



MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL FISHERY ASSESSMENT

Surveillance Report

For The

**Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation (CHMSF)-British Columbia
Albacore Tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) North Pacific Fishery
CHMSF Certificate No: GTC-F-002**

Date of Submission: 29th May 2014
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Client Name	The Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation (CHMSF), Canada	
Fishery Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Species</u>: Albacore tuna <i>Thunnus alalunga</i>; • <u>Geographical Area</u>: North Pacific Ocean; • <u>Method of Capture</u>: Troll & Jig 	
Date of Report	May 29 th 2014	
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Assessment Team	Géraldine Criquet, (Team Leader) Ivan Mateo, (Auditor) Max Stocker, (Lead Auditor)	
On-site audit	April 7 th – 11 th 2014	
Surveillance Audit completion		Surveillance Audit 1: March 21st 2011
		Surveillance Audit 2: February 28th 2012
		Surveillance Audit 3: April 23rd 2013
	X	Surveillance Audit 4: July 17th 2014
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Summary

This report contains the findings of the fourth surveillance audit in relation to the Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation (CHMSF) certificate of the North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fishery:

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

In January 2014, the Western Fish Boat Owners Association (WFOA) announced that they were joining the American Albacore Fishing Associations (AAFA) certifications of the North and South Pacific Albacore Tuna Pole and Line and Troll and Jig Fisheries. The existing WFOA fishery certificate previously covered by SAI Global was withdrawn according to MSC procedure which is now transferred to Intertek Moody. .

The North Pacific Albacore Stock is treated as a single stock by scientific and management bodies and their associated committee and working group arrangements. Additionally, and previously there has been a Treaty agreement on reciprocal access to the territorial waters between the two management regimes of Canada and USA.

SAI Global¹ determines that:

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

Continues 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 client, CHMSF, SAI Global 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 Auditor: Dr Stocker is a scientist with 30 years of extensive experience in fisheries science providing conservation advice for management.
- Team Leader: Géraldine Criquet is coordinator of MSC fisheries assessment for SAI Global and is a MSC approved Fisheries Team Leader.
- Auditor: Ivan Mateo is a Fisheries Auditor with SAI Global.

¹ As of May 1st 2012, SAI Global Assurances plc (SAI Global) became owners of Global Trust Certification (Global Trust (GTC)). This report contains both historical references to Global Trust (GTC) from previous surveillance audits and reference to SAI Global.

1. Introduction

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

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

To be awarded an MSC certificate for the fishery, the applicant 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 CHMSF 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 at a frequency determined by the MSC CR (1.1, 1.2 & 1.3) requirements, 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 25th February 2014 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 and phone-calls 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 CHMSF at the initial certification decision.

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

- **BC Ministry of Agriculture**
- **Fisheries and Oceans, Canada**
- **IATTC**
- **NMFS, Southwest Fisheries Science Center**

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 MSC Certification Requirements version 1.2 and implemented by SAI Global accredited MSC Procedures.

<http://www.msc.org/documents/scheme-documents/msc-scheme-requirements>

The determination of the Surveillance level based on Table C3 and C4 was a normal surveillance for 2013 and going forward for 2014. The score was calculated by adding scores from sections 1-4 in Table C3 below.

Table C3	
Default Assessment tree used?	
Yes	0
No	2
2. Number of conditions	
Zero conditions	0
Between 1-5 conditions	1
More than 5	2
3. Principle Level Scores	
≥85	0
<85	2
4. Conditions on outcome PIs?	
Yes	2
No	0

The surveillance score of 3 was used to identify the surveillance level appropriate to the fishery;

Surveillance score (from Table C3)	Surveillance level		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
2 or more	Normal Surveillance		On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit & recertification site visit
1	Remote Surveillance	Option 1	Off-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	Off-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit & recertification site visit
		Option 2	On-site surveillance audit	Off-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit	On-site surveillance audit & recertification site visit
0	Reduced Surveillance		Review of new information	On-site surveillance audit	Review of new information	On-site surveillance audit & recertification site visit

The surveillance audit was conducted as a normal on-site surveillance audit as based on the score of 3.

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 mails were sent to stakeholders and management agencies, with follow up e-mails for those that had held meetings with the assessment team on previous surveillance audits but who had not responded initially to this announcement 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 client; Pacific coast Canada, the on-site assessment proposed to cover a range of geographic locations with meetings held in Vancouver, British Columbia and La Jolla, California. Final confirmation of meetings and dates resulted in face to face meetings being held in Vancouver, British Columbia; and La Jolla, California and a number of conference call meetings during the visit in order to accommodate other parties.

- On site Surveillance Audit dates were April 7th to 11th 2014.
- On-site audits were performed by Max Stocker and Ivan Mateo.

The audit generally consisted of a series of 90-180 minute consultations with 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.

3. Summary of stakeholder and client meetings

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 Ivan Mateo. A member of the accreditation body, ASI also attended all meetings as part of a witnessed assessment of SAI Global Assurances.

Table 1 of Consultation Meetings during on Site Surveillance Assessment of the North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fishery

Name Organization	Present at Meetings	Location	Meeting Type	Date/Time
CHMSF 4829 Maplegrove Street Victoria, BC CANADA V8Y 3B9	Lorne Clayton, Executive Director	DFO Offices Burrard Street Vancouver, BC	Meeting	8 th April 2014
BC Ministry of Agriculture Victoria, BC	Barron Carswell Larry Neilsen	Victoria, BC Hyatt Hotel, Vancouver	Teleconference	8 th April 2014
Fisheries and Oceans, Canada Suite 200-401 Burrard St. Vancouver BC	Jordan Mah John Holmes	DFO Offices Burrard Street Vancouver, BC	Meeting	8 th April 2014
IATTC 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive La Jolla CA 92037-1508	Rick Deriso , Mark Maunder Carolina Minte-Vera	IATTC 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive La Jolla, CA	Meeting	10 th April 2014
NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center 3333 North Torrey Pines Court La Jolla, CA	Suzanne Kohin Kevin Piner John Childers	South West Fisheries Science Center La Jolla, CA	Meeting	10 th April 2014

4. Fishery observations

In 2012, the total all Nations catch of North Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) reported by the ISC, was 82,040 tonnes (t), which is approximately 1,800 t less than total catch (80,206 t) reported in 2011 (ISC 2013a). The 30-year average catch for 1981-2010, was 72,864 t (Figure 1). ISC member country catch by troll has been relatively constant since the mid-2000s while pole and line catch has exhibited considerable inter-annual variability since the mid-2000s, respectively (Figure 2). Variability in the pole-and-line catches is driven by a combination of market conditions and albacore/skipjack tuna availability. Longline catches reported to the ISC have been relatively stable since the mid-2000s while longline catches reported by China and Vanuatu have increased substantially since 2010 reflecting an apparent expansion in fisheries by these countries. Nominal longline effort by countries reporting their data to the ISC has been decreasing since 1994 while troll and pole-and-line fleets seem relatively stable through the 2000s (Figure 3).



Figure 1. Total catch of north Pacific albacore from all sources, 1952-2012. The red dashed line is the 30-year average for 1981-2010, 72,864 t (ISC 2013b).

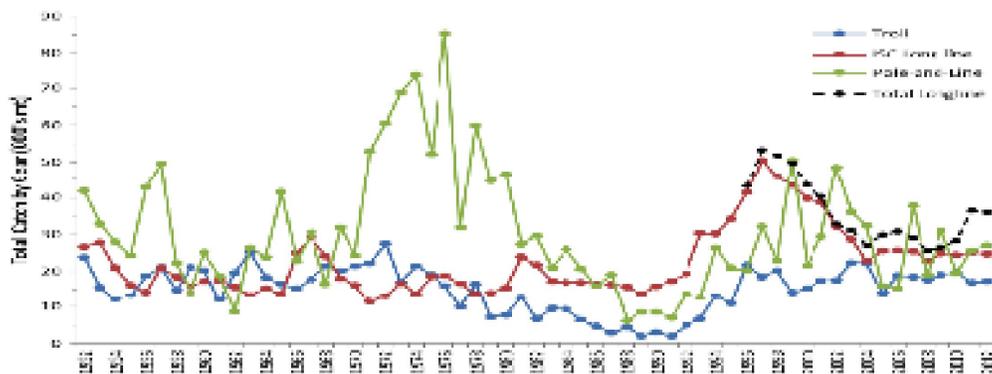


Figure 2. Total catch of north Pacific albacore by ISC member countries for the three major gear types, 1952-2012. Catch data for minor gear types are not shown. Longline catches based on data reported to the ISC (red) and total longline data from all sources (black dash) are shown separately (ISC 2013b).

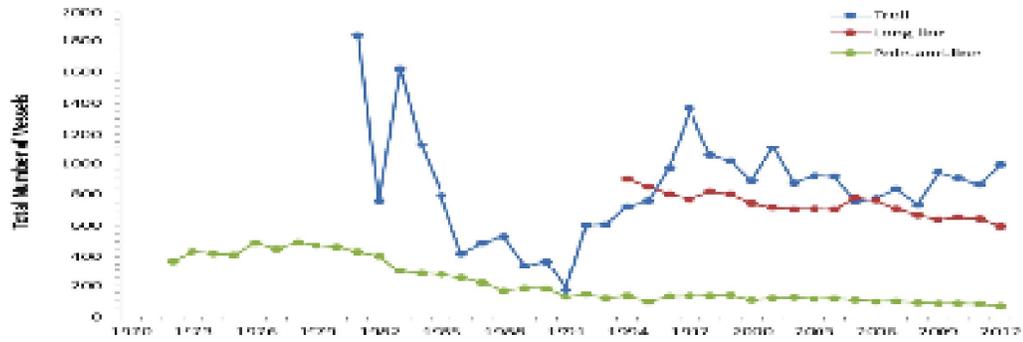


Figure 3. Nominal effort of ISC member countries (1970-2012) measured as the number of vessels in fleet for the major gear types catching north Pacific albacore (ISC 2013b).

SAI Global (2013) previously reported that 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. This was also previously reported in the 2011 surveillance audit. There was no evidence of reported IUU activity from US or Canadian Albacore registered fishing vessels expressed during the assessment. In August 2012 the U.S. Coast Guard transferred custody of the fishing vessel Da Cheng for illegal large-scale high seas drift net fishing (albacore and shark were onboard) in the Pacific to two patrol vessels from the China Fishery Law Enforcement Command.

Canada

In 2012, the Canadian troll fleet of 175 vessels operated primarily within eastern Pacific Ocean waters. The 2012 estimates of catch and effort are 2,498 metric tonnes (t) and 6,005 vessel-days, respectively, and are a 54% decrease in catch and 30% decrease in effort relative to 2011. Approximately 81% of the catch and 93% of the effort occurred in Canadian waters during 2012 and the remaining catch and effort occurred in adjacent high seas waters. More than 90% of the catch occurred in cooler waters (15-16°C) than in previous years (15-19°C) and seasonal catch rates were much lower than average (Holmes 2013).

The decline in this fishery appears to be the result of a lack of Canadian vessel access to waters in the US EEZ owing to the absence of a fishing regime for 2012 under the bilateral tuna treaty between the countries (Holmes 2013). In 2009 a three-year limitation regime was agreed to by both countries and came into effect in 2009. Following the expiration of the 2009 - 2011 limitation regime, the Government of the United States informed Canada in March 2012 that it was not in a position to negotiate a new fishing regime for the 2012 season. Thus the Canadian albacore fleet did not fish in the US EEZ in 2012 (SAI Global 2013).

Forty-seven vessels participated in the on-board size sampling program and measured 11,139 fish

for a sampling rate of 3.0% of the reported catch. These measurements were dominated by fish between 64-69 cm fork length (FL) corresponding to 2-year old fish and a significant number of fish between 74-78 cm FL, which are 3-years old (Holmes 2013).

In 2012, the Canadian troll fleet operated between 32 and 54 °N latitude and from the west coast of North America to 151° W in 2012, which is further south and north than in the previous five years (Fig.4). The Canadian fishery operated north of the equator primarily within the IATTC convention area east of 150°W, but a minor amount of catch (<1 t) was made in the WCPFC convention area, continuing a trend of concentrating catch and effort in eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) that began in 2005. Approximately 83% of the fishing effort occurred within the Canadian EEZ and resulted in 81% of the total catch in 2012 and the remaining 19% of effort and 17% of catch occurred in high seas waters. This pattern differs from the fishing pattern in previous years and is the result of a redistribution of effort because Canadian vessels were not permitted to access waters in the US EEZ, where on average 78% of the effort and 79% catch has occurred between 1995 and 2011.

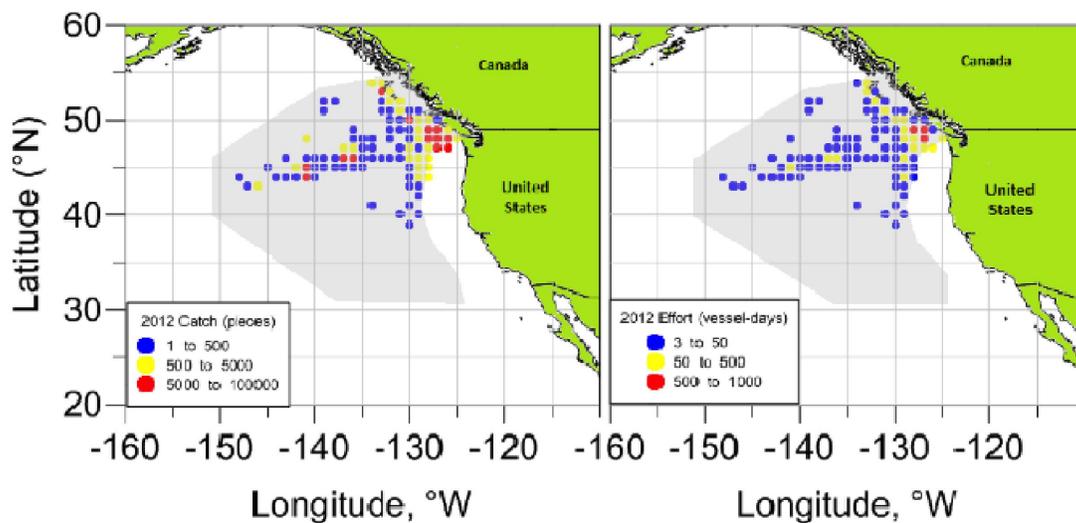


Figure 4. Spatial distribution of reported (logbook) Canadian albacore troll fishery catch (number of fish) and effort (vessel-days) in 2012. Catch data are shown in the left panel and effort data in the right panel. Data are plotted on a 1° x 1° grid with symbols located on the bottom-right corner of each cell. Cells in which fewer than three vessels reported are not shown. Grey area is the approximate operational area of the Canadian fishery in 2012 (Holmes 2013).

Reported by-catch was 45 fish and four species in 2012. Yellowtail amberjack was the most commonly reported by-catch species with 33 individuals. Total weight of all by-catch is estimated to be approximately 148 kg, of which yellowtail accounted for 101 kg (Holmes 2013).

Reported bycatch in 2012 consisted of 45 fish and four species:

- Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*) - 2
- Yellowtail amberjack (*Seriolalandi*) - 37
- Mahimahi (*Coryphaenahippurus*) - 3
- Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) - 3

The preliminary catch information for 2013 indicates that the Canadian troll fleet of 183 vessels operated primarily within the Canadian and US coastal waters and in adjacent high seas areas east of 150° W. Of the 183 vessels, only one operated in the high seas area west of 150° W. Preliminary total annual catch and effort reported by Canada in 2013 were 5,097 t and 6,475 vessel-days, respectively. Of the 5097 t, 9.5% was reported from the high seas (John Holmes, DFO, pers. com.).

Five Canadian vessels measured 1,300 albacore fork lengths in 2013 (John Holmes, DFO, pers. com.). Albacore in the Canadian catch ranged from 50 cm to 90 cm fork length. The 2012 measurements by fishermen of 11,139 albacore were skewed towards a mode corresponding to 2-year old albacore at 64-69 cm fork length. In 2012 a significant number of fish formed a less prominent second mode between 74-78 cm fork length, corresponding to 3-year old albacore. This length frequency distribution pattern in 2012 is consistent with observation of previous years (Holmes 2013).

In terms of enforcement DFO reported only a minor issue of late submissions of logbooks a couple of logbooks. At the time of writing 181 of 183 (98.9%) logbooks have been received (Jordan Mah, DFO, pers. com.).

Canadian highly migratory species research in the Pacific Ocean has focused on improving understanding of the biology and ecology of north Pacific albacore tuna to enhance assessments of the effects of fishing and the environment on stock dynamics and status. The studies include: 1) a tagging program using pop-up satellite archival tags to investigate daily and seasonal movement patterns of juvenile albacore; 2) update the juvenile albacore weight-length relationship; 3) modeling research to evaluate the impacts of biological and oceanographic variables on the population dynamics of albacore; and 4) collaborative research with U.S. scientists investigating environmental influences on albacore coastal and open water distribution. This research is conducted largely in cooperation with stakeholders and in collaboration with both Canadian and international colleagues (Holmes 2013).

5. Stock status observations

Since the 3rd Surveillance (SAI Global 2013), the Albacore Working Group (ALBWG) has met 3 times. The ALBWG conducted an intercessional workshop in Shanghai, China from 19-26 March, 2013 (ISC 2013b). The goals of the Shanghai workshop were: (1) to review results of high priority research and develop proposals for incorporation into stock assessment process/model; (2) to discuss information and advice on biological reference points requested by the Northern Committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC 2012) and develop work plans and assignments to prepare WG responses for ISC Plenary review in July 2013; and (3) to discuss Chinese fishery data for north Pacific albacore with Chinese scientists. Also, matters related to the future work plans for the working group and the next stock assessment cycle, beginning in the fall of 2013, were included on the agenda for the workshop (ISC 2013b).

The ALBWG also met in conjunction with the ISC Plenary on July 12-13, 2013 in Busan Korea (ISC 2013b). The objectives of the meeting were to: (1) Update fisheries statistics through 2012; (2) Monitor and review trends in catch, effort, CPUE and other stock status indicators; (3) Confirm

scheduling for the 2014 stock assessment and intercessionally to 2015; (4) Develop a recommended response to the NC8 request for information and advice on reference points for north Pacific albacore; and (5) Develop stock status and conservation advice recommendations for the ISC13 Plenary (ISC 2013b).

Furthermore, the ALBWG held a data preparation Workshop from 5-12 November 2013, in Japan hosted by the NRIFS Laboratory in Shimizu. The data preparation Workshop planned for a new North Pacific albacore stock assessment to be conducted April 14-28, 2014 at the Southwest Fisheries Center in La Jolla, California. For the new stock assessment data from all North Pacific albacore fisheries have been compiled through 2012. The platform to conduct the assessment will again be the Stock Synthesis model. Some improvements over the 2011 assessment will include some redefinition of fisheries, re-examination of abundance indexes, examining life history approaches to steepness of the stock recruitment curve, and consideration of age-specific natural mortality.

Progress on High Priority Research

Advances have been made on the albacore age and growth study (ISC 2013b). Improved sampling in all regions, particularly fish < 60 cm and > 85 cm FL is needed. No progress has been made sampling for smaller fish, but some larger fish have been sampled. Validation of aging and comparison of aging by multiple readers has been reviewed at the age and growth workshop in the fall 2013. Some results are available for the daily growth ring analysis of otoliths from young albacore to validate aging, especially time of annulus formation, and investigate growth patterns in young fish.

Tagging studies supported by the AFRF are ongoing. The US is continuing to deploy pop-up archival tags on juvenile albacore in the eastern Pacific. Between 2001 and 2006, archival tags were deployed in Northern Baja California and Southern California, and Washington and Oregon. The tags were used to study the seasonal movements, migration patterns and vertical distribution of juvenile albacore. The results indicate diverse behavior that varies regionally and seasonally as albacore move among different habitats (Childers *et al.* 2011).

The US also has pop-up archival tags to deploy on large albacore near Hawaii. Canada plans to deploy up to 50 pop-up satellite tags during two seasons in the coastal eastern Pacific and out to 150°W. The Canadian pop-up program was not executed in 2013 but is planned for 2014 (John Holmes, DFO, pers. com.)

Further investigations into spatial and temporal albacore distribution have been made and have been addressed in the March 2013 ALBWG workshop. The US conducted microchemistry analyses of otoliths from fish caught in the southern (off California and northern Mexico) and northern (off Oregon and Washington) areas. Analyses demonstrate partitioning by the age of 2-4, but core sampling has not demonstrated distinctions in chemical signals at birth. In order to address the possibility that spawning occurs in the central Pacific, the US is conducting larval tows in waters near Hawaii where larvae have previously been found (ISC 2012b).

The US investigated the spatial distribution of juvenile albacore in relation to local environmental

variability, such as sea surface temperature, and large-scale indices of climate variability. Results showed that sea surface temperature had a positive and spatially variable effect on albacore catch per unit effort, while the large-scale Pacific Decadal Oscillation index had an overall negative effect (Phillips *et al.* 2014).

The US is also starting a collaborative study to examine the influence of the North Pacific Current on the spatial distribution and availability of albacore in the northeast Pacific Ocean. Canada reported on an ongoing study to examine the effect of climatic indices.

Center for Independent Experts (CIE) Review

Three CIE scientists reviewed the 2011 albacore stock assessment. The ALBWG offered the following recommendations concerning the review process based on its experience with the CIE reviews of the 2011 assessment (ISC2012b):

1. Improved documentation of the assessment process relative to current practice, especially data review and preparation, is important for any review process.
2. A face to face review would be preferable to the desktop review that was used (this would be challenging logistically and financially since the ISC is a volunteer organization).
3. There was a difference in the quality of the reviews obtained through the CIE process and the ALBWG recommends that future stock assessment reviews consider the inclusion of reviewers with more knowledge of tunas and tuna assessment methodology.

Workplan and Meetings 2013-14

The ALBWG developed the following schedule leading up to the next full stock assessment planned for April 2014 (ISC 2013b):

1. Data preparation Workshop – 5-12 November 2013. Japan will host this workshop at the NRIFS Laboratory in Shimizu.
2. Tuna Ageing and Growth Workshop – 13-15 November 2013, immediately following the data preparation workshop in Shimizu.
3. Stock Assessment Workshop – 14-28 April 2014 in La Jolla, CA, United States.
4. Administrative Meeting, July 2014 – 1 day meeting in advance of ISC14 to update fisheries data, complete annual administrative tasks and prepare a stock assessment presentation.

Most recently:

Also, ALBWG are providing updated advice on BRPs to the Northern Committee in September 2014 in Fukuoka, Japan, at which time there should be discussions and decisions on a management framework (including BRPs, harvest control rules, etc.). (pers comm, John Holmes).

Further comments were provided by CHMSF from the IATTC meeting in Peru, July 2014 attended by the Canadian Gov't Commissioner that harvest quotas for Albacore, referring to a limit overall since

the fishery cannot exceed levels from certain average of years. Additionally, CHMSF refer to the work on PA framework within WCPFC (complemented by the IATTC Resolution adopted last year) to ensure that the fishery does not exceed those limits (pers comm, Lorne Clayton).

Stock Status and Conservation Advice

The ALBWG conducted a qualitative review of stock status (ISC 2013b). The new data and information reviewed by the ALBWG requires no change to its view of stock status as a result of the 2011 stock assessment. The WG noted that the qualitative review of catch and effort showed no indications of concern about either catch or effort trends, except for increased longline catches since 2010 by China and Vanuatu. Whether this expansion has continued in 2012 is uncertain and requires further investigation. The ALBWG notes, however, that albacore stock status may be related to recruitment and that it has no information with which to monitor recruitment between assessments.

The ALBWG does not recommend any changes to its stock status determination in 2011, i.e., the stock is healthy and overfishing is likely not occurring and the stock likely is not in an overfished condition, although biomass-based reference points have not been established.

Thus, no new information has been received since the 2011 stock assessment that would require a change to previous (2011) conservation advice. Thus the ALBWG recommended no changes to the conservation advice formulated at ISC11 (ISC 2012b):

1. The stock is considered to be healthy at average historical recruitment levels and fishing mortality (F2006-2008).
2. Sustainability is not threatened by overfishing as the F2006-2008 level (current F) is about 71% of FSSB-ATHL and the stock is expected to fluctuate around the long-term median SSB (~400,000 t) in the short- and long-term future.
3. If future recruitment declines by about 25% below average historical recruitment levels, then the risk of SSB falling below the SSB-ATHL threshold with F2006-2008 levels increases to 54% indicating that the impact on the stock is unlikely to be sustainable.
4. Increasing F beyond F2006-2008 levels (current F) will not result in proportional increases in yield as a result of the population dynamics of this stock.
5. The current assessment results confirm that F has declined relative to the 2006 assessment, which is consistent with the intent of the previous (2006) WG recommendation.

2011 North Pacific albacore stock assessment

The most recent assessment of the status and future trends for North Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) was conducted in June 2011 by the ISC Albacore Working Group (ALBWG) in Shizuoka, Japan. The assessment was carried out using fishery data through 2009 and using the Stock Synthesis (SS3) modeling platform (Version 3.11b). The assessment assumes a single well mixed stock of albacore in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC 2011b).

We noted that prior to the stock assessment workshop, an intercessional workshop of the Albacore

Working Group (ALBWG) was convened at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, USA, on 12-19 October 2010. The goal of this workshop was to explore and prepare the fisheries data for the June stock assessment workshop (ISC 2011c).

The SS3 model developed by the ALBWG is a seasonal, length-based, age-structured, forward-simulation population model with a focus on providing reliable estimates of population dynamics and stock abundance. Major changes to model inputs and structure in this assessment relative to the 2006 assessment include a new growth model, catch-at-length data rather than catch-at-age data, 16 age-aggregated fisheries defined by gear, location, season, and catch units (weight or number) rather than 17 age-specific fisheries, and use of conditional age-at-length data not previously available (ISC 2011a).

The ALBWG also conducted a comparison of a SS3 model run with a VPA model run to look at important estimated quantities for model-related changes. The reference run of the VPA model configured as in the 2006 assessment, but with updated catch-at-age and CPUE indices. Analyses were carried out to assess the sensitivity of the results to assumptions including data-weighting, biological parameters, and fishery selectivity patterns. In addition, stochastic future projections of the stock were conducted to estimate the probability that future SSB will fall below the average of the ten historically lowest estimated SSBs (SSB-ATHL) in at least one year of a 25-yr (2010-2035) projection period (ISC 2011.a).

The findings of the 2011 ALBWG assessment were:

The base-case spawning stock biomass (SSB) estimates fluctuated between 300,000 and 500,000 between 1966 and 2009. The 2009 estimated SSB is near the historical median SSB of about 405,000t. Annual recruitment has averaged 48 million fish during the same period. Fishing mortality (F-at-age) estimates indicate an increasing pattern to its highest level at age 3 and then declining to a much lower and stable level through ages 7-15. The 2011 estimate of current F (geometric mean 2006-08) is lower than the 2006 estimate of current F (geometric mean 2002-04). The projections indicated that future SSB is expected to fluctuate around the historical median SSB of around 400,000 t assuming F remains constant at the $F_{2006-2008}$ and recruitment remains at average historical levels (ISC 2011a).

The ALBWG concluded that the North Pacific albacore stock is considered to be healthy at average historical recruitment and $F_{2006-2008}$ (F current). The assessment indicates that the ratio of $F_{2006-2008} / F_{SSB-ATHL}$ is 0.71, meaning that current F is well below the F that would lead SSB to fall below the SSB-ATHL threshold. The future projections given average historical recruitment levels and constant fishing mortality at $F_{2006-2008}$, indicate that the stock is expected to fluctuate around the long-term median SSB (~405,000 t). Given these observations, the ALBWG concluded that overfishing is not occurring and that the stock is likely not in an overfished state. The ALBWG recognized that recruitment is a key driver of the dynamics in this stock and given a more pessimistic recruitment scenario the probability that the stock will not achieve the management objective of remaining above SSB-ATHL threshold with a probability of 50% is increasing. For example, if future recruitment were to decline by about 25% below average historical recruitment levels due either to environmental changes or other reasons, then the impact of $F_{2006-2008}$ on the stock is unlikely to

be sustainable. Therefore, the ALBWG recommended which maintains the present management measures (ISC 2011a).

Biological Reference Points

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 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) (WCPFC 2010).

The F-based reference point FSSB-ATHL is one of a group of simulation-based biological reference points (BRP) using spawning biomass thresholds proposed for north Pacific albacore. Unlike other BRPs used in fisheries management, FSSB is not an equilibrium concept and therefore does not assume that future SSB or yield will remain constant at some specified level (ISC 2011b).

The ALBWG estimated F2006-2008 (current F) relative to several F-based reference points used in contemporary fisheries management (Table 1). The estimates are expressed as the ratio of F2006-

2008/Fref point, which means that when the ratio is less than 1.0, F2006-2008 is below the reference point estimate. The FMAX, FMED and F0.1 reference points are based on yield-per-recruit analysis while the F20-50% reference points are spawning biomass-based proxies of FMSY. Table 3. Potential reference points and estimated F-ratio using $F_{\text{current}}(\text{F2006-2008})$ associated spawning biomass and equilibrium yield. FSSB-ATHL is not an equilibrium concept so SSB and yield are given as median levels (ISC 2011a).

Reference Point	F20062008/FRP	SSB (t)	Equilibrium Yield (t)
FSSB-ATHL	0.71	346,382	101,426
FMAX	0.14	11,186	185,913
F0.1	0.29	107,130	170,334
FMED	0.99	452,897	94,080
F20%	0.38	171,427	156,922
F30%	0.52	257,140	138,248
F40%	0.68	342,854	119,094
F50%	0.91	428,567	99,643

The ALBWG concluded that FSSB-ATHL and the resulting advice based on this reference point is probably robust to different plausible structural assumptions in the base-case model. Since F2006-2008 is close to FMED and well below the MSY proxy rates, the ALBWG concluded that overfishing of the north Pacific albacore stock is unlikely at present.

At the 7th Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC), Canada suggested that due to the favorable 2011 albacore assessment, it would be an opportune time to discuss a long term strategy for the stock that includes the development of precautionary management framework. The proposed framework would include biological reference points and pre-agreed decision rules that trigger management action. Establishing a precautionary approach based management framework for albacore is listed in the NC's work program objectives for 2012-15 (WCPFC 2011).

The NC discussed limit reference points (LRPs) for albacore tuna at the 8th Regular Session held in Nagasaki, Japan in September, 2012 (WCPFC 2012). The USA noted that the WCPFC's adoption of a hierarchical approach for setting LRPs. Delegations generally expressed support for a continuation of the current interim LRP. Canada noted that under the 2012–2015 work program, NC was also to discuss pre-agreed decision rules, and expressed that these could represent a range of management actions should LRPs be breached. A small WG made progress on a way forward on the issue of LRPs for albacore. To determine the suitability of candidate reference points identified by the ALBWG in 2011 (see Table 3 above), the NC posed specific questions to ISC in order to be in a better position to finalize a precautionary approach framework at NC9 (WCPFC 2012).

ISC presented its response to NC8's request on North Pacific albacore. The information presented at NC9 on potential reference points for albacore, as well as the reliability of key biological parameters (e.g., steepness, natural mortality, selectivity and maturity) resulted from work undertaken at the ALBWG workshop held in Busan, Republic of Korea July 12-13, 2013 (ISC 2013b). The ISC

summarized the information and advice on biological reference points as follows (WCPFC 2013):

- Given the current stock assessment model structure (steepness $h = 1.0$), F_{Max} is theoretically equivalent to F_{MSY} . However, F_{Max} is not well estimated by the 2011 stock assessment model because the yield curve is extremely flat, which places F_{Max} well beyond historical or observed fishing mortality during the stock assessment time period.
- Estimated F-ratios of candidate reference points assuming two different constant harvest scenarios ($F_{2002-2004}$, $F_{2006-2008}$) were presented to determine whether reference point levels are exceeded. It was noted that $F_{2002-2004}/FRPratios$ are consistently higher than $F_{2006-2008}/FRPratios$ with a maximum difference of 16%. None of the candidate reference points exceeded (ratio > 1.0) under an F-current ($F_{2006-2008}$) harvest scenario, although the F_{MED} and $F_{50\%}$ reference points are close to this threshold (WCPFC 2013).
- Provisional information to assess the influence of environmental variability on candidate reference points was presented, in particular the effects of regime shifts on values of F_{SPR} .

Additional information in the form of the estimated probability of breaching the Interim Management Objective (the average of the 10 historical lowest years of SSB) and several biomass depletion levels for each candidate reference point harvest scenario was also presented (WCPFC 2013).

While agreement could not be reached on suitable limit reference points, progress was made on a concept paper tabled by the USA regarding a precautionary management framework for North Pacific albacore, which provides the elements to be included in the future management framework for albacore. NC9 participants appreciated the USA's initiative. It was agreed that the paper will be discussed at NC10 in conjunction with the 2014 albacore stock assessment results (WCPFC 2013).

Management Measures

Given the conclusions of the 2011 stock assessment and the recommendation of the ALBWG to maintain the present management measure of no increase in effort beyond current levels, the IATTC and WCPFC resolutions remain in effect.

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 WCPFC 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.

Progress on conservation and management of North Pacific albacore is documented in the report of the 85th meeting of the IATTC held in, Veracruz, Mexico (IATTC 2013).

Firstly, the IATTC Committee for the Review of the Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission recommended that to the Commission that the frequency of submissions of information on North Pacific albacore be reviewed.

Secondly, the staff made the following recommendations (IATTC 2013):

- Amend Resolution C-05-02 to require that the obligatory six-monthly reports include information on effort as well as catches, and to clarify that the data provided should be for the EPO only
- As an interim measure, adopt the target and limit reference points approved by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) (Document IATTC-85-03d).
- Adopt as a harvest control rule that, if fishing mortality exceeds the level corresponding to MSY, it be reduced to that level.

As regards reference points, it was noted that these are the same as those that were adopted by the IOTC, and thus more work was needed to assess them and decide how they should be applied in the Eastern Pacific Ocean; in the meantime they should be considered as an interim measure only and should also be reviewed, along with the harvest control rule, by the Scientific Advisory Committee.

Thirdly, supplementary resolution to amend resolution C-05-02 on North Pacific albacore (Resolution C-13-03) was adopted by the Commission (IATTC 2013):

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Recalling Resolution C-05-02 on Northern Pacific albacore tuna;

Recalling further its responsibility for the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area, and for the formulation of recommendations to its Members and Cooperating non- Members (CPCs) with regard to the conservation and management of these resources,

Observing that the 2011 stock assessment of North Pacific albacore from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) indicates that the stock is not being overfished nor is it in an overfished state;

Mindful that the effectiveness of Resolution C-05-02 is unknown and considering that the ISC is expected to complete a new stock assessment in 2014;

Taking note that there currently does not exist a common interpretation or understanding of the term “current effort”, and that the IATTC staff has recommended that an operational definition of

current effort, including a baseline reference period, be developed;

Recognizing the importance of working with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), as provided for in Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention, in order to manage North Pacific albacore tuna throughout its migratory range;

Noting the work of the WCPFC's Northern Committee in determining the extent their Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and participating Territories (CCMs) are working to implement the WCPFC's Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2005-03 on North Pacific albacore;

Recalling further Article 22(4) of the WCPFC Convention that provides for cooperation with the IATTC regarding fish stocks that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Taking into account Article IV of the Antigua Convention calling upon members of the Commission to apply the precautionary approach, as described in the relevant provisions of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Code of Conduct, as well as the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, for the conservation, management and sustainable use of fish stocks covered by the Convention; and,

Considering the ongoing work within the WCPFC towards the development of a precautionary approach framework for North Pacific albacore, which will include target and limit reference points, as well as pre-agreed decision rules should those reference points be breached;

The IATTC therefore resolves that:

1. All CPCs shall report to the Director by December 1st, 2013, using the template (attached in Annex A), a list of all their specific fisheries or fleets that had any catch of North Pacific albacore in the Convention Area during 2007-2012; whether or not those fisheries are targeting North Pacific albacore; and the average annual catch between 2007-2012 by gear type. In the case that a CPC cannot distinguish whether or not its catch of North Pacific albacore occurred in the Convention Area, it shall report its catch of North Pacific albacore in the entire North Pacific.
2. All CPCs shall report to the Director by December 1, 2013, using a template attached in Annex B, a list of their fishing effort for those fisheries targeting North Pacific albacore. Fishing effort shall be reported in fishing days and number of vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore.
3. The Director shall direct the IATTC scientific staff to review the data template for its completeness IATTC-85 Minutes and to assess the effectiveness of the current effort-based approach for managing North Pacific albacore and report their findings ninety (90) days prior to the 2014 annual meeting.
4. The Director and the IATTC scientific staff shall, in coordination with the ISC, monitor the status of North Pacific albacore tuna and report on the status of the stock at each annual meeting.

5. The IATTC scientific staff shall review work undertaken within the ISC and the WCPFC towards the development of a precautionary approach framework for North Pacific albacore that includes target and limit reference points and harvest control rules, and make recommendations in respect of such a framework for consideration by the Commission.

6. The Commission shall continue efforts to promote compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and the WCPFC in their goals and effectiveness with respect to North Pacific albacore.

7. The Director shall communicate this Resolution to the WCPFC Secretariat.

Lastly, Resolution C-13-01 adopted by the Commission ensures conservation and management measures to be coordinated between WCPFC and IATTC (IATTC 2013):

“The IATTC shall continue efforts to promote compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and WCPFC in their goals and effectiveness, especially in the overlap area, including by frequent consultations with the WCPFC, in order to maintain, and inform their respective members of, a thorough understanding of conservation and management measures directed at bigeye, yellowfin, and other tunas, and the scientific bases and effectiveness of those measures.”

6. Relevant changes to Legislation and Regulations

International

The IATTC “Antigua Convention” (IATTC 2003) was adopted in 2010 and came into force in 2011. The Convention has a more modern flavor and is more conservative compared to the original Convention. Specific functions of the Commission with regard to Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and Precautionary Approach (PA) are articulated (IATTC 2003):

“adopt measures that are based on the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by this Convention and to maintain or restore the population of harvested species at levels of abundance which can produce the maximum sustainable yield, inter alia, through the setting of the total allowable catch of such fish stocks as the Commission may decide and/or the total allowable level of fishing capacity and/or level of fishing effort for the Convention Area as a whole.”

“apply the precautionary approach in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of this convention. In cases where measures are adopted by the Commission pursuant to the precautionary approach in the absence of adequate scientific information as set out in Article IV, paragraph 2 of this Convention, the Commission shall, as soon as possible, undertake to obtain the scientific information necessary or modify any such measures.”

Progress on conservation and management of North Pacific albacore is documented in the report of

the 85th meeting of the IATTC held in Veracruz, Veracruz, Mexico (IATTC 2013).

Firstly, the IATTC Committee for the Review of the Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission met during the 2013 Annual Meeting in Veracruz, Mexico (IATTC 2013). The Committee recommended that to the Commission that the frequency of submissions of information on North Pacific albacore be reviewed.

Secondly, the staff made the following recommendations (IATTC 2013):

- Amend Resolution C-05-02 to require that the obligatory six-monthly reports include information on effort as well as catches, and to clarify that the data provided should be for the EPO only
- As an interim measure, adopt the target and limit reference points approved by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) (Document IATTC-85-03d).
- Adopt as a harvest control rule that, if fishing mortality exceeds the level corresponding to MSY, it be reduced to that level.

Thirdly, supplementary resolution to amend resolution C-05-02 on North Pacific albacore (Resolution C-13-03) was adopted by the Commission (IATTC 2013):

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Recalling Resolution C-05-02 on Northern Pacific albacore tuna;

Recalling further its responsibility for the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area, and for the formulation of recommendations to its Members and Cooperating non- Members (CPCs) with regard to the conservation and management of these resources,

Observing that the 2011 stock assessment of North Pacific albacore from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) indicates that the stock is not being overfished nor is it in an overfished state;

Mindful that the effectiveness of Resolution C-05-02 is unknown and considering that the ISC is expected to complete a new stock assessment in 2014;

Taking note that there currently does not exist a common interpretation or understanding of the term “current effort”, and that the IATTC staff has recommended that an operational definition of current effort, including a baseline reference period, be developed;

Recognizing the importance of working with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), as provided for in Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention, in order to manage North Pacific albacore tuna throughout its migratory range;

Noting the work of the WCPFC’s Northern Committee in determining the extent their Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and participating Territories (CCMs) are working to

implement the WCPFC's Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2005-03 on North Pacific albacore;

Recalling further Article 22(4) of the WCPFC Convention that provides for cooperation with the IATTC regarding fish stocks that occur in the convention areas of both organizations;

Taking into account Article IV of the Antigua Convention calling upon members of the Commission to apply the precautionary approach, as described in the relevant provisions of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Code of Conduct, as well as the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, for the conservation, management and sustainable use of fish stocks covered by the Convention; and,

Considering the ongoing work within the WCPFC towards the development of a precautionary approach framework for North Pacific albacore, which will include target and limit reference points, as well as pre-agreed decision rules should those reference points be breached;

The IATTC therefore resolves that:

1. All CPCs shall report to the Director by December 1st, 2013, using the template (attached in Annex A), a list of all their specific fisheries or fleets that had any catch of North Pacific albacore in the Convention Area during 2007-2012; whether or not those fisheries are targeting North Pacific albacore; and the average annual catch between 2007-2012 by gear type. In the case that a CPC cannot distinguish whether or not its catch of North Pacific albacore occurred in the Convention Area, it shall report its catch of North Pacific albacore in the entire North Pacific.
2. All CPCs shall report to the Director by December 1, 2013, using a template attached in Annex B, a list of their fishing effort for those fisheries targeting North Pacific albacore. Fishing effort shall be reported in fishing days and number of vessels fishing for North Pacific albacore.
3. The Director shall direct the IATTC scientific staff to review the data template for its completeness IATTC-85 Minutes and to assess the effectiveness of the current effort-based approach for managing North Pacific albacore and report their findings ninety (90) days prior to the 2014 annual meeting.
4. The Director and the IATTC scientific staff shall, in coordination with the ISC, monitor the status of North Pacific albacore tuna and report on the status of the stock at each annual meeting.
5. The IATTC scientific staff shall review work undertaken within the ISC and the WCPFC towards the development of a precautionary approach framework for North Pacific albacore that includes target and limit reference points and harvest control rules, and make recommendations in respect of such a framework for consideration by the Commission.
6. The Commission shall continue efforts to promote compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and the WCPFC in their goals and effectiveness with respect to North Pacific albacore.

7. The Director shall communicate this Resolution to the WCPFC Secretariat.

Lastly, Resolution C-13-01 adopted by the Commission ensures conservation and management measures to be coordinated between WCPFC and IATTC (IATTC 2013):

“The IATTC shall continue efforts to promote compatibility between the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and WCPFC in their goals and effectiveness, especially in the overlap area, including by frequent consultations with the WCPFC, in order to maintain, and inform their respective members of, a thorough understanding of conservation and management measures directed at bigeye, yellowfin, and other tunas, and the scientific bases and effectiveness of those measures.”

Canada

No relevant changes to legislation and regulations have been identified since the 3rd surveillance audit (SAI Global 2013).

7. Relevant changes to Management Regime

International

a. Canada-US Pacific Albacore Tuna Treaty

The treaty between the governments of Canada and the U.S. was signed in 1981(http://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/B2a_ATT1_TREATY_US_CAN_MAR2012BB.pdf). Under the Treaty, fishermen from the United States and Canada may harvest albacore tuna in the other country's 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Fishermen from one country may also land their catches and conduct other activities in certain designated ports in the other country – six in the United States and six in Canada. In 2004, the two countries began operating under a three-year limitation regime to control fishing effort. Provisions in the Treaty amendments permitted this limitation regime to continue for another two years (2007/08) under further reduced levels of effort. A new three-year limitation regime was agreed to by both countries and came into effect in 2009. Following the expiration of the 2009/11 limitation regime, the Government of the United States informed Canada in March 2012 that it was not in a position to negotiate a new fishing regime for the 2012 season. Thus in 2012 the Canadian fleet did not fish in the US EEZ.

As per the renewed 2013 Treaty, Canadian fishing vessels that are licensed to fish Albacore tuna in USA waters were authorized (pursuant to Article III of the Treaty) to enter, land their catches, sell or trans-ship their catch, obtain fuel, supplies, repairs and equipment at six ports in California, Oregon and Washington in 2013 (DFO 2013a). Further details are documented in the Conditions of License (DFO 2013b). In 2013 there were 45 Canadian vessels authorized to fish in the US EEZ, and 43 Canadian vessels actually fished in the US EEZ (Jordan Mah, DFO, pers. com.)

The Treaty negotiation process to establish a fishing regime for 2014 is underway with a meeting

scheduled for April 16-17, 2014 in Portland, Oregon. Two collaborative Working Groups have been formed under the Treaty negotiation process. The bi-national Data Working Group is finalizing a data exchange protocol and has finalized catch and landings data available to both Treaty delegations from 1995-2013. Extensive work is currently undertaken through the bi-national Economic Working Group to produce reliable outputs to assess the benefits of the Treaty to the Canadian and American economies. If the 2014 treaty negotiations result in authorizing Canadian vessels to fish in the US EEZ in 2014, the 2014/2015 IFMP will be amended accordingly (DFO 2014).

b. IATTC

As previously reported (SAI Global 2013), the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee reviewed the 2011 North Pacific albacore stock assessment at their 3rd meeting May 15-18, 2012 (IATTC 2012a). Results were reported to the Annual meeting of the Commission held June 25-29, 2012. Based on the 2011 stock assessment and conservation advice provided by the ISC (ISC 2011 and ISC 2012) management action (IATTC Resolution C-05-02) was not revised by the Commission.

It should be noted that Canada proposed amendments to the IATTC Resolution C-05-02 on North Pacific albacore tuna (Proposal J-1 REV2; Appendix 3i) at the 83rd IATTC Meeting (IATTC 2012b). The proposal included the development of a precautionary approach framework that includes target and limit reference points. However, there was not enough time to consider the second revision of this proposal submitted, so it did not achieve the consensus necessary for its adoption (IATTC 2012b). However, the Supplemental Resolution on North Pacific albacore (C-13-03; see above) containing proposals to develop a precautionary approach for albacore has been adopted by the Commission in 2013 (IATTC 2013).

c. WCPFC

At NC 8, Canada highlighted its recent efforts at IATTC to update and strengthen the 2005 resolution for albacore tuna. In particular, Canada seeks to make progress on the definition of current effort, as well as recognize work being undertaken within WCPFC towards developing a precautionary approach management framework for the stock. It noted that IATTC ran out of time at this year's annual meeting and that as a result, full consideration of their proposal was not possible (WCPFC 2012). This is an important development in addressing the condition set in issue 1 in PI 1.1.2.

In 2013, the Northern Committee progressed with their workplan to develop a framework for albacore management including developing reference points and decision rules for management should reference points be breached. USA presented a concept paper (WCPFC 2013; Attachment G) at the 9th Regular Session of the NC in Fukuoka, Japan. The paper was intended to help provide direction to NC9 to identify important elements of a precautionary management framework including management objectives, limit and target reference points for stock size and fishing mortality, and associated decision rules. Under the NC's work program, NC9 was tasked with agreeing on appropriate reference points and decision rules. While agreement could not be reached on suitable reference points and decision rules, progress was made. NC9 agreed that further discussions will be held on this topic at NC10 in conjunction with the new stock assessment being

conducted in 2014 (WCPFC 2013).

Canada

The 2013 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for albacore is essentially unchanged from 2013 (DFO 2013a). The IFMP makes reference to the new national Sustainable Fisheries Framework which contains policies for adopting an ecosystem based approach to fisheries management including:

- A Fishery Decision-Making Framework Incorporating the Precautionary Approach;
- Managing Impacts of Fishing on Benthic Habitat, Communities and Species;
- Policy on New Fisheries for Forage Species.

Along with existing economic and shared stewardship policies, these will help the department meet objectives for long-term sustainability, economic prosperity, and improved governance. For further information DFO directs the reader to go to:

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/peches-fisheries/fish-ren-peche/sff-cpd/overview-cadre-eng.htm>

DFO has recently begun implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Framework (SFF), which is a toolbox of existing and new policies DFO and other interests to sustainably manage Canadian fisheries in order to conserve fish stocks and support prosperous fisheries (DFO 2012). The new fishery decision-making framework incorporating the precautionary approach policy applies to key harvested fish stocks managed by DFO, including commercial, recreational, or subsistence fisheries. The policy can be found at:

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/peches-fisheries/fish-ren-peche/sff-cpd/precaution-eng.htm>

Since North Pacific Albacore tuna is managed at the international level through conservation and management measures adopted by the WCPFC and IATTC, DFO has not yet developed specific domestic management measures with regards to the precautionary approach. A management framework for North Pacific Albacore incorporating the precautionary approach principles is being developed at the international level (i.e., WCPFC Northern Committee and IATTC).

The Tuna Advisory Board (TAB) is the Department's primary consultative body which provides recommendations on operational and policy decisions related to the Pacific Albacore Tuna fishery. Stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the advisory process by expressing their interests and views through elected advisors or attending meetings as observers. The most recent minutes received from DFO were for TAB meetings held February 11, 2013 and May 15, 2013. The objective of the February meeting was to discuss post-season (2012) evaluation of the fishery, obtain information on the expected stock status and fishing opportunities for the coming year, and review the 2013/14 IFMP. The May TAB meeting objective was to provide an update on the Canada-US treaty negotiation, and review management measures for the 2013/2014 Tuna Integrated Fisheries Management Plan.

There have been ongoing discussions in DFO and the Tuna Advisory Board to create a separate tuna license for the Canadian EEZ and high seas. Due to evolving domestic tuna fishery management

needs, as well as international obligations to not increase harvesting effort for Albacore tuna, DFO has been working with stakeholders to discuss potential updates to the current licensing and management structure for the Canadian waters and high seas fleets. In 2013 DFO has established a separate tuna license the Category CT Tuna License (DFO 2013b). The creation of the Tuna CT License is an incremental improvement towards establishing limited entry in this fishery.

8. The General Conditions of Certification

The general 'Conditions' set for each Certificate holder at initial full assessment were as follows:

- CHMSF 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;
- CHMSF 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;
- CHMSF must recognize that MSC standards require a full re-evaluation for certification (as opposed to yearly monitoring for update purposes) every five years (now in progress);
- Prior to receiving final certification, CHMSF shall develop, an 'Action Plan' 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 CHMSF.

During the surveillance audit for CHMSF, the client fishery was deemed to be in conformance with the general conditions of certification. Prior to the initial certification of the client fishery, an Action Plan was developed and submitted to SAI Global and accepted by the assessment team. During the surveillance audit, the evaluation of any changes to the client group was also undertaken.

8.1. CHMSF Client Group

An up-date of the 2013 vessels that were included in the CHMSF client group for MSC purposes was provided. In 2013, a total of 204 Canadian registered vessels were included within the client group of CHMSF. This list includes 144 additional member vessels compared to the client group at the commencement of certification. This increase in the number of client group vessels came about by including all Canadian vessels fishing for albacore in the CHMSF membership. In addition a list of 14 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. See below for a list processors under the certificate.

<http://www.canadianalbacoretuna.com/sustainability.html>

The certificate previously itemized the point of entry of albacore tuna into the MSC Chain of Custody as at the point of landing by the vessel. Global Trust reviewed the wording of the certificate and also the direction provided in MSC TAB D-018 V1.1 (Surveillance Year 1) and considered that although this definition is accurate it was misleading 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 issued 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.

9. The Specific Conditions of Certification

During the initial assessment of the fishery, a conditional score (75) was allocated for **PI1.1.2** of the MSC Default Assessment Tree. A summary of the original context and rationale at the time of full assessment is presented below.

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

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 WCPFC 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 the CHMSF which must be agreed in order that the fishery remain eligible for certification (refer to Section 8). “

Conditions Set on the CHMSF

Item 1:	CHMSF Condition 1 (of 1)	
<i>Performance Indicator & Guidepost Issue</i>	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.
<i>Condition 1 Part 1</i>	<p>1. CHMSF to promote and support:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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.</p>	
<i>Action Plan</i>	<p><i>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:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>IATTC (Inter-American-Tropical-Tuna-Commission)</i> • <i>WCPFC (Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission)</i> • <i>Northern Committee of the WCPFC</i> • <i>Chair of the ISC (International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean)</i> • <i>Federal Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO);</i> • <i>Federal Ministry of Fisheries- International Trade;</i> • <i>Provincial Ministry of Environment (BCENV);</i> • <i>Tuna Advisory Board (TAB);</i> • <i>Department of Fisheries and Oceans Highly Migratory Species – Management Team;</i> • <i>Bi-lateral Treaty Group</i> <p><i>CHMSF's actions in accordance with this plan include:</i></p>	

- 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.*

	<p><i>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></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>j. Continued attendance, participation, and submission of communications to appropriate management bodies in accordance with current practice</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Federal Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO);</i> • <i>Federal Ministry of Fisheries- International Trade;</i> • <i>Provincial Ministry of Environment (BCENV);</i> • <i>Tuna Advisory Board (TAB);</i> • <i>Department of Fisheries and Oceans Highly Migratory Species – Management Team;</i> • <i>Bi-lateral Treaty Group</i>
<p><i>Evidence Year 1</i></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Letters have been sent to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

	<p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<p><i>Condition 1</i> <i>Part 2, 3, 4</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

<p><i>Action Plan</i></p>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
<p><i>Evidence</i></p>	<p>Global Trust has received 'Canadian Fishery Statistics for North Pacific albacore from the 2009 fishery' (ISC/10/ALBWG-2/05) and qualitative stock status updates from the 'Report of the Albacore Working Group Workshop' (Plenary ISC10/Annex 9) in a timely fashion.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><i>Condition 1</i> <i>Part 3, 4 & 5</i></p>	<p>5. If additional resolutions are proposed, then these should be supported as in 1 above.</p>
<p><i>Action Plan</i></p>	<p><i>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.</i></p>
<p><i>Evidence</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><i>Condition 1</i> <i>Part 6</i></p>	<p>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.</p>

<i>Action Plan</i>	<i>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.</i>
<i>Evidence</i>	CHMSF members are actively collecting samples 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.
<i>Conclusion and Outcome on Condition 1 from 1st Surveillance Audit.</i>	<p><i>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 since the original rationale and the score (75%) for this conditions remains unchanged.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 WCPFC 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.
<i>Conclusion and Outcome on Condition 1 from 2nd Surveillance Audit.</i>	<p>The overall management of the fishery continues to meet the standard observed during the full assessment.</p> <p>A new stock assessment for North Pacific albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>) was conducted in June 2011 by the ISC Albacore Working Group (ALBWG) in Shizuoka, Japan. The assessment was carried out using fishery data through 2009 and using the Stock Synthesis (SS3) modeling platform (Version 3.11b). The assessment assumes a single well mixed stock of albacore in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC 2011b).</p> <p>We noted that prior to the stock assessment workshop, an intercessional workshop of the Albacore Working Group (ALBWG) was convened at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, USA, on 12-19 October 2010. The goal of this workshop was to explore and prepare the fisheries data for the June stock assessment workshop (ISC 2011c). The North Pacific albacore stock is currently not overfished nor is overfishing occurring, and current biomass levels are sufficient to support current levels of catch. The absence of reference points and a control rule must, though, be a</p>

	<p>continuing focus for CHMSF, and the Global trust assessment team can confirm that the lack of such decision tools would mean that Conditions of certification would be required in a new certificate if the fishery was recertified. As such, the assessment team is pleased to note that the CHMSF has confirmed its intent to continue to participate in management and advisory forums and to advocate the development of formalised and documented decision-making management processes on the North Pacific albacore stock.</p> <p>The client group has proven to have demonstrated significant effort and progress regarding Conditions placed on the certification of the fishery, and considerable progress is being made towards the development of reference points and an associated sustainable fishery management regime.</p> <p>MSC Certification should therefore continue for the second year of this existing certificate, as the fishery moves forward through reassessment.</p> <p>However, the Condition from initial assessment on the fishery remains in place and cannot be closed out as result of this surveillance audit.</p>
<p>Summary of evidence Submitted by Clients Specific to MSC Conditions since 1st Surveillance Audit</p>	<p><u>Evidence submitted by CHMSF with reference to specific Condition of Certification</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHMSF is a member of the Association of Sustainable Fisheries <p><u>Log of activities undertaken by CHMSF representatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 27-March 4th, 2011. Vancouver, BC - International Negotiations on establishing new management arrangement for currently unregulated high seas fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean • April 28-May 6, 2011. Brussels, Belgium - ESE including meet up with Dave Garforth-MSC. • July 4-8, 2011. La Jolla, California. Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) – Larry Teague attending. • September 6-8, 2011. Asian Seafood Exhibition- Hong Kong and presenting MSC albacore to chefs. • September 26-30, 2011. Agri-Canada AGM in Ottawa. • November 1-3, 2011. Qingdao, China - China Fish and Seafood Expo • November 24-27, 2011. Singapore - Canadian Agri-Meetings in Singapore- Sustainable Fisheries Presentations • November 28-30, 2011. Nanaimo, BC - State Holder Meetings – US/Canada Treaty • November 30 – December 1, 2011. Vancouver, BC – US Canadian Treaty Negotiations.

<p>Conclusion and Outcome on Condition 1 from 3rd Surveillance Audit</p>	<p>The overall management of the fishery continues to meet the standard observed during the full assessment.</p> <p>As previously stated, the North Pacific albacore stock is currently not overfished nor is overfishing occurring, and current biomass levels are sufficient to support current levels of catch. The absence of reference points and a control rule must, though, be a continuing focus for CHMSF, and the SAI Global assessment team can confirm that the lack of such decision tools would mean that Conditions of certification would be required in a new certificate if the fishery was recertified. As such, the assessment team is pleased to note that the CHMSF has confirmed its intent to continue to participate in management and advisory forums and to advocate the development of formalised and documented decision-making management processes on the North Pacific albacore stock.</p> <p>The client group has proven to have demonstrated significant effort and progress regarding Conditions placed on the certification of the fishery, and considerable progress is being made towards the development of reference points and an associated sustainable fishery management regime.</p> <p>MSC Certification should therefore continue for the third year of this existing certificate. However, the Condition from initial assessment on the fishery remains in place and cannot be closed out as result of this surveillance audit.</p>
<p>Conclusion and Outcome on Condition 1 from 4th Surveillance Audit</p>	<p>The overall management of the fishery continues to meet the standard observed during the full assessment.</p> <p>The SAI Global assessment team confirms that the 2011 stock assessment the North Pacific albacore stock is currently not overfished nor is overfishing occurring, and current biomass levels are sufficient to support current levels of catch. The absence of reference points (and a control rule must), though, be a continuing focus for CHMSF, and the SAI Global assessment team can confirm that the lack of limit and target reference points (and associated decision rules) would mean that Conditions of certification would be required in a new certificate if the fishery was recertified. The process of recertification is now under way. It is recognized that the implementation of appropriate reference points is not under control of CHMSF due to the international context of the North Pacific albacore tuna management and therefore closing out the condition within the required timescale is highly challenging.</p> <p>The assessment team considered that the client has made adequate progress and met the requirements of the Client Action Plan. However, progress against measurable outcomes is judged to be “behind target”. No reference points have been implemented at this time, and hence, the PI score does not meet the 80 score. Therefore the condition cannot be closed out as result of this 4th surveillance audit (CR 22.27.8.1cii).</p> <p>According to CR27.24, specifically 27.24.2.4biiA; if the SG80 level has not been</p>

	<p>achieved, such conditions shall be rewritten against the reassessment tree following the requirements specified in 27.11, with a timeline for completion of less than one certification period. Given that the CHMSF 1.1.2 condition was written prior to the requirement for outcome-based conditions, this new requirement allows the existing condition to be rewritten in re-assessment in an outcome-focused manner, and with timelines harmonised with the North Pacific albacore certificate conditions of WFOA/AAFA fisheries and therefore, setting the deadline for closing the condition for 2017. As specified above, the process of recertification is on-going. Revised milestones have been set in the current surveillance and will be included in the reassessment report and the assessment team will evaluate if the progress against these revised milestones are back “on target” for the next surveillance audits.</p> <p>The assessment team noted that the CHMSF has confirmed its intent to continue to participate in management and advisory forums and to advocate the development of formalised and documented decision-making management processes on the North Pacific albacore stock.</p>
<p>Summary of evidence Submitted by Clients Specific to MSC Conditions since 2nd Surveillance Audit</p>	<p><u>Evidence submitted by CHMSF with reference to specific Condition of Certification</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHMSF participation at IATTC meeting in La Jolla, CA in June 2012. Lorne Clayton appointed Canadian Commissioner to IATTC. Canada tabling a proposed amendment (IATTC-83 PROP J-1) to IATTC resolution C-05-02 to include work to developing of a precautionary framework that includes Target and limit reference points and a harvest control rule • CHMSF is a member of the Association of Sustainable Fisheries <p><u>Log of activities undertaken by CHMSF representatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 17, 2012 - CHMSF Participation in international Tuna Data Working Group - La Jolla, CA; • January 23, 2012 - 2nd CHMSF MSC Audit – Vancouver, BC; • January 30, 2012 - CHMSF participation in Canadian Tuna Advisory Board – Vancouver, BC; • February 27-28, 2012 - CHMSF participation in Canadian Tuna Advisory Board – Victoria, BC; • March 13-14, 2012 - CHMSF participation in international Bilateral Treaty Negotiations – Portland, OR; • April 11-12, 2012 - CHMSF participation in Canada/US Albacore Treaty Bilateral Treaty Negotiations – Victoria, BC; • April 19, 2012 - CHMSF AGM and MSC Promotion; • April 23, 2012 - CHMSF participation in Association Sustainable Fisheries – Brussels, Belgium; • April 24 – 26, 2012 - CHMSF participation - meeting with MSC and Canadian

	<p>Commissioners at European Seafood Show – Brussels, Belgium;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 22 – 24, 2012 - CHMSF participation in Canada/US Albacore Bilateral Treaty Negotiations – Portland; • June 25-29, 2012 - CHMSF participation at IATTC meeting. Lorne Clayton appointed Canadian Commissioner to IATTC. Tabling of Harvest Control Resolution - La Jolla; • September 10, 2012 - CHMSF participation in Canada/US Albacore Treaty Economics Working Group Meeting. Conf. Call - La Jolla. • September 10 – 13, 2012 - Promotion of CHMSF MSC in Hong Kong Asian Seafood Exhibition; • Month of September, 2012 - Canadian MSC Seafood Promotion - NTC Food Market in Singapore • October 1-4, 2012 - CHMSF participation in MSC roundtable at Agri-Marketing Conference, Ottawa, ON; • October 20-25, 2012 – Taping of CHMSF MSC Canadian albacore promotions in Mexico for the TV show is D'Todo hosted by Pamela Correa; • November 10-14, 2012 - CHMSF participation in Japan MSC Products promotion - Tokyo, Japan; • November 13, 2012 - CHMSF participation in Canada/US Albacore Treaty Data Working Group - La Jolla, CA; • November 14, 2012 - CHMSF participation in Canada/US Albacore Treaty Economics Working Group Meeting. Conf. Call - La Jolla, CA; and • November 26-27, 2012 - CHMSF participation in Virtual Round Table on Canadian Fisheries and MSC Certification with Agri-Canada Trade Commissioners - Bangkok, Thailand.
<p>Summary of evidence Submitted by Clients Specific to MSC Conditions since 3rd Surveillance Audit</p>	<p>During 2013, 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:</p> <p><u>Log of activities undertaken by CHMSF representatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 14, 2013, - Vancouver, BC -- MSC Audit – Assessment Meeting • January 16, 2013- 5th Albacore Tuna Working Group, La Jolla (Conference Call). • January 21, 2013- Meeting with Dan Avril (MSC Americas), Victoria, BC. • February 11, 2013 - Tuna Advisory Board, Nanaimo, BC. • February 13-14, 2013 - Canadian/US Albacore Treaty Meeting – Vancouver, BC • April 16-18, 2013 - Canadian/US Albacore Treaty Meeting – Portland, Oregon. • April 21-25, 2013- European Seafood Exhibition and MSC Meeting – Brussels, Belgium • April 30, 2013- Combined BC Tuna Fishermen Assoc. – CHMSF Annual General Meetings, BC

- **May 3, - 2013**-Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation - Caucus, BC.
- **May 15, 2013** Tuna Advisory Board, Victoria, BC
- **June 9-15, 2013** International Tropical Tuna Commission Meetings, Mexico City.
- **September 2-4, 2013.** Asian Seafood Exhibition- Hong Kong and presenting MSC
 - Albacore to chefs.
- **October 2013**– Canadian Agri-meetings Sustainable Fisheries Presentation – Singapore.
- **October 30, 2013**-Tuna Advisory Board, Victoria, BC
- **November 5-7, 2013**-China Seafood Show and Exhibition. Dalian, China
- **December 12, 2013**-Tuna Advisory Board, Vancouver, BC

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.

In February 2014, Intertek Fisheries Certification (IFC) announced, that the Western Fish Boat Owners Association (WFOA) have joined the American Albacore Fishing Associations (AAFA) certifications of the North and South Pacific Albacore Tuna Pole and Line and Troll and Jig Fisheries. The existing WFOA fishery certificate previously covered by SAI Global have been withdrawn and new IFC certificates have been issued indicating that the clients of each certificate are the AAFA and WFOA. AAFA had been awarded MSC certification for North Pacific Albacore Tuna, August 24th 2007 with Certification Body, Moody Marine Ltd. AAFA has been re-certified in December 2012 and the annual surveillance (1st) audit was recently provided to SAI Global and (6th May 2014) released on the MSC website.

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 1st Surveillance Audit for AAFA and WFOA North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fisheries undertaken by IFC with the objective of confirming that the outcome of this surveillance audit for CHMSF is consistent where applicable with that of AAFA/WFOA certificate. 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:

History of Harmonization from previous surveillance Audits:

Area of Assessment Considered	Outcome of Harmonization with IFC 1 st Surveillance Audit for AAFA and WFOA North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fisheries
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 initial 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

	<p>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.</p>
Conditional scores	<p>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 Intertek Moody on the AAFA Certificate for this fishery.</p> <p>In continuance of this requirement, SAI Global has reviewed the conditions described in the more recent AAFA surveillance audit (Dec 2012) (Extract from AAFA Report)</p> <p><i>Condition of Certification</i></p> <p><i>PI 1.1.4.1 The Stock is at an appropriate level to maintain long term productivity.</i></p> <p><i>100 scoring guidepost</i> <i>The stock is highly likely to be consistently above precautionary reference levels.</i></p> <p><i>80 scoring guidepost</i> <i>The stock is likely to be above precautionary reference levels.</i></p> <p><i>60 scoring guidepost</i> <i>The stock is likely to be above the limit reference levels and trends in the stock are positive.</i></p> <p><i>In that circumstance a score 75 was achieved with the following Condition</i></p> <p><i>'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".'</i></p> <p>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.</p>
Conditions set	
	SAI Global considered the Conditions set by Intertek Moody in their Certification

	<p>Report of AAFA and in subsequent surveillance audits.</p> <p>The AAFA North Pacific albacore fishery was originally certified in 2007 with one condition. This stated: <i>"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:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>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.</i> <i>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.</i> <i>3. Should the existing resolution be withdrawn following the ISC report, then this condition would be considered closed.</i> <i>4. If additional resolutions are proposed, then these should be supported as in 1 above."</i> <p>Timescale:</p> <p><i>Point 1. If still appropriate, should be pursued immediately upon certification.</i></p> <p><i>Point 2. AAFA should provide this information within 6 months of certification.</i></p> <p><i>Point 4. Should further resolutions be passed by IATTC/WCPFC in this regard, supportive actions should be initiated at the earliest possible opportunity thereafter.</i></p>
Action Plans	<p>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.</p> <p><u>Action Plan set out by AAFA:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p><u>Action:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

	<p>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.</p> <p>4. If additional resolutions are proposed, then these should be supported as in Action Plan 1, above.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>
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<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>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.'</p> <p>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</p>
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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.

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 Intertek Moody.

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>).

On review of the most recent surveillance report published by Interkek Moody (Dec 8th 2012). The AAFA condition had been closed out at the 2nd surveillance audit but in the 4th surveillance audit report, Intertek Moody assessment team notes that (from their report):

The results of the recent North Pacific albacore assessment suggest that, in combination with stable albacore recruitment, the resolutions adopted by the IATTC and WCPFC to cap effort have supported the maintenance of catches of albacore at sustainable levels. The high cost of fuel may also have been a factor in limiting recent fishing activity.

It is noted that Canadian representatives at a September 2011 meeting of the WCPFC Northern Committee proposed that the current strength of the North Pacific albacore stock presented an opportunity to discuss the introduction of a long term strategy for the stock, including introducing biological reference points and pre-agreed decision rules that triggered management action (WCPFC 2011a). The introduction of a limit reference point and control rule was supported as a priority for the US delegation (WCPFC 2011a). Addressing these issues was laid out in a work program for completion in 2013. While the WCPFC Northern Committee's examination of current F against a number of F-based reference points, as described above in Item 1, is an important step in formalizing effective management measures, it continues to be the case that both the WCPFC and the

IATTC have yet to agree and adopt limit and target reference points or control rules. The interim objective of maintaining the spawning stock biomass above the average of the ten historically lowest estimated points with a probability greater than 50% has yet to be formally adopted as a reference point. Intertek Moody assessment team also noted that for the 'MSC reassessment process, and the MSC's default assessment tree now requires that reference points and control rules for stock management are in place. Thus, assuming the fishery is recertified following reassessment, the formal adoption by the WCPFC and IATTC of reference points and control rules will be of fundamental importance to AAFA.

Global Trust consider that the open condition of P.I 1.1.2 for WFOA and CHMSF certificates corresponds to these statements raised and there is sufficient harmonization of the WFOA/CHMSF certificates with that of AAFA's certification of the North Pacific Albacore tuna fishery.

Note of AAFA Re-certification 24th Dec 2012

On the 24th December 2012, AAFA North Pacific Albacore tuna fishery was awarded re-certification to the MSC Standard; certified by Intertek Moody. In this certification; two conditions have been set on the AAFA certificate.

Condition number	Condition	Performance Indicator
1	By the end of the fourth year of certification, the SG 80 scoring requirements above must be met in full. This will be achieved if the limit reference point is set above the level at which there is an appreciable risk of impairing reproductive capacity, and if the target reference point is such that the stock is maintained at a level consistent with B_{MSY} or some measure or surrogate with similar intent or outcome.	1.1.2
2	By the end of the fourth year of certification, the SG 80 scoring requirements above must be met in full. This will be achieved if well defined harvest control rules are in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached, the selection of the harvest control rules takes into account the main uncertainties, and available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.	1.2.2

One condition (PI 1.1.2) is consistent with the existing condition placed on the certificates of CHMSF and WFOA certificates, except that the AAFA P.I achieved a score of 70 whereas in CHMSF and WFOA certificates the score achieved at original certification was 75. Whilst the subject matter of the condition (the setting of explicit limit and target reference points) remains open; the difference in scores can be attributable to:

- A reduction in performance of the fishery
- Changes to the MSC requirements for scoring this P.I
- Differences in scoring by the respective assessors used in each case

As both CAB's have documented significant progress to the resolution of this condition since original certifications, a reduction in the performance of the management organizations for North Pacific Albacore tuna is unlikely. More likely causes for the difference relate to the publication of up-dates to the MSC Certification Requirements since FAM version 6, adopted in January 2012 and

	<p>used in the recertification of AFAA fishery (Certification Requirements v1.2). It is noted that these are now surpassed by Certification Requirements v1.3, March 2013 which will (unless superseded) be used during the final surveillance and subsequent re-certification audit of the CHMSF and WFOA in Dec 2013 announcements.</p> <p>Additionally, a second condition, currently not placed on the CHMSF and WFOA certificates has been placed on the AAFA certificate for P.I 1.2.2 Harvest Control Rule (score 60). Rationale for an 80 score for this P.I for the initial certification of CHMSF and WFOA is provided on page 77 of the Public Certification Report. Here, justification for the 80 score ‘evidence given by stock effort monitoring programs, and stock assessment outputs, indicates that tools in use to limit fishing effort are effective in achieving exploitation levels required (F = 0.75) by Management’ is documented. Again, differences in scores may be attributable to the three bulleted points raised above. Again, it is felt unlikely that the reduction is attributable to a reduction in fishery performance as the situation with respect to effort control has not changed in either regime. It is more evident that changes to the Certification Requirements (current v.1.2) may have caused a subsequent reduction in the score of this P.I.</p> <p>The assessment team has considered the consequences of placing an additional condition on the CHMSF and WFOA certificates at this 3rd surveillance audit where there is only one remaining surveillance audit prior to re-assessment of the certificates.</p> <p>An additional condition placed on P.I 1.2.2 is deemed not warranted at this time and P.I 1.2.2 will be the subject of re-assessment along with all P.I’s of the MSC Program assessed under the Requirements for Certification available at that time (currently in accordance with v.1.3 unless superseded).</p> <p>However, as part of the on-going surveillance of CHMSF and WFOA, continued review of the developments within the fishery management system specific to the new condition placed on the AAFA certificate will also be considered at the next surveillance audit and these developments reported within the surveillance audit report at that time.</p>
CURRENT HARMONISATION ACTIVITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE 4TH SURVEILLANCE AUDIT	
<p>Note of AFAA 1st Surveillance Audit 6th May 2014</p>	<p>The surveillance report 1 for the AAFA and WFOA North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fisheries (IFC 2014) was released on the 6th May 2014 on the MSC website. As specified above 2 conditions have been set during the re-assessment, Condition 1 for PI 1.1.2 Reference Points and Condition 2 for PI 1.2.2 Harvest Control Rules and Tools.</p> <p>Regarding condition 1 for PI 1.1.2 Reference Points, the Client Action Plan stated:</p>

- In the first year following grant of recertification, and thereafter as necessary, AAFA and WFOA will work actively through the PFMC and the US delegations to the IATTC and WCPFC to promote the development and determination of appropriate target and limit reference points (or measures or surrogates with similar intent or outcome) for the North Pacific albacore tuna stock. These efforts will be aligned with AAFA and WFOA's support for appropriate measures to increase compliance with conservation and management measures of the appropriate RFMOs. AAFA and WFOA will also author a paper that states AAFA and WFOA's recommendations for reference points and harvest control rules that they will work with the US Government to get adopted at the IATTC and WCPFC.

The observations and conclusion of IFC assessment team were:

Observations	<p>The audit team looked closely at the 1st annual milestone requirements for this condition on the AAFA and WFOA North Pacific albacore fishery. There are two elements to the milestone:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) In conjunction with Condition 2, evidence should be provided that AAFA and WFOA are working actively through the PFMC and US RFMO Delegations to promote the adoption by the relevant RFMOs of appropriate target and limit reference points (or measures/surrogates with similar intent) for North Pacific albacore tuna, and 2) AAFA and WFOA will author a paper that states AAFA and WFOA's recommendations for reference points and harvest control rules that they will work with the US Government to get adopted at the IATTC and WCPFC. <p>The audit team is satisfied that AAFA and WFOA have clearly met the requirements</p>
	<p>for the 1st element. The organisations submitted complementary position statements to the IATTC, detailing their support for the introduction of reference points (and harvest control rules - Condition 2), and have attended directly or been represented at a wide range of PFMC and RFMO meetings where the audit team is satisfied that this position has been advocated.</p> <p>The 2nd element of the milestone was introduced immediately prior to the publication of the Public Certification version of the recertification report, following input from stakeholders; the intent was to promote and accelerate the process of identifying appropriate reference points (and harvest control rules- Condition 2) that could be advanced as a US position. While AAFA and WFOA have not produced such a report, during the last year AAFA and WFOA have worked actively towards the development of a US Government position and recommendations paper on reference points and harvest control rules. The audit team considers that this effort has short-circuited the intent of this element, and a US Government position paper on North Pacific albacore was presented to the Northern Committee of the WCPFC in September 2013. The audit team discussed this development with Mark Helvey (Program Director, NOAA/NMFS West Coast Region, Highly Migratory Species Program), and is satisfied that there is now no benefit to AAFA and WFOA producing a separate reference point and harvest control rule recommendations paper for North Pacific albacore.</p>
Conclusion	<p>The audit team is confident that the efforts made by AAFA and WFOA towards supporting the introduction of reference points (and harvest control rules - Condition 2) provide an important boost to the management process. The recent development of a US published position on appropriate reference points and harvest control rules for the North Pacific albacore is then a dramatic and welcome step forward for the AAFA and WFOA fishery and its certification.</p> <p>The audit team is conscious that the international context of North Pacific albacore management presents particular challenges to closing out this condition within the required timescale. However, we are content that AAFA and WFOA have met the first annual milestone, and our finding is therefore that the fishery is currently on target to meet this condition. The score of this PI remains at 70.</p>

The conclusion of IFC assessment team was that AAFA and WFOA have meet the first annual milestone and that the fishery is currently on target to meet this condition. Therefore the condition remains opened.

The first annual milestone was related to the activities carried out by AAFA and WFAO to support and promote the development and determination of reference points for the North Pacific Albacore Tuna stock, which was corresponding to the milestones of the CHMSF Action Plan.

As specified in the Condition section, SAI Global assessment team considered that CHMFS has made adequate progress and met all the requirements of the Client Action Plan set out from the original certification report according to FAM. However progress against measurable outcomes is judged to be “behind target”. No reference points have been implemented at this time, and hence, the PI score does not achieve an 80 score. Therefore the condition cannot be closed out at this 4th surveillance audit. New revised milestones have been set in this surveillance report (refer to next section) and the assessment team will evaluate if the progress against these revised milestones are back “on target” at the first surveillance audit.

Therefore, the activities referring to the new milestones have been harmonized with AAFA/WFOA certificate for the condition raised against PI 1.1.2. As the CHSMF fishery is in re-assessment, additional harmonization activity will take place to ensure that harmonization is consistent with MSC CR1.3 procedures.

Additionally, a second condition, currently not placed on the CHMSF certificate has been placed on the AAFA and WFOA certificates for P.I 1.2.2 Harvest Control Rule (score 60). Rationale for an 80 score for this P.I for the initial certification of CHMSF is provided on page 77 of the Public Certification Report. Here, justification for the 80 score ‘evidence given by stock effort monitoring programs, and stock assessment outputs, indicates that tools in use to limit fishing effort are effective in achieving exploitation levels required ($F = 0.75$) by Management’ is documented. Again, differences in scores may be attributable to the three bulleted points raised above. Again, it is felt unlikely that the reduction is attributable to a reduction in fishery performance as the situation with respect to effort control has not changed in either regime. It is more evident that changes to the Certification Requirements (current v.1.3) may have caused a subsequent reduction in the score of this P.I.

The assessment team has considered that placing an additional condition on the CHMSF certificates at this 4th surveillance audit is not relevant as there is no remaining surveillance audit. However, the assessment team will re-assess PI 1.2.2 Harvest Control Rules and Tools along with all the PIs during the on-going re-assessment under MSC Certification Requirements v.1.3, and will make sure that there is sufficient harmonization between CHMFS certificate and AAFA and WFOA ones.

According to CR27.24, specifically 27.24.2.4biiA. “If the SG80 level has not been achieved, such conditions shall be rewritten against the reassessment tree

	<p>following the requirements specified in 27.11, with a timeline for completion of less than one certification period”. Given that the AAFA/WFOA 1.2.2 condition was written prior to the requirement for outcome-based conditions, this new requirement allows the existing condition to be rewritten in re-assessment in an outcome-focused manner, with timelines harmonised with the WFOA/AAFA fisheries and setting the deadline for closing the condition for 2017. As specified above, the process of recertification is on-going. Revised milestones were set in the current surveillance and will be included in the reassessment report and the assessment team will evaluate if the progress against these revised milestones are back “on target” for the next surveillance audits.</p>
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Proposed milestones for Performance Indicators 1.1.2 and 1.2.2. to be reviewed in next surveillance audit

<i>Performance Indicator & Guidepost Issue</i>	1.1.2: Limit and target reference points are appropriate for the stock.
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Annual Audit: In the first year following grant of recertification, and thereafter as necessary, CHMFS will work actively through DFO and the Canadian/US delegations to the IATTC to promote the development and determination of an appropriate reference points that apply uniformly and equitably to all fishery mortality of North Pacific albacore tuna stock. • 2nd Annual Audit: In the second year following grant of recertification, and thereafter as necessary, CHMFS will work actively through DFO and the Canadian/US delegations to the IATTC to promote the consideration toward adoption of appropriate reference points for North Pacific albacore tuna stock. • 3rd Annual Audit By the third year following grant of recertification, appropriate reference points for North Pacific albacore tuna stock should have been adopted by the IATTC (or their designated bodies) and this condition would be closed.
<i>Performance Indicator & Guidepost Issue</i>	1.2.2: There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place

Milestones

- **1st Annual Audit:** In the first year following grant of recertification, and thereafter as necessary, CHMFS will work actively through DFO and the Canadian/US delegations to the IATTC to promote the development and determination of an appropriate harvest rules that apply uniformly and equitably to all fishery mortality of North Pacific albacore tuna stock..
- **2nd Annual Audit:** In the second year following grant of recertification, and thereafter as necessary, CHMFS will work actively through DFO and the Canadian/US delegations to the IATTC to promote the consideration toward adoption of appropriate harvest rules for North Pacific albacore tuna stock.
- **3rd Annual Audit** By the third year following grant of recertification, appropriate harvest rules for North Pacific albacore tuna stock should have been adopted by the IATTC (or their designated bodies) and this condition would be closed.

11. Conclusions and Recommendations

The assessment team conducting this fourth surveillance audit confirms that CHMSF has met the general requirements for continued certification to the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing.

The assessment team considered that the client has made adequate progress and all the requirements of the Client Action Plan. However progress against measurable outcomes is judged to be “behind target”. No reference points have been implemented at this time, and then the PI score did not rise to 80. Therefore the condition cannot be closed out as result of this 4th surveillance audit.

According to CR27.24, specifically 27.24.2.4biiA. If the SG80 level has not been achieved, such conditions shall be rewritten against the reassessment tree following the requirements specified in 27.11, with a timeline for completion of less than one certification period. Given that the CHMSF 1.1.2 condition was written prior to the requirement for outcome-based conditions, this new requirement allows the existing condition to be rewritten in re-assessment in an outcome-focused manner, with timelines harmonised with the WFOA/AAFA fisheries and setting the deadline for closing the condition for 2017. As specified above, the process of recertification is on-going. Revised milestones were set in the current surveillance and will be included in the reassessment report and the assessment team will evaluate if the progress against these revised milestones are back “on target” for the next surveillance audits.

The assessment team noted that the CHMSF has confirmed its intent to continue to participate in management and advisory forums and to advocate the development of formalised and documented decision-making management processes on the North Pacific albacore stock.

The assessment team recommends that continued certification be awarded to the client fishery:

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

12. Outcome of SAI Global Certification Decision

SAI Global determines that:

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

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

13. Information Sources

Meetings:

Refer to table of meetings itemized in Section 3 (Table 1).

Reports & publications:

Childers, J., S. Snyder and S. Kohin. 2011. Migration and behavior of juvenile North Pacific albacore (*Thunnusalalunga*). *Fish.Oceanogr.* 20: 157-173.

DFO. 2014. Pacific Region Integrated Fisheries Management Plan Albacore Tuna April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Pacific Region, Vancouver, B.C.89 p.

DFO. 2013a. Pacific Region Integrated Fisheries Management Plan Albacore Tuna April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014. Amended June 1, 2013. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Pacific Region, Vancouver, B.C.94 p.

DFO. 2013b. Conditions of 2013/2014 Category CT Tuna License: License Period April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Pacific Region, Vancouver, B.C.12 p.

DFO. 2012. Pacific Region Integrated Fisheries Management Plan Albacore Tuna April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Pacific Region, Vancouver, B.C.76 p.

Global Trust. 2011. WFOA and CHMSF Albacore Tuna North Pacific Fishery MSC Surveillance Report 1. Global Trust Certification Ltd., Dundalk, Ireland.39 p.

Global Trust. 2012. WFOA and CHMSF Albacore Tuna North Pacific Fishery MSC Surveillance Report 2. Global Trust Certification Ltd., Dundalk, Ireland.43 p.

Holmes, J.A. 2013. National Report of Canada (Canadian Tuna and Tuna-like Fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean). Document prepared for the Thirteenth Meeting of the ISC, 17-22 July 2013, Busan, Republic of Korea.ISC/13/PLENARY/04.12 p.

Holmes, J.A. 2012b. Revised Canadian Albacore Fisheries Statistics, 1995-2010, and Provisional Fisheries Statistics for the 2011 Albacore Troll Fishery. Working paper prepared for the ISC Albacore Working Group Meeting, July 14, 2012, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan. 19 p.

IATTC. 2013. IATTC 85rd Meeting. Veracruz, Veracruz, Mexico. 89 p.

IATTC. 2012a. Fishery Status Report No. 10. La Jolla, California. 162 p.

IATTC.2012b. IATTC 83rd Meeting. La Jolla, California. 129 p.

IATTC. 2003. Antigua Convention. Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. La Jolla, California, U.S.A. 21 p.

Intertek Fisheries Certification 2014.AAFA and WFOA North Pacific Albacore Pole & Line and Troll/Jig Fishery Surveillance Report. Date of submission: April 2014. Intertek Fisheries Certification, Derby, UK, 18 p.

Intertek Moody Marine. 2012. AAFA North Pacific Albacore Pole & Line and Troll/Jig Fishery Public Certification Report. Date of Submission: 24 December. Intertek Moody Marine, Darby, UK.160 p.

Intertek Moody Marine. 2011. AAFA North Pacific Albacore Pole & Line and Troll/Jig Fishery MSC Surveillance Report 4. Intertek Moody Marine Ltd., Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.18 p.

ISC. 2013a. Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean. Plenary Session, 17-22 July 2013, Busan, Republic of Korea.59 p.

ISC.2013b. Annex 7.Report of the Albacore Working Group Workshop, 19-26 March 2013, Shanghai, China. *In*: Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean. Plenary Session, 17-22 July 2013, Busan, Republic of Korea.61 p.

ISC. 2012a. Report of the Twelfth Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean. Plenary Session, 18-23 July 2012, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan.49 p.

ISC.2012b. Annex 11.Report of the Albacore Working Group Workshop, 14 July 2012, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan. *In*: Report of the Twelfth Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean. Plenary Session, 18-23 July 2012, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan.23 p.

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APPENDIX 1: Stakeholder Comment



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Date: 23/05/2014

SUBJECT: MSC Review and Report on Compliance with the scheme requirements

Dear Geraldine Criquet

Please find below the results of our partial review of compliance with scheme requirements.

CAB	SAI Global (SAI)
Lead Auditor	Geraldine Criquet
Fishery Name	Canada Highly Migratory Species Foundation (CHMSF) British Columbia Albacore Tuna North Pacific
Document Reviewed	Surveillance Report

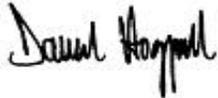
Ref	Type	Page	Requirement	Reference	Details	PI
5021	Major	31	CR-27.22.8.1.c v.1.3	27.22.8.1 The team shall audit conformity with, and progress and performance against, certification conditions. c. To verify that conditions have been met and outcomes have been achieved, the CAB shall: i. Examine relevant objective evidence, and following that examination, ii. Re-score all relevant PISGs relating to that condition and only if the score is raised above 80 or the level identified in 27.10.8 as the level required by the end of the certification period for all relevant PIs relating to the condition, should the condition be closed out. In doing this: A. The rationale for the re-scoring and closing out of the condition shall be documented in the Surveillance Report.	Insufficient evidence is provided to justify closing out the condition on PI1.1.2. 27.22.8.1cii requires that the 80 level is met before a condition can be closed, and not just that the client action plan has been completed. Also note 27.24.2.4b: For fisheries with conditions written prior to the requirement for outcome-based conditions (2006), or against performance indicators in assessment trees which differ from those in the tree being used in the reassessment, CABs shall consider if the conditions as originally formulated are appropriate to meet the SG80 outcome for the PI, or the equivalent PI, within	1.1.2

					the reassessment tree.	
					The SG80 outcomes must be met in order for the condition to be closed.	

Given these major findings are likely to have a material impact on this assessment we would like to provide you with three weeks in order to resolve this issue, if we do not receive an adequately revised report within this time, your submission will be taken as final. SAI Global shall be responsible for any future complaints that arise subsequent to publication.

This report is provided for action by the CAB and ASI in order to improve consistency with the MSC scheme requirements; MSC does not review all work products submitted by Conformity Assessment Bodies and this review should not be considered a checking service. If any clarification is required, please contact Maylynn Nunn on +61 (2) 9524 8400 for more information.

Best regards,
Fisheries Oversight Director
Dan Hoggarth
Marine Stewardship Council



cc: Accreditation Services International

SAI Global response to MSC comment: the report has been amended in the relevant sections to fulfil the MSC Certification Requirements.