations for the HMS FMP

Oregon

Oregon took action to allow fishing for live anchovies in Oregon's estuaries. This action was taken at the August 2009 Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting. A temporary rule was filed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) in the summer of 2008 and again in 2009 to allow vessels to fish in a limited number of Oregon's estuaries. These vessels target anchovies with lampara nets to use as live bait in the commercial albacore tuna "live bait" fishery. The Western Fishing Boat Association members represent a small proportion of the live bait fishery. Other non client members also engage in bait fishing under this rule. The Fish and Wildlife Commission **ap**proved permanent rules (Rule 635-004-0042) to allow the activity with important monitoring components such as a mandatory call-in to the Oregon State Police and a logbook requirement.

7. Relevant changes to Management Regime

International

At the 6th Regular Session of the WCPFC Northern Committee, Canada provided a proposal for developing a fishery management regime for stocks managed by the Northern Committee (WCPFC-NC6-DP-02). The NC report noted:

"The WCPFC Convention text requires members to determine stock specific reference points, to take measures to ensure points are not exceeded, and to take action without delay if these reference points are exceeded. DP02 outlines one way to adopt a PA regime – through the establishment of control rules which identify three stock status zones – healthy, cautious and critical – based on pre determined reference points. A removal rate is set, and decision rules and management actions are decided in advance, which come into effect as the stock approaches the critical zone. Canada welcomed comments from other delegations and asked that NC members consider the basic concepts contained in this paper as a way forward for the Commission when considering conservation and management measures and the need to identify appropriate reference points. The WS on biological RP supported this concept."

US and Canadian coastal tuna harvesters are currently allowed to fish and land their albacore catches in each others waters through a bilateral treaty until December 31, 2011. In accordance with this agreement, 110 Canadian vessels have access to U.S. waters to fish for albacore during a four and-a-half month season, from June 15-October 31. This reciprocal arrangement, known as the Canada-U.S. Pacific Albacore Tuna Treaty, or simply the Tuna Treaty, permits American tuna harvesters access to Canadian west coast waters and ports to fish and land their albacore catches. The Canada-US Albacore treaty is a mutually beneficial agreement given the highly migratory nature of albacore tuna. The treaty builds on the cooperation that's essential to sustainable fisheries management for highly migratory species. Negotiations between the US and Canada are underway to extent the treaty beyond 2011.

United States

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) commissioned a study of potential management options for the U.S. West Coast North Pacific albacore fisheries in 2009. The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) and HMS Advisory Subpanel reviewed drafts of the report termed the "white paper" in 2009. A finalized version of the "white paper" was submitted to the Council at their April 2010 meeting. The Council considered the information in the paper and evaluated the necessity of establishing a license limitation or limited entry program for the West Coast albacore fishery. At the April 2009 meeting the Council decided not to proceed with development of a limited entry program at this time.

Following the decision the Council directed the HMSMT, with assistance from the HMSAS and support from NMFS, to gather further information characterizing the domestic and international albacore fishing fleets. This work is requested to develop U.S. proposals for albacore conservation and management measures at the international RFMO level and domestic level, in the event that action would be necessary given the upcoming 2011 North Pacific albacore stock assessment. A report characterizing the domestic and international albacore fishing fleets is expected in the first half of 2011.

WFOA initiated a west coast commercial albacore fishery economic study funded by NMFS to augment the information on which the PFMC has to make decisions on this matter. HMS research and data needs identified for albacore linked to management priorities were 1) an electronic fish ticket system, and 2) development of an electronic logbook system. The electronic fish ticket system on the West Coast would greatly improve the availability and timeliness of fishery data, and the electronic logbook could have a

similar effect on the availability and timeliness of data from captains' logs. Electronic reporting systems could increase data entry convenience for industry participants and reduce processing time and costs for data managers. NMFS reported that around 78 albacore vessels have used electronic logbooks over the past four years.

Canada

Canada ratified the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Antigua Convention on June 9, 2009. Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced on October 8, 2010 that Canada rejoined the IATTC as a full member. Thus, Canada is now at the table to more effectively participate in decisions of the IATTC that will strengthen international tuna management measures in the Eastern Pacific.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has authority to set licensing conditions under subsection 22(1) of the *Fishery (General) Regulations* for the proper management and control of fisheries and the conservation and protection of fish. Licensing conditions for 2010/11 that were modified from previous years included VMS and Hail requirements:

Any vessel greater than 24 m in length used for fishing tuna in the Pacific Ocean east of 150 degrees east longitude shall be equipped with Departmentally approved vessel monitoring system satellite transponder equipment with the antenna mounted in a location that ensures unobstructed signal transmission/reception at all times.

Requirements for the vessel master to report information prior to a fishing trip (Hail requirements):
A company has been contracted on behalf of the tuna industry by the Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation (CHMSF) to take hail information for the 2010/2011 season. All reports shall be made to the company by phone from 0900 to 1600 hrs Monday to Friday only. Previously vessel masters were required to hail to Tofino Coast Guard.

8. The General Conditions of Certification

The general 'Conditions' set for each Certificate holder were as follows:

- Both CHMSF and WFOA must recognize that MSC standards require regular monitoring inspections at least once a year, focusing on compliance with the 'Conditions' set forth in this report (as outlined below) and continued conformity with the standards of certification;

- Both CHMSF and WFOA must agree by contract to be responsible financially and technically for compliance with required surveillance audits by an accredited MSC certification body, and a contract must be signed and verified by GTC prior to certification being awarded;

- Both CHMSF and WFOA must recognize that MSC standards require a full re-evaluation for certification (as opposed to yearly monitoring for update purposes) every five years;

- Prior to receiving final certification, both CHMSF and WFOA shall develop, an 'Action Plan' (each of the client groups) for Meeting the Condition for Continued Certification' and have it approved by GTC.

An Action Plan was submitted and accepted prior to initial certification of both CHMSF and WFOA.

During the surveillance audit for both CHMSF and WFOA, both client fisheries were deemed to be in conformance with the general conditions of certification. Prior to the initial certification of each client fishery, Action Plans were developed and submitted to Global Trust by each client and accepted by the assessment team. During the surveillance audit and evaluation of any changes to the client group was also undertaken for each fishery.

8.1 WFOA Client Group

An up-date of the 2010 vessels that were included in the WFOA client group for MSC purposes was provided. In 2010, a total of 369 US registered vessels are included within the client group of which 203 were members of WFOA and 166 were non member vessels. WFOA has exercised control over the entry requirements and commitment for participating in the MSC Certificate through a number of Agreements that must be made by vessel owners prior to access to the MSC Certificate being made available. Legal compliance and registration remain part of these requirements. A similar arrangement and agreement exists for processors and landing stations which are used to access albacore tuna under the Certificate. This agreement also specifies the requirement to obtain MSC Chain of Custody Certification.

Documentation collected at audit includes:

- AGREEMENT TO DESIGNATE VESSEL ON MSC CERTIFICATE FOR THE 2010 SEASON
- NON-WFOA MEMBER REGISTRATION FOR MSC -2010
- Re: AGREEMENT TO DESIGNATE PARTY ON MSC CERTIFICATION: Buying Station Attachment
- WFOA - NORTH PACIFIC TROLL AND BAITBOAT MSC CERTIFICATION
- AGREEMENT TO DESIGNATE PROCESSOR/BUYER ON MSC CERTIFICATE FOR THE 2010 SEASON
- MSC - VESSELS 2010 - WFOA & NON WFOA* UPDATED 10/29/2010

8.2. CHMSF Client Group

An up-date of the 2010 vessels that were included in the CHMSF client group for MSC purposes was provided. In 2010, a total of 60 Canadian registered vessels were included within the client group of CHMSF. This list includes 22 additional member vessels compared to the client group at the commencement of certification. In addition a list of processors who are designated for accessing albacore tuna under the certificate was provided. Agreements and commitments are in place for vessels and processors for participation in the MSC Certificate.

The certificate currently itemizes the point of entry of albacore tuna into the MSC Chain of Custody as at the point of landing by the vessel. Global Trust has reviewed the wording of the certificate and also the direction provided in MSC TAB D-018 V1.1 and considers that although this definition is accurate it may be mis-leading with respect to the immediate activities at the point of landing. It is customary that at the point of landing, the off-loading of vessels is undertaken by contract workers on behalf of the entities that will take title of the product.

Global Trust would like to issue a clarification for chain of custody certification of North Pacific Albacore tuna under the CHMSF Certificate:

Whilst the requirement to include the off-loading activity within the scope of the audit should remain subject to risk assessment by certification bodies undertaking chain of custody certification and the outcome of this may require on-site inspection of off-loading activities, TAB D-018 v1.1 places the responsibility for the Chain of Custody certification with the entity taking title of the certified product and not with the contract services for unloading vessels for these entities. Therefore, the official point of the start of the chain of custody is at the point of chain of ownership of the product.

Evidence collected at audit includes:

- 2010-MSC CERTIFICATE-UPDATED-AUGUST 20 –MSC Vessel List
- 2010-MSC CERTIFICATE-UPDATED-AUGUST 20 –MSC Processor List
- http://www.canadianalbacoretuna.com/sustainability.html

9. The Specific Conditions of Certification

During the initial assessment of the fishery, a conditional score was allocated for **PI1.1.2** of the MSC Default Scoring Tree. The original context and rationale is presented in Appendix 3 in detail and in summary below at the time of full assessment.

The assessment team determined that the appropriateness of the target reference points used at present for the North Pacific albacore stock (Fishing Mortality = 0.75) is not known.

ISC conservation advice suggested that the stock maybe "either fully exploited or sustaining fishing mortality above levels that are sustainable in the long term". Accordingly, management resolutions have been provided by IATTC/WCPFC for a cap in fishing effort.

The ISC advised that fishing rates were in excess of common benchmarks and recommend the need for developing an effort reduction strategy. In 2005, the ISC requested to the management authorities for guidance on the definition of biological reference points to determine the degree to which, when and how reduction should occur.

In 2008, The Northern Committee adopted an interim management objective at NC4 to maintain the spawning stock biomass (SSB) above the average level of its 10 historically lowest points (ATHL) with a probability of 50% until reference points are established. However, the request on guidance for the definition of biological reference points (limit and target referee points) was still in place at the ISC Plenary in 2009.

A conditional score was assigned for PI1.1.2 Reference Points:

Unit Of Certification ID	Fishery Name	Fishing Method	Score
1	CHMSF British Columbia North Pacific Albacore Tuna	Troll & Jig	75
2	American WFOA North Pacific Albacore Tuna	Troll & Jig	75
3	American WFOA North Pacific Albacore Tuna	Pole & Line	75

Table of Conditions, Action Plan and Observations from Evidence Collected during the Surveillance Audit

Issue 1 SG 80 in the Assessment Report stated:

"The Assessment Team determined that this issue **was not met** as the appropriateness of the Target Reference Point used is unknown based on evidence provided. The reason for this determination can be summarized as follows:

- Criteria for the adoption of explicit limit and target reference points for north Pacific albacore have not yet been adopted by the WCPFC and the IATTC (Preliminary report ISC 8, 2008)

- There is not yet an agreement among IATTC and WCFPC member parties of whether F=0.75 should be defined as limit or target, therefore;

- Conservation advice given by the ISC in years 2007-2009 states that with the projection based on the continued current high F, the fishing mortality rate will have to be reduced' (Box 3) and;

- High priority has been given by the ISC to further developing limit and target reference points (ISC, 2007; ISC, 2008; ISC, 2009) for their definition for international management.

A score of less than 80 (75) has resulted in a condition set for each of the respective clients which must be agreed in order that the fishery remain eligible for certification(refer to Section 8). "

Conditions Set on the CHMSF

Item 5:	***CHMSF Condition 1 (of 1)***	
Performance Indicator & Guidepost Issue	**PI 1.1.2: Reference Points** **Limit and Target reference points are appropriate for the stock**	**Guidepost 80 (Issue 1)** **Reference points are appropriate for the stock and can be estimated.**
Condition 1 Part 1	1. CHMSF to promote and support: a. The management actions put forward, notably limitation on effort. Communications supporting such management measures should be made to appropriate organisations. Records should be provided by CHMSF of communications and responses ; b. ISC request to management authorities for guidance on the definition and application of biological reference points (BRPs) in order to facilitate response to requests for conservation advice. Communications supporting ISC request should be made to appropriate organisations. Records should be provided by CHMSF of communications and responses.	
Action Plan	*CHMSF Board and Advisors 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 Pacific albacore and the stock's troll/jig fisheries. These bodies include:* • *IATTC (Inter-American-Tropical-Tuna-Commission)* • *WCPFC (Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission)* • *Northern Committee of the WCPFC* • *Chair of the ISC (International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna- like Species in the North Pacific Ocean)* • *Federal Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO);* • *Federal Ministry of Fisheries- International Trade;* • *Provincial Ministry of Environment (BCENV);* • *Tuna Advisory Board (TAB);* • *Department of Fisheries and Oceans Highly Migratory Species – Management Team;* • *Bi-lateral Treaty Group* *CHMSF's actions in accordance with this plan include:* *a. Submission of a letter to the Chair of the IATTC (Inter-American-Tropical Tuna-Commission), copied to the Executive Director of the Secretariat expressing CHMSF'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 to the Chair of the WCPFC, copied to the Executive Director of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Northern Committee, expressing CHMSF'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. c. *Submission of a letter to the Chair of the ISC, copied to the Chair of the ISC Albacore Working Group, expressing CHMSF'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.* d. *Submission of a letter to the Chair of the WCPFC, copied to the Executive Director of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Northern Committee, expressing CHMSF'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.* e. *Submission of a letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, copied to Regional Director General (Pacific) expressing CHMSF'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.* f. *Submission of a letter to BC Ministry of Environment expressing CHMSF'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.* g. *Submission of a letter to Tuna Advisory Board expressing CHMSF'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.* h. *Attendance and participation at Joint BCTFA, WFOA, NMFS, NOAA, meeting sessions to convey CHMSF's support for development and adoption of appropriate management measures and progress to ensure compliance with international resolutions regarding the North Pacific albacore stock.* i. *Supporting Canada's attendance and participation at IATTC/WCPFC and supporting ISC recommendations to those bodies international resolutions regarding the North Pacific albacore stock.* j. *Continued attendance, participation, and submission of communications to appropriate management bodies in accordance with current practice* • *Federal Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO);* • *Federal Ministry of Fisheries- International Trade;* • *Provincial Ministry of Environment (BCENV);* • *Tuna Advisory Board (TAB);* • *Department of Fisheries and Oceans Highly Migratory Species – Management Team;* • *Bi-lateral Treaty Group*

Evidence	CHMSF has written letters encouraging all levels of management that have responsibilities for the management of Albacore Tuna Stocks to develop appropriate Biological Reference Points (BPR's) for monitoring the state of the harvest relative to stock status. Letters have been sent to: • IATTC – Dr G. Compeán • ISC – Dr. G DiNardo • WCPFC Northern Committee – Dr. M. Miyahara • WCPFC – Professor G. Hurry • B.C. Ministry of Agriculture – The Honorable B. Stewart • Fisheries and Oceans Canada – The Honorable G. Shea • Fisheries and Oceans Canada – S. Lapointe • Tuna Advisory Board – C. Johnston CHMSF also indicates in the letters that they support the equitable, consistent and scientifically based establishment of Biological Reference Points by RFMO's that have input to the management of the Northern Pacific Albacore Stock. As a standing member of the Canadian Tuna Advisory Board (TAB), and as an invited participant at BCTFA, WFOA, NMFS, NOAA and Bi-lateral Treaty discussions, the CHMSF also supports the ongoing efforts by the ISC to undertake stock status determination directed towards the long term sustainability of stocks and with recent international resolutions calling for fishing effort not to be increased. During the 2009-2010 year the CHMSF and its Directors have participated in a number of international meetings and activities related to support and advocacy of Sustainable Fisheries. These include: • **January 28-29, 2010** Participation in Canadian Tuna Advisory Board Meetings- British Columbia, Canada • **March 28-31, 2010** Participation in the AGM WFOA - Rosedale, California • **April 19-21, 2010** Host- Second International Albacore Tuna Convention- Victoria, BC, Canada. Invited guests: Ambassador Sullivan- Canada's Ambassador for Sustainable Fisheries; Dan Averil-MSC Americas; WFOA President and Executive Director. • **April 27-29, 2010** Attendance and Sustainability Advocacy, European Seafood Show, Brussels, Belgium • **May 18-20, 2010** Bilateral Treaty Talks- Vancouver • **June 12-19, 2010** Participation in Agrifoods Canada -Chongqing and Shanghai Program on Canadian and Sustainable Fisheries, China. • **July 12-26, 2010** Partial Sponsor of the - ISC Working Group, Victoria, BC, Canada • **September 11-12, 2010 Participated and Sponsored- 2010 Canadian Chef Congress on Healthy Oceans, BC, Canada** • **September 28-30** Participated in Agri Canada- Annual Marketing Meeting- Presentation on Sustainable Fisheries • **September 27- October 1, 2010** - Formal attendance by Commissioner Larry Teague at I-ATTC Meetings at Antigua, Guatemala.

	• **October 8, 2010**- Supporting Canada formally rejoining the IATTC • **November 2010 -** Seafood Promotion on Sustainable West Coast Seafood- Dubai, UAE. • **November 24-25** Participated in Canadian Tuna Advisory Board Meetings. • **February 2-3** Participated in Canadian Tuna Advisory Board Meetings
Condition 1 Part 2, 3, 4	2. CHMSF to provide a summary to Global Trust on Canada's responses to IATTC/WCPFC management resolutions, as provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Federal government of Canada, when such materials become available. 3. Should the existing resolution be withdrawn following the ISC conservation advice, then point 1.a would be considered closed. 4. Should ISC existing request (1.b) be withdrawn then 1.b would be considered closed.
Action Plan	*The North Pacific albacore stock assessment is presently being conducted by the ISC and its Albacore Working Group and the initially scheduled March, 2011 with the results release by approximately May 2012. CHMSF anticipates receiving the updated ISC stock assessment by approximately May 2010, and will provide Global Trust Certification with copies in a timely manner. Responsive documents and updates of North Pacific albacore stock assessments will be forwarded to Global Trust Certification in a timely manner following receipt.* *CHMSF will provide Global Trust a summary of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Federal government of Canada responses to IATTC/WCPFC management resolutions within 6 months of certification, or immediately after a DFO/GOC response, should it occur 6 months after certification.*
Evidence	Global Trust has received 'Canadian Fishery Statistics for North Pacific albacore from the 2009 fishery' (ISC/10/ALBWG-2/05) and qualitative stock status uodates from the 'Report of the Albacore Working Group Workshop' (Plenary ISC10/Annex 9) in a timely fashion. The ISC Albacore Working Group Workshop on stock assessment using data through 2009 at National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Shimizu, Japan will be held **19-26 March 2011.** Presentation of stock assessment results and conclusions at ISC11 (US hosts) **July 2011.**
Condition 1 Part 3, 4 & 5	5. If additional resolutions are proposed, then these should be supported as in 1 above.
Action Plan	*CHMSF 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 Pacific albacore and the stock's pole & line and troll/jig fisheries as set forth in* **ACTION PLAN related to Condition PI 1.1.2 point 1,** *above. Significant developments and/or additional resolutions will be forwarded to Global Trust Certification in a timely manner following receipt, and CHMSF would continue with its efforts in support of responsible management.*

Evidence	During the 2009-2010 year the CHMSF and its Directors have participated in a number of national and international meetings and activities related to support and advocacy of Sustainable Fisheries as listed in the preceding table.
Condition 1 Part 6	6. If additional guidance, related to the definition of biological reference points, is requested from the ISC, then these should be supported as in 1.b above.
Action Plan	*CHMSF, is collecting data used towards the definition of biological reference points and supports the North Pacific Albacore Working Group charged with establishing BPRs. As such we are actively engaged through our association with Federal Scientists and TAB in the ISC process and will continue to assist in the effort to develop control rules beneficial to long term sustainability and the economic health of the North American albacore fishery.*
Evidence	CHMSF members are actively collecting sampes on behalf of DFO /International scientists to establish length frequency distributions of the albacore catch as well as providing samples to determine fecundity and maturity of North Pacific albacore. In 2009 members measured fork lengths of 11,717 albacore.
Conclusion and Outcome on Condition 1	*The evidence presented during the surveillance audit demonstrates that the CHMSF has fulfilled the requirements of the Action Plan for Condition 1 of 1. However, whilst the requirements of the Action Plan are met, the Condition set at initial certification is not deemed to be closed out since the original rationale and the score (75%) for this conditions remains unchanged.* • Criteria for the adoption of explicit limit and target reference points for north Pacific albacore have not yet been adopted by the WCPFC and the IATTC (Preliminary report ISC 8, 2008) • There is not yet an agreement among IATTC and WCFPC member parties of whether F=0.75 should be defined as limit or target, therefore; • Conservation advice given by the ISC in years 2007-2009 states that with the projection based on the continued current high F, the fishing mortality rate will have to be reduced' and; • High priority has been given by the ISC to further developing limit and target reference points (ISC, 2007; ISC, 2008; ISC, 2009) for their definition for international management.

Conditions set on WFOA

Item 4:	***WFOA Condition 1 (of 1)***	
Performance Indicator & Guidepost Issue	**PI 1.1.2: Reference Points** **Limit and Target reference points are appropriate for the stock**	**Guidepost 80 (Issue 1)** **Reference points are appropriate for the stock and can be estimated.**
Condition 1 Part 1	1. WFOA to promote and support: a. The management actions put forward, notably limitation on effort. Communications supporting such management measures should be made to appropriate organisations. b. Appropriate Organisations shall include: PFMC, NMFS, IATTC; and WCPFC (Northern Committee). c. Records should be provided by WFOA of communications and responses ;	
Action Plan	*WFOA, immediately upon certification, if still appropriate, will correspond with all levels of management on the need to bring harvest in line with the estimated long-term productivity of the stock. WFOA is on record showing that the U.S. troll fishery has already reduced its effort considerably through fleet attrition and negotiating a lower cap on the number of Canadian vessels permitted to fish in the U.S. EEZ under the U.S – Canada Albacore Treaty. WFOA is very supportive of international efforts to control harvesting capacity, both legal and illegal, in order to achieve a reasonable degree of confidence of long term sustainable production.* *WFOA proposes to achieve the desired condition through correspondence with State, National and International regulatory bodies. WFOA attends all of the forums involved with North Pacific albacore and supports establishment of a limits that can be both monitored and enforced. To that end WFOA also supports establishment of scientifically based biological reference points that are appropriate to albacore management.* *WFOA will produce documents to be distributed to the US management authorities and to the International RFMOs. These will address items 1a and 1b. Also, WFOA representatives will be present to provide oral testimony and requests for action at the various fora involved with NP albacore management. Additionally, WFOA through its science arm AFRF, will continue to support the attendance of a stock assessment scientist to the Scientific stock assessment working group. Our scientist is instructed to work with the other scientists to develop scientifically supportable fishing levels and biological reference points.*	
Evidence	WFOA has written letters encouraging all levels of management that have responsibilities for the management of Albacore Tuna Stocks to develop appropriate Biological Reference Points (BPR's) for monitoring the state of the harvest relative to stock status. Letters have been sent to: • PFMC – D. Ortman WCPFC copied to: • IATTC – Dr G. Compeán • IATTC – B. Hallman	

- PFMC – D. McIssacc
- WPFMC – K. Simonds
- NOAA/NMFS/SW Regional Office – R. McInnis
- NOAA/NMFS/SW Regional Office – M. Helvey
- NOAA/NMFS/Pacific Islands Regional Office – C. Carnella
- California Dept. of Fish and Game – M. Voikovich
- Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife – S. Williams
- Washington dept. of Fish and Wildlife – M. Culver

WFOA also indicates in the letters that they support the equitable, consistent and scientifically based establishment of Biological Reference Points by RFMO's that have input to the management of the Northern Pacific Albacore Stock.

WFOA through the American Fisherman's Research Foundation (AFRF) also supports the ongoing efforts by the ISC to undertake stock status determination directed towards the long term sustainability of stocks and with recent international resolutions calling for fishing effort not to be increased. Dr. Wespestad representing AFRF is a member of the ISC ALBWG.

WOFA provides evidence for achieving the desired condition by attending domestic and international fora both as participants and in leading roles. Notable organizations include PFMC, NMFS, IATTC, and WCPFC (Northern Committee). During 2010, WFOA and its Directors have participated in a number of domestic and international meetings and activities related to support and advocacy of Sustainable Fisheries. These include:

- **April 2010** Participation in the PMFC Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS)
- **April 19-22, 2010** WFOA Executive Director attended BC Tuna Fisherman's Association and the CHMSF events in Victoria B.C.
- **May 12, 2010** WFOA participated in the newly formed Ocean Protection Council Sustainability Advisory Panel meeting in Costa Mesa, CA.
- **May 22, 2010** WFOA attended the U.S./Canada treaty bi-lateral meeting in San Francisco
- **June 10-11, 2010** WFOA members participated in HMS Management team and Advisory Subpanel meetings.
- July 12-13, 2010 V. Wespestad participated in the ISC ALBWG meeting in Victoria, B.C.
- **August 30-September 3, 2010** AFRF on behalf of WFOA attended the IATTC Science Advisory Committee meeting.
- **September 6, 2010** P. Flournoy, representing WFOA participated in U.S. delegation conference call in preparation for the WCPFC-NC meeting.
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- **September 17, 2010** At the meeting of U.S. General Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of the IATTC P. Flournoy was re-elected as its chair.
- **September 27-October 1, 2010** Peter Flournoy attended on behalf of AFRF at the Annual meeting of the IATTC in Antigua, Guatemala as a qualified observer.
- **November 22, 2010** Peter Flournoty attended on behalf of AFRF in the U.S. WCPFC Delegation conference call.
- **December 6-10, 2010** WFOA Executive Director and P. Flournoy on behalf of

	AFRF attended the 7th Regular Session of the WCPFC in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. • **January 19-20, 2011** P. Flornoy attended the PFMC HMSMT meeting in Carlsbad, CA.
Condition 1 Part 2	2. WFOA to provide a summary to Global Trust on US's responses to IATTC/WCPFC management resolutions, as provided by NMFS and/or Pacific Fishery Management Council.
Action Plan	*WFOA will provide Global Trust a summary of PFMC/NMFS responses to IATTC/WCPFC management resolutions within 6 months of certification, or immediately after a PFMC/NMFS response, should it occur 6 months after certification.*
Evidence	WFOA has provided Global Trust with a 'Summary of MSC Albacore Certification Procedures – 2010' and an 'Executive Director Summary of Management Activities Concerning Albacore'. These reports detail activities by WFOA and AFRF in domestic and international highly migratory species fora. The ISC Albacore Working Group Workshop on stock assessment using data through 2009 at National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Shimizu, Japan will be held **19-26 March 2011.** Presentation of stock assessment results and conclusions at ISC11 (US hosts) **July 2011.**
Condition 1 Part 3, 4 & 5	3. Should the existing resolution be withdrawn following the ISC conservation advice, then point 1.a would be considered closed. 4. Should ISC existing request (1.b) be withdrawn then 1.b would be considered closed 5. If additional resolutions are proposed, then these should be supported as in 1 above.
Action Plan	*WFOA supports the principle of long-term sustainable yield and stable harvest. On this basis WFOA will support and effort by RFMO to achieve these goals by proposed BRPs and sustainable harvest levels. Should further resolutions be passed by IATTC/WCPFC in this regard, WFOA will support all management measures that are equability applied to all parties in the fishery and are shown to be a requirement to achieve an economically sustainable North American albacore fishery.*
Evidence	During 2010 WFOA and AFRF members have participated in a number of national and international meetings and activities related to support and advocacy of Sustainable Fisheries. Refer to the preceding list in this table.
Condition 1 Part 6	6. If additional guidance, related to the definition of biological reference points, is requested from the ISC, then these should be supported as in 1.b above
Action Plan	*WFOA, through its science arm, AFRF, is engaged in the definition of biological reference points and funds the attendance of an independent scientist to the North Pacific Albacore Working Group charged with establishing BPRs. As such we are actively engaged in the ISC process and will continue to assist in the effort to develop control rules beneficial to long term sustainability and the economic health of the North American albacore fishery.*
Evidence	WOFA, through its science arm AFRF, is actively engaged in the definition of BRPs for North Pacific albacore. Dr. Wespestad as a member of the ISC ALBWG has atttended meetings in 2010 and will be an active participant in the March 2011 stock assessment workshop. P. Flornoy has been advocating BRP work in the WCPFC Northern

	Committee. WFOA members are collecting samples on behalf of NMFS/International scientists to establish length frequency distributions of the albacore catch as well as providing samples to determine fecundity and maturity of North Pacific albacore. AFRF is also actively engaged in the SWFSC albacore tagging program.
Conclusion and Outcome on Condition 1	*The evidence presented during the surveillance audit demonstrates that the WFOA has fulfilled the requirements of the Action Plan for Condition 1 of 1. However, whilst the requirements of the Action Plan are met, the Condition set at initial certification is not deemed to be closed out since the original rationale and the score (75%) for this conditions remains unchanged.* • Criteria for the adoption of explicit limit and target reference points for north Pacific albacore have not yet been adopted by the WCPFC and the IATTC (Preliminary report ISC 8, 2008) • There is not yet an agreement among IATTC and WCFPC member parties of whether F=0.75 should be defined as limit or target, therefore; • Conservation advice given by the ISC in years 2007-2009 states that with the projection based on the continued current high F, the fishing mortality rate will have to be reduced' and; • High priority has been given by the ISC to further developing limit and target reference points (ISC, 2007; ISC, 2008; ISC, 2009) for their definition for international management.

10. Harmonization of Certificates

The MSC wishes to discourage overlapping assessments to avoid potential financial, consistency and credibility costs, including:

- fisheries managers, scientists and stakeholders receiving duplicate requests for information
- duplication of costs for a fishery's certification, including that expense incurred by fishery management agencies pre- and post-certification; and
- the possibility of different assessments placing different conditions upon the same fisheries managers and upon different fishery clients.

The MSC has provided direction in cases where a certificate sharing arrangement has not been possible. TAB Directive D-015 V2 provides guidance for harmonisation where a fishery in assessment overlaps with an already certified fishery. Certification Bodies are obliged to follow this guidance with the objective of ensuring the consistency of outcomes of duplicate assessments are harmonized.

For the respective clients included in this audit, the harmonization of outcomes is supported by the dual approach in coordination and conducting the surveillance audits of the certificate holders, WFOA and CHMSF. This follows the original approach to the initial assessment of these fisheries. Prior to the full assessments for WFOA and CHMSF, an existing certificate holder, American Albacore Fishing Association for Albacore Tuna (AAFA) had been awarded MSC certification for North Pacific Albacore Tuna, August 24th 2007 with Certification Body, Moody Marine Ltd. A recent annual surveillance (3rd) audit was also released January 2011 (Report date November 2010) on the MSC website.

The Directive (TAB D-015) states that:

2.5 The assessment team responsible for the new assessment shall explicitly consider the findings of the most recent surveillance report(s) produced for the overlapping certified fishery. Similarly, the CB responsible for the surveillance of the overlapping certified fishery shall explicitly consider the findings of the assessment team responsible for the overlapping fishery in assessment when conducting annual surveillance audits.

In addition;

MSC expects that the outcome of the assessment report, particularly the overall result that is achieved (whether a pass or a fail) and the setting of conditions, will be consistent between overlapping fisheries in assessment and certified fisheries.

To this effect, the surveillance assessment team has considered the outcome of the recent 3rd Surveillance Audit for AAFA and the North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fishery undertaken by Moody Marine with the objective of confirming that the outcome of these surveillance audits for CHMSF and WFOA are consistent with that of the former certificate holder. This procedure was also followed during the initial assessment and certification of CHMSF and WFOA to ensure consistency in outcome of performance indicators and conditions set on the fishery.

The following items were addressed with respect to harmonized outcomes OF THIS:

Area of Assessment Considered	**Outcome of Harmonization**
Assessment trees	The initial assessment for WFOA and CHMSF followed MSC procedure and utilized the Default Assessment Tree as described in MSC FAM and according to TAB D0-15. In their assessment of AAFA, pre-dates the release of the MSC Default Assessment Tree, using MSC Certification Methodology Version 6. However, there is consistency in the general outcome of both initial assessments with respect to the award of certification and the areas where the fishery is performing below the required 80% pass requirement. MSC Policy Advisory 12v1 also provides further guidance for Principle 1 (PI 1.1.2) for both fisheries scored pre-and post FAM implementation which also further supports the harmonization of outcomes, in this case specifically covering the PI that achieved a conditional score.
Conditional scores	In the initial assessment of WFOA and CHMSF client fisheries, Global Trust considered the outcome of performance indicators specific to the Condition (score 75) raised for PI 1.1.2 Limit and Target reference points are appropriate for the stock based on rationale presented in Section 9. As required by MSC Policy, this included a review of the conditions set by Moody Marine on the AAFA Certificate for this fishery. In continuance of this requirement, Global Trust has reviewed the conditions described in the more recent AAFA surveillance audit (Nov 2010): (Extract from AAFA Report) *Condition of Certification* ***PI 1.1.4.1 The Stock is at an appropriate level to maintain long term productivity.*** *100 scoring guidepost* *The stock is highly likely to be consistently above precautionary reference levels.* *80 scoring guidepost* *The stock is likely to be above precautionary reference levels.* *60 scoring guidepost* *The stock is likely to be above the limit reference levels and trends in the stock are positive.* *In that circumstance a score 75 was achieved with the following Condition* ***'The present stock assessment suggests that the stock may be "either fully***

	exploited or sustaining fishing mortality above levels that are sustainable in the long term".' Although the inference on the Condition of the separate assessments are expressed differently (former focused upon the stock status and latter focused on the appropriateness of reference points) both are linked to the same issue in that ISC conservation advice suggested that the stock maybe "either fully exploited or sustaining fishing mortality above levels that are sustainable in the long term". The ISC advised that fishing rates were in excess of common benchmarks and recommend the need for developing an effort reduction strategy. In 2005, the ISC requested to the management authorities for guidance on the definition of biological reference points to determine the degree to which, when and how reduction should occur.
Conditions set	
	Global Trust Ltd. considered the Conditions set by Moody Marine Ltd. in their Certification Report of AAFA and in subsequent surveillance audits, most specifically the Report dated Nov 2010. The AAFA North Pacific albacore fishery was originally certified in 2007 with one condition. This stated: "*It is recognised that maintaining the stock at or above a precautionary reference limit is not under the control of AAFA and therefore actions required of AAFA in this regard are:* 1. *AAFA to promote and support the management actions put forward, notably limitations on effort. Communications supporting such management measures should be made to appropriate organisations. 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council.* 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.*" ***Timescale****:* *Point 1. If still appropriate, should be pursued immediately upon certification.* *Point 2. AAFA should provide this information within 6 months of certification.* *Point 4. Should further resolutions be passed by IATTC/WCPFC in this regard, supportive actions should be initiated at the earliest possible opportunity thereafter.* Conditions set by Global Trust were harmonized during the initial assessment process (pages 149-152; http://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/certified/pacific/CHMSF-British-Columbia-North-Pacific-Albacore-Tuna/assessment-downloads-1/26.02.2010-chmsf-albacore-final-report.pdf). and were reviewed again using the most recent surveillance report published by Moody Marine (Nov 2010) for harmonization purposes.

Action Plans	In the initial assessment, Global Trust undertook harmonization of the Action Plans set out for WFOA and CHMSF with that set out by Moody Marine for the AAFA Certificate. **<u>Action Plan set out by AAFA:</u>** 1. 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. **<u>Action:</u>** 1. 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 Pacific albacore and the stock's pole & line and troll/jig fisheries. These bodies include: • 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 (MSA) 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. 2. 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. 3. 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. 4. If additional resolutions are proposed, then these should be supported as in **Action Plan 1.**, *above*. 5. 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 Pacific albacore and the stock's pole & line and troll/jig fisheries as set forth in **Action Plan 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. To the extent possible (given that for CHMSF, the fishery is under the jurisdiction and governance of a Canadian based management system under DFO), Global Trust has intentionally agreed respective Action Plans for WFOA and CHMSF that are closely harmonized with regard to the activities and intended outcome of those activities with those set out in the Action Plan of AAFA. Please refer to pages 153-155; http://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/certified/pacific/CHMSF-British-Columbia-North-Pacific-Albacore-Tuna/assessment-downloads-1/26.02.2010-chmsf-albacore-final-report.pdf) and refer to pages 156-157; http://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/certified/pacific/WFOA-North-Pacific-Albacore-Tuna/assessment-downloads-1/22.03.2010-chmsf-wfao-pcr.pdf
Conclusion	In evaluating the Conditions, Action Plans and outcome of the surveillance audit for AFFA undertaken by Moody Marine (publ. Nov 2010) and those of Global Trust in the surveillance audits for CHMSF and WFOA, Global Trust concludes that there are no significant differences in the Conditions, Action Plans and outcomes that has or will result in a material difference in the scores of PI 1.1.2 (Global Trust) and 1.1.4.1 (Moody Marine) with respect to the close out of these respective conditions. In their surveillance report (Nov 2010), Moody noted that 'the Global Trust assessment of the WFOA and CHMSF fisheries were generally consistent with the earlier AAFA certification. The conditions of certification are near identical, and the action plans are somewhat similar, although the AAFA

	action plan appears to be more focused on taking a precautionary approach to management issues and uncertainty.' On review, Global Trust notes that the focus on precautionary approach PI prescribed in the Moody Marine initial assessment (***PI 1.1.4.1 The Stock is at an appropriate level to maintain long term productivity)*** and the guidepost to achieve an 80% unconditional pass score ***'The stock is likely to be above precautionary reference levels'*** when compared to the guidepost scoring elements of PI 1.1.2 FAM, *Reference points are appropriate for the stock and can be estimated.* *The limit reference point is set above the level at which there is an appreciable risk of impairing Reproductive capacity.* *The target reference point is such that the stock is maintained at a level consistent with BMSY or some measure or surrogate with similar intent or outcome.* may help explain the variation in language used in each case and hence a comment on 'action plan of AAFA appears to be more focused on taking a precautionary approach to management issues and uncertainty'. Again, Global Trust considers that both set of languages are appropriate and consistent for achieving their intended outcomes. Overall Global Trust considers that there is sufficient consistency in outcomes of this Surveillance Audit undertaken on CHMSF and WFOA in comparison with that undertaken by Moody Marine for the 3rd Surveillance Audit of AAFA.

11. Conclusions and Recommendations.

The assessment team conducting this 1st surveillance audit confirms that both CHMSF and WFOA have met the general requirements for continued certification to the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing.

The assessment team also concludes that there is sufficient evidence and information provided by the two respective clients and substantiated through the course of consultation meetings during the surveillance audit to confirm that commitment to meeting the specific conditions of certification have been met. Therefore, the assessment team recommends that continued certification be awarded to the respective client fisheries:

- The American Western Fish Boat Owners Association (WFOA) North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fisheries (Pole & Line and Troll & Jig) and;

- The Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation (CHMSF) North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fishery (Troll & Jig).

The assessment team also notes that whilst in each case, the intent of the conditions have been met the conditions remain unchanged since they as yet, have not resulted in a material change to score related to PI 1.1.2 which will result in an unconditional pass. The assessment team also notes that the ALBWG is holding a stock assessment workshop March 9-26, 2011 to conduct a new North Pacific albacore assessment using

data through 2009 at National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Shimizu, Japan. The results of the workshop will be presented at ISC11 in July hosted by the US.

There is now some uncertainty over the location and the length of delay in the schedule dates for carrying out this stock assessment due to the recent earthquake and Tsunami in Japan.

Global Trust determines that the timelines and related Action Plans for the Condition placed on the client fisheries remain unchanged from the original conditions set and that these will be subject to annual surveillance audit, next scheduled in January 2012. In the interim period, the client fisheries are obliged to provide up-dates as per the general conditions of certification to changes in the client group and also with respect to:

- *CHMSF will provide Global Trust a summary of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Federal government of Canada responses to IATTC/WCPFC management resolutions within 6 months of surveillance audit, or immediately after a DFO/GOC response, should it occur 6 months after certification.*

- *WFOA will provide Global Trust a summary of PFMC/NMFS responses to IATTC/WCPFC management resolutions within 6 months of surveillance audit, or immediately after a PFMC/NMFS response, should it occur 6 months after certification.*

12. Outcome of Global Trust Certification Decision

Global Trust determines that in each case:

- The American Western Fish Boat Owners Association (WFOA) North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fisheries (Pole & Line and Troll & Jig) and;

- The Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation (CHMSF) North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fishery (Troll & Jig)

Continue to operate a well managed and sustainable fishery and therefore, continued certification to the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing is awarded.

Information Sources

Meetings:

Refer to table of meetings itemized in Section 3 (Table 3).

Reports & publications:

DFO. 2010. Pacific region Integrated Fisheries management Plan Tuna April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Pacific Region, Vancouver, B.C. 57 p.

Holmes, J. 2010. MS. The 2009 Canadian North Pacific albacore troll fishery.
Document submitted by DFO to the Tenth Meeting of the International Scientific Committee on Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), Victoria, B.C., Canada, 21-26 July, 2010. ISC/10/Plenary/10: 15p.

ISC. 2010. Report of the Tenth Meeting of the International Scientific Committee on Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC). Plenary Session. Victoria, B.C., Canada, 21-26 July, 2010. 50 p.

ISC. 2010. Annex 6. Report of the Albacore Working Group Workshop, 20-26 April 2010, Shimizu, Japan. *In*: Report of the Tenth Meeting of the International Scientific Committee on Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC). Plenary Session. Victoria, B.C., Canada, 21-26 July, 2010. 38 p.

ISC. 2010. Annex 9. Report of the Albacore Working Group Workshop, 12-13 July 2010, Victoria, Canada. *In*: Report of the Tenth Meeting of the International Scientific Committee on Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC). Plenary Session. Victoria, B.C., Canada, 21-26 July, 2010. 21 p.

Moody Marine Ltd. AAFA North Pacific Albacore Pole & Line and Troll/Jig Fishery: Surveillance Report 3 Nov 2010 MSC release January 2011.
http://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/certified/pacific/aafa-pacific-albacore-tuna-north/assessment-downloads-1/AAFA_NorthPacificAlbacore3rdSurveillanceReport_Final.pdf

PFMC. 2010. Status of the U.S. West Coast Fisheries For Highly Migratory Species Through 2009. Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) September 2010. Pacific Fishery Management Councuil, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland , OR 97220. 148 p.

Stocker, M. 2007 (editor). Annex V. Report of the Albacore Working Group Workshop. Shimizu, Japan, November 28 – December 5, 2006. Report of the Seventh Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean, Plenary Session, Busan, Korea, July 25-30, 2007. Annex V, 72 p.

WCPFC. 2010. Northern Committee Sixth Regular Session. Summary Report. September 7-10, 2010, Fukuoka, Japan. 37 p.

Summary of evidence Submitted by Clients Specific to MSC Conditions

The following documents were provided by each client prior to, at or immediately post the on-site surveillance audit.

Evidence submitted WFOA with reference to the Specific Conditions of Certification

Letters sent:

- Letter to chair of Pacific Fishery Management Council -BPR0610
- Letter to Western Central Pacific Fishery Management Council-
- Ccd. To Guillermo A. Compean, Director – IATTC
- Ccd. Brian Hallman, Deputy Director – IATTC
- Ccd. Don McIssacc, Executive Director – PFMC
- Ccd. Kitty Simonds, Executive Director – WPFMC
- Ccd. Rod McInnis, NMFS/NOAA Southwest Regional Office
- Ccd. Mark Helvey, NMFS/NOAA Southwest Regional Office
- Ccd. Charles Karnella, NMFS/NOAA Pacific Islands Regional Office
- Ccd. Marija Voikovich, California Dept Fish &Game
- Ccd. Stephen Williams, Oregon Dept. Of Fish and Wildlfe
- Ccd. Michelle Culver, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlfe

Log of activities undertaken by representative s WFOA and their science arm AFRF

- Western Fishboat Owners Association; Executive Director Summary of Management Activities Concerning Albacore 2010

- BACKGROUND TO WCPFC AND IATTC ALBACORE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION RESOLUTIONS; A summary report of meetings attended by Peter Flournoy on behalf of AFRF and WFOA.

List of meetings attended:

- **April 2010** Participation in the PMFC Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS)
- **April 19-22, 2010** WFOA Executive Director attended BC Tuna Fisherman's Association and the CHMSF events in Victoria B.C.
- **May 12, 2010** WFOA participated in the newly formed Ocean Protection Council Sustainability Advisory Panel meeting in Costa Mesa, CA.
- **May 22, 2010** WFOA attended the U.S./Canada treaty bi-lateral meeting in San Francisco
- **June 10-11, 2010** WFOA members participated in HMS Management team and Advisory Subpanel meetings.
- July 12-13, 2010 V. Wespestad participated in the ISC ALBWG meeting in Victoria, B.C.
- **August 30-September 3, 2010** AFRF on behalf of WFOA attended the IATTC Science Advisory Committee meeting.
- **September 6, 2010** P. Flournoy, representing WFOA participated in U.S. delegation conference call in preparation for the WCPFC-NC meeting.
- **September 7-10, 2010** P. Flournoy, representing WFOA attended the sixth Regular Session of the WCPFC Northern Committee and Workshop on BRPs in Fukuoka, Japan.

- **September 17, 2010** At the meeting of U.S. General Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of the IATTC P. Flournoy was re-elected as its chair.
- **September 27-October 1, 2010** Peter Flournoy attended on behalf of AFRF at the Annual meeting of the IATTC in Antigua, Guatemala as a qualified observer.
- **November 22, 2010** Peter Flournoty attended on behalf of AFRF in the U.S. WCPFC Delegation conference call.
- **December 6-10, 2010** WFOA Executive Director and P. Flournoy on behalf of AFRF attended the 7th Regular Session of the WCPFC in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.
- **January 19-20, 2011** P. Flornoy attended the PFMC HMSMT meeting in Carlsbad, CA.

Evidence submitted by CHMSF with reference to the Specific Conditions of Certification

Letters sent:

- 2010 Generic Letter to ISC re MSC obligations
- 2010 Letter to BC Minister of Agriculture-MSC obligations
- 2010 Letter to -IATTC-MSC obligations
- 2010 Letter to -ISC-MSC obligations
- 2010 Letter to Minister-DFO-re MSC obligations
- 2010 Letter to -Northern Committee-MSC obligations
- 2010 Letter to Sylvie Lapointe-re MSC obligations
- 2010 Letter to TAB-re MSC obligations
- 2010 Letter to -WPCFC-MSC obligations

Log of activities undertaken by representative s CHMSF

- **January 28-29, 2010** Participation in Canadian Tuna Advisory Board Meetings- British Columbia, Canada
- **March 28-31, 2010** Participation in the AGM WFOA - Rosedale, California
- **April 19-21, 2010** Host- Second International Albacore Tuna Convention- Victoria, BC, Canada. Invited guests: Ambassador Sullivan- Canada's Ambassador for Sustainable Fisheries; Dan Averil- MSC Americas; WFOA President and Executive Director.
- **April 27-29, 2010** Attendance and Sustainability Advocacy, European Seafood Show, Brussels, Belgium
- **May 18-20, 2010** Bilateral Treaty Talks- Vancouver
- **June 12-19, 2010** Participation in Agrifoods Canada -Chongqing and Shanghai Program on Canadian and Sustainable Fisheries, China.
- **July 12-26, 2010** Partial Sponsor of the - ISC Working Group, Victoria, BC, Canada
- **September 11-12, 2010 Participated and Sponsored- 2010 Canadian Chef Congress on Healthy Oceans, BC, Canada**
- **September 28-30** Participated in Agri Canada- Annual Marketing Meeting- Presentation on Sustainable Fisheries
- **September 27- October 1, 2010** - Formal attendance by Commissioner Larry Teague at I-ATTC Meetings at Antigua, Guatemala.
- **October 8, 2010**- Supporting Canada formally rejoining the IATTC
- **November 2010 -** Seafood Promotion on Sustainable West Coast Seafood- Dubai, UAE.
- **November 24-25** Participated in Canadian Tuna Advisory Board Meetings.
- **February 2-3** Participated in Canadian Tuna Advisory Board Meetings.