



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

And

American Western Fishboat Owner Association (WFOA)
Albacore Tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) North Pacific Fishery
WFOA Certificate No: GTC-F-001

Date of Submission: 16th April 2013
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Client Name	The Western Fish-boat Owners Association (WFOA) USA	
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 • <u>Method of Capture</u>: Pole & Line 	
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	February 18 th 2013	
Certification Date (both certificates)	March 23 rd 2010	
Assessment Team	Dave Garforth, (Team Lead Auditor) Paul Cosburn, (Auditor) Max Stocker, (Lead Assessor)	
On-site audit	January 14 th – 18 th 2013	
Surveillance Audit completion		Surveillance Audit 1: March 21st 2011
		Surveillance Audit 2: February 28th 2012
	X	Surveillance Audit 3: April 23rd 2013
		Surveillance Audit 4: March 2014
		Re-certification Audit: March 2015
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Summary

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

1. The American Western Fishboat Owners Association (WFOA) North Pacific Albacore tuna Troll & Jig and Pole & Line Fishery. (2 separate Units of Certification).
2. The Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation (CHMSF) North Pacific Troll & Jig Albacore tuna Fishery. (One Unit of Certification).

The surveillance audit reports for each fishery client are combined into one single report due to the obvious connection between the two clients; the treatment of North Pacific Albacore Stock as a single stock by scientific and management bodies and their associated committee and working group arrangements. Additionally, and previously there has been a Treaty agreement on reciprocal access to the territorial waters between the two management regimes of Canada and USA which provided further logic to parallel assessment of the units of certification associated with the two clients. Additionally, the combination of surveillance audits has allowed a coordinated and effective assessment, supported by each client and resulting in cost savings and a reduction in resource requirements on the various management organizations and stakeholders included in the assessment.

SAI Global¹ determines that in each case:

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

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

On behalf of the MSC clients, WFOA and CHMSF, 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 Assessor: Dr Stocker is a scientist with 30 years of extensive experience in fisheries science providing conservation advice for management.
- Lead Auditor: David Garforth is a lead ISO approved auditor with SAI Global.
- Auditor: Paul Casburn is a surveillance 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 third annual surveillance assessment of:

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

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

The applicant also agreed in a written contract to be financially and technically responsible for surveillance visits by an MSC accredited certification body, which would occur at a minimum of once a year or at a frequency determined by the MSC CR (1.1) 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 11th December 2012(check date) 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 WFOA and CHMSF at the initial certification decision.

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

- **Pacific Fishery Management Council**
- **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**
- **IATTC**
- **NMFS, Southwest Fisheries Science Center**
- **BC Ministry of Agriculture**

- Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
- AAFA

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 2012 and going forward for 2013. The score was calculated by adding scores from sections 1-4 in Table C3 below.

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;

Table C4: Surveillance Level Years after certification or recertification						
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 letters were sent to stakeholders and management agencies, with follow up e-mails and information on the objectives of the surveillance audit. From this, a surveillance on-site meeting plan was organized and appointments for each individual meeting set. Due to the nature of the management of North Pacific Albacore, and the geographic location of the respective clients; Pacific coast Canada and Pacific coast USA, the on-site assessment proposed to cover a range of geographic locations with meetings held in Vancouver, British Columbia; Portland, Oregon 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 January 14th to 18th 2013.
- On-site audits were performed by Max Stocker and Paul Casburn.

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

All meetings were conducted by the Surveillance Team Assessors; Max Stocker and Paul Casburn.

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
Pacific Fishery Management Council 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101 Portland, OR 97220-1384	Kit Dahl	Portland, OR Hyatt Hotel, Vancouver, BC	Teleconference call	14 th January 2013
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife 2040 SE Marine Science Drive Newport, OR 97365	Cyreis Schmitt	Oregon Empress Hotel, La Jolla, CA	Teleconference call	16 th January 2013
WFOA P.O. Box 992723 Redding, CA 96099	Wayne Heikkila, Executive Director, Vidat Wespestad Peter Flournoy	Empress Hotel La Jolla, CA	Meeting	16 th January 2013
IATTC 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive La Jolla CA 92037-1508	Rick Deriso , Alexandre da Silva, Mark Maunder	IATTC 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive La Jolla, CA	Meeting	17 th January 2013
NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center 3333 North Torrey Pines Court La Jolla, CA	Michelle Zetao Craig Herberer (by phone) Steve Stohs Steve Teo Suzanne Kohin	Empress Hotel La Jolla, CA	Meeting	17 th January 2013
CHMSF 4829 Maplegrove Street Victoria, BC CANADA V8Y 3B9	Lorne Clayton, Executive Director	Victoria, BC DFO Offices Burrard Street Vancouver, BC	Meeting	14 th January 2013
BC Ministry of Agriculture Victoria, BC	Bud Graham	Victoria, BC Hyatt Hotel, Vancouver	Teleconference	14 th January 2013
Fisheries and Oceans, Canada Suite 200-401 Burrard St. Vancouver BC	Lisa Mijacika John Holmes (by phone) Jordan Mah	DFO Offices Burrard Street Vancouver, BC	Meeting	14 th January 2013
Marine Stewardship Council #102 - 2110 N. Pacific Street Seattle, WA 96103	Dan Averill	DFO Offices Burrard Street Vancouver, BC	Meeting	14 th January 2013
AFFA #311 - 4364 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902	Represented by Chip Bissell, 10616 Almond Ave, Oak View, CA 93022, United States	Empress Hotel, La Jolla, CA	Teleconference	18 th January 2013

4. Fishery observations

In 2011, the total all Nations catch of North Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) reported by the ISC, was 83,142 tonnes (t), which is approximately 14,100 t greater than total catch (68,984 t) reported in 2010. The ISC noted that the increase in 2011 reflects an increase in JPN pole-and-line catch (due to switching from skipjack to albacore), and (2) the inclusion of catch reported by Vanuatu. Catch by troll has been relatively constant since the mid-2000s while catch by longline and pole and line fleets has increased recently or been variable since the mid-2000s, respectively. Nominal effort by ISC member countries longline fleets has been decreasing since 1994 while troll and pole-and-line fleets seem relatively stable through the 2000s (ISC 2012b). The Canadian and US troll vessel catch in 2011 was 16,565 t or 20% of the total all Nation North Pacific albacore catch.

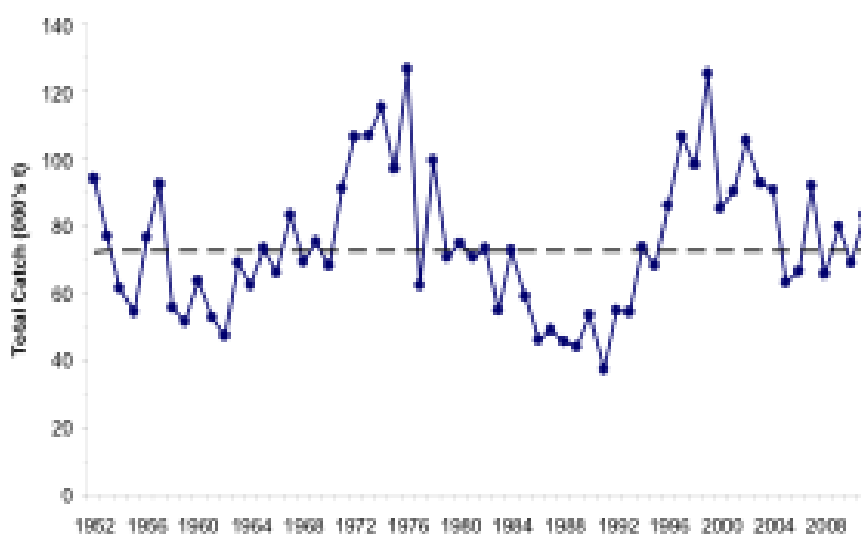


Figure 1. Total catch of north Pacific albacore from all sources, 1952-2011. The dashed line is the 30-year average for 1981-2000, 72,535 t (ISC 2012b).

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 2011, the Canadian troll fleet of 177 vessels operated primarily within the coastal waters of the

United States and Canada and in adjacent high seas areas east of 150° W. Total annual catch and effort reported by Canada in 2011 were 5,393 t and 8,568 vessel-days, respectively. Approximately 86% of the catch and 76% of the effort occurred in the US EEZ in the vicinity of the Columbia River plume and 2011 catches occurred in slightly cooler waters (14-18 °C) than in previous years (15-19°C). An on-board size sampling program measured 14,373 fork lengths for a sampling rate of 1.72% of the reported catch. These measurements were dominated by a single mode corresponding to 2-year old fish at 64-66 cm FL in size frequencies from the high seas and US EEZ, but in the Canadian EEZ a second mode corresponding to 3-year old fish at 74-78 cm was also prominent (Holmes 2012a).

The 2011 Canadian albacore fishery was remarkable in that albacore availability in coastal waters was delayed until late in the fishing season (September-October). The highest abundance occurred within 2-3° of longitude off the Oregon and Washington coastlines (Holmes 2012a). This reduced availability is reflected by a reduction in catch and increase in effort in 2011 relative to the 2006-2010 period. The larger age-3 fish commonly enter the Canadian catch if substantial effort occurs south of 40°N or the juvenile albacore shift north due to ocean conditions as occurred in 2010. The size frequency pattern in the Canadian EEZ is consistent with older and larger fish migrating further north compared to younger fish. However, there is no explanation for the absence of a second mode in the US EEZ size frequency data (Holmes 2012a).

Canada submitted revised albacore fisheries statistics for 1995-2010 to the ISC (Holmes 2012b). Minor changes in catch and effort prior to 2005 are likely the result of the submission of some missing logbooks. These changes are contained in Version 12.04.23 of the Canadian albacore database.

Reported bycatch in 2011 consisted of 71 fish and eight species. Ten albacore considered too small to retain were recorded in June and July, 8 blue sharks, 2 shortfin mako sharks, 6 Pacific bluefin tuna, 1 bigeye tuna, 2 mahi mahi, and 42 yellowtail *Seriola lalandi* were captured and released alive. Total weight of all bycatch is estimated to be approximately 951 kg, of which the shortfin mako sharks accounted for 300 kg (Holmes 2012a).

The preliminary catch information for 2012 indicates that the Canadian troll fleet of 175 vessels operated primarily within the Canadian coastal waters and in adjacent high seas areas east of 150° W. Of the 175 vessels, two operated in the high seas area west of 150° W. Preliminary total annual catch and effort reported by Canada in 2012 were 2,536 t and 6,061 vessel-days, respectively. Of the 2,536 t, 18.8% was reported from the high seas. At the time of writing 169 of 175 (96.6%) logbooks have been received.

The much lower Canadian catch in 2012 is due to the suspension in 2012 of the reciprocal fishing regime under the Canada-US Albacore treaty (J. Holmes pers. comm.). 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.

USA

Catch figures for the United States albacore fisheries were reported at ISC 12. The total all gear albacore catch reported for 2011 was 12,427 t. The biggest USA North Pacific albacore fishery is the troll/pole-and-line fishery. The reported troll/pole-and-line catch for 2011 was 11,273 t, representing a decrease of 12.9% over the 2010 catch. The troll/pole-and-line fishery has averaged 12,044 t over the last 5 years. Other North Pacific albacore fisheries contribute small amounts to the total USA albacore catch. In 2011, the sport fishery, and longline catches were 424 t, and 687 t, respectively.

In 2011, the number of commercial vessels fishing with pole-and-line and troll gears was 687. Surface fisheries were sampled by port samplers which collected 69,121 fish with a mean fork-length of 71 cm.

California

In California, commercial surface hook-and-line vessels landed 711 t of albacore in 2010 and 568 t in 2011.

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

Oregon

In Oregon, commercial landings of North Pacific albacore tuna in 2011, predominantly troll caught fish, have totaled 4,388 t. This represents a decrease of 9.6% over the 2010 figure of 4,854 t. Sampling of Oregon's commercial albacore fishery is a cooperative effort between the ODFW, NMFS, and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Preliminary commercial albacore landings for 2012 in Oregon were reported to be 4,491 t (Cyreis Schmitt, pers. comm.).

Washington

In Washington, commercial landings of North Pacific albacore tuna in 2011, predominantly troll caught fish, have totaled 6,258 t. The landings decreased by 4.5% over the 2010 landings of 6,258 t.

Table 2 Annual Albacore Landings (t)

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/pub?key=0AmtAXS70A2eodEVSdXNTYINmNjF1MWZmVnB4VWFLUHc&gid=9>

Year	California	Oregon	Washington	Total
2010	710.9	4,853.5	6,257.9	11,822.3
2011	567.8	4,387.5	5,978.5	10,933.8

5. Stock status observations

Since the 2nd Surveillance (Global Trust 2012), the Albacore Working Group (ALBWG) met in conjunction with the ISC Plenary on July 14, 2012 in Sapporo, Japan (ISC 2012b). The objectives of the meeting were to: (1) update fisheries statistics (through 2011; see Section 4 above), (2) monitor and review progress on high priority research, (3) update workplans based on Center of Independent Experts (CIE) reviews, (4) develop workplans and schedule up to 2014, and (5) develop stock status and conservation advice recommendations.

Progress on High Priority Research

Advances have been made on the albacore age and growth study by adding more samples for large fish obtained both from Japan and Hawaii. Daily increments on a subset of the otoliths have been counted in order to verify determination of annular rings. Taiwan published their study in 2012.

Tagging studies supported by the AFRF are ongoing. The US are continuing to deploy archival tags on juvenile albacore in the eastern Pacific. The US has pop-off 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.

Further investigations into spatial and temporal albacore distribution have been made. 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 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 2012-14

The ALBWG developed the following schedule leading up to the next full stock assessment planned for April 2014 (ISC 2012b):

1. Intersessional Workshop, March 19-25, 2013 - to review priority research results and determine how this results will be incorporated into the next assessment.
2. Administrative Meeting, July 2013 – 1-2 day meeting to update fishery statistics and complete annual administrative tasks.
3. Tuna Ageing Workshop/Data preparation Workshop, Oct/Nov 2013 – Tuna ageing workshop followed by data preparation meeting for the next assessment.
4. Stock Assessment Workshop, April 14-28, 2014 – Stock assessment workshop consisting of modeling subgroup meeting of 4-5 days followed by full ALBWG workshop to conduct stock assessment.
5. Administrative Meeting, July 2014 – 2 day meeting to prepare stock assessment presentation, update fishery statistics and complete annual administrative tasks.

Stock Status and Conservation Advice

The ALBWG conducted a qualitative review of stock status. 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 405,000 t. 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 F2006-2008 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_{current} (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 programme 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 programme, 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).

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

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.”

United States

No relevant changes to legislation and regulations have been identified since the 2nd surveillance audit (Global Trust 2012).

Canada

No relevant changes to legislation and regulations have been identified since the 2nd surveillance audit (Global Trust 2012).

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.

The Treaty negotiation process to establish a new fishing regime is underway with a meeting scheduled in February 2013. 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 1995-2011. 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.

b. IATTC

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).

c. WCPFC

The Northern Committee progressed with their workplan to establish better reporting of North Pacific albacore catch and effort in order to track compliance with CMM 2005/03 and to develop a framework for albacore management including developing reference points and decision rules for management should reference points be breached. USA presented a paper (NC8-DP-02) at the 8th Regular Session of the NC in Nagasaki, Japan. The paper was intended to help provide direction to NC8 for following up on north Pacific albacore catch and effort data compilations (Tables 1 (average annual catch of North Pacific albacore) and 2 (fishing effort for North Pacific albacore) of Attachment C, Annex A of the NC7 report). The USA provided updates to the table for their albacore fisheries and also made suggestions intended to help NC members complete the table in a consistent and informative way so as to further the work of the NC. The Committee tentatively adopted those tables with the understanding that they are subject to future review by NC (WCPFC 2012).

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

United States

The perspective from the PFMC and NMFS is that there are no real changes to the management system, with the exception of the Canadian fleet not fishing in the US EEZ, since the 2nd surveillance audit (Global Trust 2012).

In 2011 the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) has been tasked to begin developing a proactive management framework for North Pacific albacore for the Pacific Fisheries Management Council. The HMSMT provided a comprehensive report on the framework to the Council in March 2012 (PFMC 2012a). This report addresses the Council's request by presenting information on the following topics:

- A problem statement outlining potential Council tasks relative to developing a management framework
- Past reports received by the Council relevant to albacore management
- Activities at the international level contributing to the development of a management framework for albacore in the North Pacific
- A description of existing management objectives articulated by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and by the Council in the Fishery Management Plan for West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (HMS FMP)
- Aspects of the U.S. Canada Albacore Treaty relevant to an international management framework
- A discussion of candidate fishing mortality based reference points identified by the ISC Albacore Working Group (AWG)
- A review of possible management responses to overfishing
- A discussion of potential management responses when a reference point is exceeded
- Research needs related to developing a management framework

In March 2012 the HMSMT submitted a supplemental report advising the Council that it believes that the development of a proactive framework would be beneficial in preparing the U.S. to consider alternative responses to potential future proposals and management requirements that arise in the international arena (PFMC 2012b). This could include promoting consistency between the NC work plan and complementary IATTC activities. Should the Council wish to have the HMSMT proceed with the development of a suite of alternatives we recommend the following timeline (see next page). These alternatives could include, and may not be limited to, recommending measures to regulate fishing mortality at the domestic level, and effort- and/or catch-based management strategies internationally. In June 2012 the HMSFMT provided further information to the Council on the identification of biological reference points (BRPs) for albacore and development of an inventory of potential management measures should domestic management be necessary in response to

internationally agreed controls on albacore fishing mortality (PFMC 2012c).

Canada

The 2012 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for albacore is essentially unchanged from 2010 (DFO 2012). 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).

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 TAB meetings were held on November 23, 2011 and February 27-28, 2012. The objective of the November meeting was to discuss post-season (2011) evaluation of the fishery and obtain information on the expected stock status and fishing opportunities for the coming year. The February TAB meeting objective was to discuss pre-season planning for the 2012/2013 albacore tuna fishery, including review of the management measures for the 2012/2013 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. DFO indicated that the new license will come into effect in 2013.

8. The General Conditions of Certification

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

- Both CHMSF and WFOA must recognize that MSC standards require regular monitoring inspections at least once a year, focusing on compliance with the 'Conditions' set forth in this report (as outlined below) and continued conformity with the standards of certification;
- Both CHMSF and WFOA must agree by contract to be responsible financially and technically for compliance with required surveillance audits by an accredited MSC certification body, and a contract must be signed and verified by GTC prior to certification being awarded;
- Both CHMSF and WFOA must recognize that MSC standards require a full re-evaluation for certification (as opposed to yearly monitoring for update purposes) every five years;
- Prior to receiving final certification, both CHMSF and WFOA shall develop, an 'Action Plan' (each of the client groups) for Meeting the Condition for Continued Certification' and have it approved by GTC.

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

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

8.1 WFOA Client Group

An up-date of the 2012 vessels that were included in the WFOA client group for MSC purposes was provided. In 2012, a total of 437 US registered vessels are included within the client group of which 206 were members of WFOA and 231 were non-member vessels. WFOA has exercised control over the entry requirements and commitment for participating in the MSC Certificate through a number of Agreements that must be made by vessel owners prior to access to the MSC Certificate being made available. Legal compliance and registration remain part of these requirements. A similar arrangement and agreement exists for processors and landing stations which are used to access albacore tuna under the Certificate. This agreement also specifies the requirement to obtain MSC Chain of Custody Certification. See below for a link to the full list of registered vessels within the client group.

<http://wfoa-tuna.org/msc/vessels2012.pdf>

8.2. CHMSF Client Group

An up-date of the 2012 vessels that were included in the CHMSF client group for MSC purposes was provided. In 2012, a total of 72 Canadian registered vessels were included within the client group of CHMSF. This list includes 12 additional member vessels compared to the client group at the commencement of certification. In addition a list of processors who are designated for accessing albacore tuna under the certificate was provided. Agreements and commitments are in place for vessels and processors for participation in the MSC Certificate. See below for a list of vessels in the client group and 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 mis-leading with respect to the immediate activities at the point of landing. It is customary that at the point of landing, the off-loading of vessels is undertaken by contract workers on behalf of the entities that will take title of the product. Global Trust 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 was allocated for **PI 1.1.2** of the MSC Default Assessment Tree. The original context and rationale is presented in Appendix 3 in detail and in summary below at the time of full assessment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Issue 1 SG 80 in the Assessment Report stated:

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

- Criteria for the adoption of explicit limit and target reference points for north Pacific albacore have not yet been adopted by the WCPFC and the IATTC (Preliminary report ISC 8, 2008)
- There is not yet an agreement among IATTC and WCFPC member parties of whether $F=0.75$ should be defined as limit or target, therefore;
- Conservation advice given by the ISC in years 2007-2009 states that with the projection based on the continued current high F , the fishing mortality rate will have to be reduced’ (Box 3) and;
- High priority has been given by the ISC to further developing limit and target reference points (ISC, 2007; ISC, 2008; ISC, 2009) for their definition for international management.

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

Conditions Set on the CHMSF

Item 5:	CHMSF Condition 1 (of 1)	
<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>	1. CHMSF to promote and support: a. The management actions put forward, notably limitation on effort. Communications supporting such management measures should be made to appropriate organisations. Records should be provided by CHMSF of communications and responses; b. ISC request to management authorities for guidance on the definition and application of biological reference points (BRPs) in order to facilitate response to requests for conservation advice. Communications supporting ISC request should be made to appropriate organisations. Records should be provided by CHMSF of communications and responses.	
<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> <p><i>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,</i></p>	

toward the long term sustainability of the stock, and compliance with international resolutions calling for fishing effort not to be increased.

- b. Submission of a letter to the Chair of the WCPFC, copied to the Executive Director of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Northern Committee, expressing CHMSF's continued support for ongoing efforts, based on best available science, toward the long term sustainability of the stock, and compliance with international resolutions calling for fishing effort not to be increased.*
- c. Submission of a letter to the Chair of the ISC, copied to the Chair of the ISC Albacore Working Group, expressing CHMSF's continued support for ongoing efforts, based on best available science, toward the long term sustainability of the stock, and compliance with international resolutions calling for fishing effort not to be increased.*
- d. Submission of a letter to the Chair of the WCPFC, copied to the Executive Director of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Northern Committee, expressing CHMSF's continued support for ongoing efforts, based on best available science, toward the long term sustainability of the stock, and compliance with international resolutions calling for fishing effort not to be increased.*
- e. Submission of a letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, copied to Regional Director General (Pacific) expressing CHMSF's continued support for ongoing efforts, based on best available science, toward the long term sustainability of the stock, and compliance with international resolutions calling for fishing effort not to be increased.*
- f. Submission of a letter to BC Ministry of Environment expressing CHMSF's continued support for ongoing efforts, based on best available science, toward the long term sustainability of the stock, and compliance with international resolutions calling for fishing effort not to be increased.*
- g. Submission of a letter to Tuna Advisory Board expressing CHMSF's continued support for ongoing efforts, based on best available science, toward the long term sustainability of the stock, and compliance with international resolutions calling for fishing effort not to be increased.*
- h. Attendance and participation at Joint BCTFA, WFOA, NMFS, NOAA, meeting sessions to convey CHMSF's support for development and adoption of appropriate management measures and progress to ensure compliance with international resolutions regarding the North Pacific albacore stock.*
- i. Supporting Canada's attendance and participation at IATTC/WCPFC and supporting ISC recommendations to those bodies international resolutions regarding the North Pacific albacore stock.*
- j. Continued attendance, participation, and submission of communications to appropriate management bodies in accordance with current practice*

	<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>
<i>Evidence Year 1</i>	<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 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

	<p>Show, Brussels, Belgium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<i>Condition 1 Part 2, 3, 4</i>	<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.
<i>Action Plan</i>	<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>
<i>Evidence</i>	<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-</p>

	26 March 2011. Presentation of stock assessment results and conclusions at ISC11 (US hosts) July 2011.
<i>Condition 1 Part 3, 4 & 5</i>	5. If additional resolutions are proposed, then these should be supported as in 1 above.
<i>Action Plan</i>	<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>
<i>Evidence</i>	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.
<i>Condition 1 Part 6</i>	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.
<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)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p><i>Conclusion and Outcome on Condition 1 from 2nd Surveillance Audit.</i></p>	<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 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</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

Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 28-May 6, 2011. Brussels, Belgium - ESE including meet up with Dave Garforth-MSF. • 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 MSF 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.
Conclusion and Outcome on Condition 1 from 3rd Surveillance Audit	<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>MSF Certification should therefore continue for the third year of this existing certificate.</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>
Summary of evidence Submitted by Clients Specific to MSF Conditions since 2nd Surveillance Audit	<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>

- **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 Commissioners at European Seafood Show – Brussels, Belgium;
- **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 Agr-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.

Conditions set on WFOA

Item 4:	WFOA 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>	1. WFOA to promote and support: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The management actions put forward, notably limitation on effort. Communications supporting such management measures should be made to appropriate organisations. Appropriate Organisations shall include: PFMC, NMFS, IATTC; and WCPFC (Northern Committee). Records should be provided by WFOA of communications and responses; 	
<i>Action Plan</i>	<p><i>WFOA, immediately upon certification, if still appropriate, will correspond with all levels of management on the need to bring harvest in line with the estimated long-term productivity of the stock. WFOA is on record showing that the U.S. troll fishery has already reduced its effort considerably through fleet attrition and negotiating a lower cap on the number of Canadian vessels permitted to fish in the U.S. EEZ under the U.S – Canada Albacore Treaty. WFOA is very supportive of international efforts to control harvesting capacity, both legal and illegal, in order to achieve a reasonable degree of confidence of long term sustainable production.</i></p> <p><i>WFOA proposes to achieve the desired condition through correspondence with State, National and International regulatory bodies. WFOA attends all of the forums involved with North Pacific albacore and supports establishment of a limits that can be both monitored and enforced. To that end WFOA also supports establishment of scientifically based biological reference points that are appropriate to albacore management.</i></p> <p><i>WFOA will produce documents to be distributed to the US management authorities and to the International RFMOs. These will address items 1a and 1b. Also, WFOA representatives will be present to provide oral testimony and requests for action at the various for a involved with NP albacore management. Additionally, WFOA through its science arm AFRF, will continue to support the attendance of a stock assessment scientist to the Scientific stock assessment working group. Our scientist is instructed to work with the other scientists to develop scientifically supportable fishing levels and biological reference points.</i></p>	

Evidence	<p>WFOA has written letters encouraging all levels of management that have responsibilities for the management of Albacore Tuna Stocks to develop appropriate Biological Reference Points (BPR's) for monitoring the state of the harvest relative to stock status. Letters have been sent to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFMC – D. Ortman <p>WCPFC copied to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IATTC – Dr G. Compeán • IATTC – B. Hallman • PFMC – D. McIsaac • WPFMC – K. Simonds • NOAA/NMFS/SW Regional Office – R. McInnis • NOAA/NMFS/SW Regional Office – M. Helvey • NOAA/NMFS/Pacific Islands Regional Office – C. Carnella • California Dept. of Fish and Game – M. Voikovich • Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife – S. Williams • Washington dept. of Fish and Wildlife – M. Culver <p>WFOA also indicates in the letters that they support the equitable, consistent and scientifically based establishment of Biological Reference Points by RFMO's that have input to the management of the Northern Pacific Albacore Stock.</p> <p>WFOA through the American Fisherman's Research Foundation (AFRF) also supports the ongoing efforts by the ISC to undertake stock status determination directed towards the long term sustainability of stocks and with recent international resolutions calling for fishing effort not to be increased. Dr. Wespestad representing AFRF is a member of the ISC ALBWG.</p> <p>WFOA provides evidence for achieving the desired condition by attending domestic and international fora both as participants and in leading roles. Notable organizations include PFMC, NMFS, IATTC, and WCPFC (Northern Committee). During 2010, WFOA and its Directors have participated in a number of domestic and international meetings and activities related to support and advocacy of Sustainable Fisheries. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2010 Participation in the PMFC Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) • April 19-22, 2010 WFOA Executive Director attended BC Tuna Fisherman's Association and the CHMSF events in Victoria B.C. • May 12, 2010 WFOA participated in the newly formed Ocean Protection Council Sustainability Advisory Panel meeting in Costa Mesa, CA. • May 22, 2010 WFOA attended the U.S./Canada treaty bi-lateral meeting in San Francisco • June 10-11, 2010 WFOA members participated in HMS Management team and Advisory Subpanel meetings. • July 12-13, 2010 V. Wespestad participated in the ISC ALBWG meeting in Victoria, B.C. • August 30-September 3, 2010 AFRF on behalf of WFOA attended the IATTC Science Advisory Committee meeting.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 6, 2010 P. Flournoy, representing WFOA participated in U.S. delegation conference call in preparation for the WCPFC-NC meeting. • September 7-10, 2010 P. Flournoy, representing WFOA attended the sixth Regular Session of the WCPFC Northern Committee and Workshop on BRPs in Fukuoka, Japan. • September 17, 2010 At the meeting of U.S. General Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of the IATTC P. Flournoy was re-elected as its chair. • September 27-October 1, 2010 Peter Flournoy attended on behalf of AFRF at the Annual meeting of the IATTC in Antigua, Guatemala as a qualified observer. • November 22, 2010 Peter Flournoty attended on behalf of AFRF in the U.S. WCPFC Delegation conference call. • December 6-10, 2010 WFOA Executive Director and P. Flournoy on behalf of AFRF attended the 7th Regular Session of the WCPFC in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. • January 19-20, 2011 P. Flornoy attended the PFMC HMSMT meeting in Carlsbad, CA.
<i>Condition 1 Part 2</i>	2. WFOA to provide a summary to Global Trust on US's responses to IATTC/WCPFC management resolutions, as provided by NMFS and/or Pacific Fishery Management Council.
<i>Action Plan</i>	<i>WFOA will provide Global Trust a summary of PFMC/NMFS responses to IATTC/WCPFC management resolutions within 6 months of certification, or immediately after a PFMC/NMFS response, should it occur 6 months after certification.</i>
<i>Evidence</i>	<p>WFOA has provided Global Trust with a 'Summary of MSC Albacore Certification Procedures – 2010' and an 'Executive Director Summary of Management Activities Concerning Albacore'. These reports detail activities by WFOA and AFRF in domestic and international highly migratory species fora.</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>
<i>Condition 1 Part 3, 4 & 5</i>	<p>3. Should the existing resolution be withdrawn following the ISC conservation advice, then point 1.a would be considered closed.</p> <p>4. Should ISC existing request (1.b) be withdrawn then 1.b would be considered closed</p> <p>5. If additional resolutions are proposed, then these should be supported as in 1 above.</p>
<i>Action Plan</i>	<i>WFOA supports the principle of long-term sustainable yield and stable harvest. On this basis WFOA will support and effort by RFMO to achieve these goals by proposed BRPs and sustainable harvest levels. Should further resolutions be passed by IATTC/WCPFC in this regard, WFOA will support all management measures that are equability applied to all parties in the fishery and are shown to be a requirement to achieve an economically sustainable North American albacore fishery.</i>

<i>Evidence</i>	During 2010 WFOA and AFRF members have participated in a number of national and international meetings and activities related to support and advocacy of Sustainable Fisheries. Refer to the preceding list in this table.
<i>Condition 1 Part 6</i>	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
<i>Action Plan</i>	<i>WFOA, through its science arm, AFRF, is engaged in the definition of biological reference points and funds the attendance of an independent scientist to the North Pacific Albacore Working Group charged with establishing BPRs. As such we are actively engaged in the ISC process and will continue to assist in the effort to develop control rules beneficial to long term sustainability and the economic health of the North American albacore fishery.</i>
<i>Evidence</i>	WFOA, through its science arm AFRF, is actively engaged in the definition of BRPs for North Pacific albacore. Dr. Wespestad as a member of the ISC ALBWG has attended meetings in 2010 and will be an active participant in the March 2011 stock assessment workshop. P. Flornoy has been advocating BRP work in the WCPFC Northern Committee. WFOA members are collecting samples on behalf of NMFS/International scientists to establish length frequency distributions of the albacore catch as well as providing samples to determine fecundity and maturity of North Pacific albacore. AFRF is also actively engaged in the SWFSC albacore tagging program.
<i>Conclusion and Outcome on Condition 1 from 1st Surveillance Audit.</i>	<p><i>The evidence presented during the surveillance audit demonstrates that the WFOA has fulfilled the requirements of the Action Plan for Condition 1 of 1. However, whilst the requirements of the Action Plan are met, the Condition set at initial certification is not deemed to be closed out since the original rationale and the score (75%) for this conditions remains unchanged.</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 continuing focus for WFOA, 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 WFOA 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 South 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.</p> <p><i>However, the Condition from initial assessment on the fishery remains in place and cannot be closed out as result of this surveillance audit.</i></p>
<p>Summary of evidence Submitted by Clients Specific to MSC Conditions since 1st Surveillance Audit</p>	<p>The following documents were provided by WFOA prior to, at or immediately post the on-site surveillance audit.</p> <p><u>Evidence submitted by WFOA with reference to specific Condition of Certification</u></p> <p>Log of activities undertaken by WFOA representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Fishboat Owners Association; Executive Director Summary of management Activities Concerning Albacore 2011 • American Fishermen's Research Foundation Management Activities Overview; Background to WCPFC and IATTC albacore management and conservation resolutions; summary report of meetings attended by P. Flournoy • Activities of V. Westpestad American Fisherman's Research Foundation Science Consultant <p><u>List of meetings attended</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 19-20, 2011 P. Flournoy attended the PFMC HMSMT • March 2011, W. Heikkila attended PFMC Vancouver, Washington • April 9-10, 2011, W. Heikkila attended PMFC HMSMT and HMS Advisory Subpanel, San Mateo, California • June 4-11, 2011, V. Westpestad attended ISC ALBWG Stock Assessment Workshop, Shizuoka, Japan • July 4-11, 2011, WFOA participated in the 10th Annual Meeting of the IATTC, La

	<p>Jolla, California</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 11-15, 2011, RFMO (Kobe III) attended by P. Fournoy • July 20-25, 2011, V. Westpestad attended ISC 11th Annual meeting, San Francisco, California • September 6-9, 2011, P. Fournoy attended WCPFC Northern Committee 7th Regular Session, Sapporo, Japan • October 25-27, 2011, P. Fournoy attended Permanent Advisory Committee to US Section of WCPFC meeting, Honolulu Hawaii
<p><i>Conclusion and Outcome on Condition 1 from 3rd Surveillance Audit</i></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 WFOA, 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.</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 2nd Surveillance Audit</p>	<p>The following documents were provided by WFOA prior to, at or immediately post the on-site surveillance audit.</p> <p><u>Evidence submitted by WFOA with reference to specific Condition of Certification</u></p> <p>Log of activities undertaken by WFOA representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Fishboat Owners Association; Executive Director Summary of management Activities Concerning Albacore 2012; • American Fishermen's Research Foundation Management Activities Overview; Background to WCPFC and IATTC albacore management and conservation resolutions; summary report of meetings attended by P. Fournoy; • Activities of V. Westpestad American Fisherman's Research Foundation Science Consultant; • "WFOA, AFRF, and other albacore fishermen have supported, for a number of years now, the establishment of biological reference points for all tunas and

	<p>tuna-like species” (WFOA/AFRF Report on IATTC Meeting - June 2012 - By Peter Flournoy);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the IATTC Annual meeting in June at La Jolla, CA, P. Flournoy on behalf of AFRF worked extensively with Canadian delegation to promote development of reference points and harvest control rules for North Pacific albacore; and • W. Heikkila is a member of the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) Advisory Committee. • <p><u>List of meetings attended</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 24, 2012 – W. Heikkila and P. Flournoy 2nd WFOA Surveillance Audit, La Jolla, CA; • March 11-13, 2011 – V. Wespestad attended Boston Seafood Show, Boston, Mass.; MSC issues discussed; • March 2012 - W. Heikkila, V. Wespestad, and WFOA Board member attended PFMC March Meeting; W. Heikkila also attended HMSMT and HMSAS meetings; • March 27, 2012 – V. Wespestad co-presenter with NMFS staff at WFOA Annual meeting “Making Albacore Stock Status and Assessments Understandable”; • March 30, 2012 - P. Flournoy attended 8th Annual WCPFC Meeting, Guam; presented AFRF closing statement; • May 29-30, 2012 – V. Wespestad attended Tuna Conference, Lake Arrowhead, CA; discussions on reference points with scientists attending; • April 2012 – W. Heikkila gave public testimony on treaty and reference points to PFMC in Sacramento, CA; • April 1-6, 2012 – P. Flournoy gave briefing to HMSMT on WPFC meeting • May 30, 2012 – P. Flournoy attended Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee to the U.S. Section to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, Carlsbad, CA; • May 31, 2012 – P. Flournoy chaired Meeting of the General Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of IATTC, La Jolla, CA ; promoted meetings with Canada, , Mexico and Japan to discuss albacore science and target and reference points; • June 2012 - W. Heikkila and P. Flournoy attended PFMC, HMSMT and HMSAS June meetings, San Mateo, CA; • June 22, 2012 – W. Heikkila gave PFMC Public Testimony; • June 25-29, 2012 - WFOA participated in the 11th Annual Meeting of the IATTC, La Jolla, California; • July 14, 2012 - V. Wespestad attended ALBWG meeting, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan; • July 18-23, 2012 - V. Wespestad attended ISC 12th Annual meeting, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan • November 2012 – W. Heikkila appointed to HMSAS Commercial Troll Seat; • September 2012 – W. Heikkila gave public testimony on highly migratory species; • September 4-6, 2012 – P. Flournoy attended WCPFC NC meeting, Nagasaki, Japan; promoted establishment of reference point on behalf of WFOA and AFRF; • October 24-26, 2012 – P. Flournoy chaired Permanent Advisory Committee to US Section of the WCPFC;
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- **November 2012** – W. Heikkila attended PFMC, HMSMT and HMSAS meetings, Costa Mesa, CA; and
- **December 2-9, 2012** – P. Flournoy attended 9th Annual WCPFC Meeting, Manila, Philippines; presented AFRF closing statement.

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.

For the respective clients included in this audit, the harmonization of outcomes is supported by the dual approach in coordination and conducting the surveillance audits of the certificate holders, WFOA and CHMSF. This follows the original approach to the initial assessment of these fisheries. Prior to the full assessments for WFOA and CHMSF, an existing certificate holder, American Albacore Fishing Association for Albacore Tuna (AAFA) had been awarded MSC certification for North Pacific Albacore Tuna, August 24th 2007 with Certification Body, Moody Marine Ltd. A recent annual surveillance (4th) audit was also released January 2011 (Report date November 2011) 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 4th Surveillance Audit for AAFA and the North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fishery undertaken by Intertek Moody with the objective of confirming that the outcome of these surveillance audits for CHMSF and WFOA are consistent with that of the former certificate holder. This procedure was also followed during the initial assessment and certification of CHMSF and WFOA to ensure consistency in outcome of performance indicators and conditions set on the fishery.

The following items were addressed with respect to harmonized outcomes of this:

Area of Assessment Considered	Outcome of Harmonization with IM 4 th Surveillance Audit
Assessment trees	The initial assessment for WFOA and CHMSF followed MSC procedure and utilized the Default Assessment Tree as described in MSC FAM and according to TAB D0-15. In their assessment of AAFA, pre-dates the release of the MSC Default Assessment Tree, using MSC Certification Methodology Version 6. However, there is consistency in the general outcome of both initial assessments with respect to the award of certification and the areas where the fishery is performing below the required 80% pass requirement. MSC Policy

	<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	
	<p>SAI Global considered the Conditions set by Intertek Moody in their Certification 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</i></p>

	<p><i>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><i>Timescale:</i></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"> 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"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC); • PFMC's Highly Migratory Species – Management Team (HMS-MT); • PFMC's Highly Migratory Species – Advisory Subpanel (HMS-AS); • General Advisory Committee (GAC) to the U.S. Section to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC);

- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS);
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA);
- Department of Commerce;
- Department of State;

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

- a. Submission of a letter to PFMC expressing AAFA's continued support for ongoing efforts, based on best available science, toward the long term sustainability of the stock, and compliance with international resolutions calling for fishing effort not to be increased.
 - b. Submission of a letter (via e-mail) to NMFS & NOAA expressing (among others) AAFA's support for provisions of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act of 2006 (MSA) for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the stock.
 - c. Attendance and participation at PFMC sessions (including ancillary HMS-MT and HMS-AS meetings) to convey AAFA's support for development and adoption of appropriate management measures and progress to ensure compliance with international resolutions regarding the North Pacific albacore stock.
 - d. Attendance and participation at HMS-MT and HMS-AS meetings to express AAFA's support and assistance in the development of appropriate characterization of "*current effort*" in response to international resolutions regarding the North Pacific albacore stock.
 - e. Attendance and participation at GAC meetings to convey AAFA's support for development and adoption of appropriate management measures for the North Pacific albacore stock
 - f. Continued attendance, participation, and submission of communications to appropriate management bodies in accordance with current practice.
2. AAFA will provide to Moody Marine a summary on U.S. responses to IATTC/WCPFC management resolutions, as provided by NMFS and/or PFMC, when such materials become available. The North Pacific albacore stock assessment is presently being conducted by the ISC and its Albacore Working Group and the initially scheduled March, 2007 release has been pushed back to late July, 2007.
 3. AAFA anticipates receiving the updated ISC stock assessment in late July, 2007, and will provide Moody Marine with copies in a timely manner. Responsive documents and updates of North Pacific albacore stock assessments will be forwarded to Moody Marine in a timely manner following receipt.
 4. If additional resolutions are proposed, then these should be supported as

	<p>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>
Conclusion	<p>In evaluating the Conditions, Action Plans and outcome of the surveillance audit for AAFA 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 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,</p> <p><i>Reference points are appropriate for the stock and can be estimated.</i></p> <p><i>The limit reference point is set above the level at which there is an appreciable risk of impairing Reproductive capacity.</i></p> <p><i>The target reference point is such that the stock is maintained at a level consistent with</i></p>

	<p><i>BMSY or some measure or surrogate with similar intent or outcome.</i></p> <p>Global Trust considers that both set of languages are appropriate and consistent for achieving their intended outcomes.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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) .</p> <p>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):</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>
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	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	<p>On the 24th December 2012, AFAA 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 AFAA certificate.</p> <table><tr><th>Condition number</th><th>Condition</th><th>Performance Indicator</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>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.</td><td>1.1.2</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>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.</td><td>1.2.2</td></tr></table> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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 <p>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 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</p>	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
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								

	<p>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 AFFA certificate will also be considered at the next surveillance audit and these developments reported within the surveillance audit report at that time.</p>
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11. Conclusions and Recommendations.

The assessment team conducting this 3rd surveillance audit confirms that both CHMSF and WFOA have met the general requirements for continued certification to the MSC Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing.

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

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

The assessment team also notes that whilst in each case, the intent of the conditions have been met the conditions remains unchanged since they as yet, have not resulted in a material change to score related to PI 1.1.2 which will result in an unconditional pass.

SAI Global determines that the timelines and related Action Plans for the Condition placed on the client fisheries remain unchanged from the original conditions set and that these will be subject to annual surveillance audit, next scheduled in January 2014. In the interim period, the client fisheries are obliged to provide up-dates as per the general conditions of certification to changes in the client group and also with respect to:

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

12. Outcome of SAI Global Certification Decision

SAI Global determines that in each case:

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

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

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

Information Sources

Meetings:

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

Reports & publications:

DFO. 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. 2012a. The 2011 Canadian North Pacific Albacore Troll Fishery. Document prepared for the Twelfth Meeting of the ISC, 18-23 July 2012, Sapporo Hokkaido, Japan. ISC/12/PLENARY/06. 17 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. 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 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. 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.

ISC. 2011a. Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean. Plenary Session, 20-25 July 2011, San Francisco, CA, USA. 51 p.

ISC. 2011b. Annex 9. Report of the Albacore Working Group Stock Assessment Workshop, 4-11 June 2011, Shizuoka, Japan. *In*: Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean. Plenary Session, 20-25 July 2011, San Francisco, CA, USA. 143 p.

ISC. 2011c. Annex 4. Report of the Albacore Working Group Workshop, 12-19 October 2010, La Jolla, California, USA. *In*: Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean. Plenary Session, 20-25 July 2011, San Francisco, CA, USA. 37 p.

NOAA-NMFS. 2012. U.S. Fisheries and Research on Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean. Document prepared for the Twelfth Meeting of the ISC, 18-23 July 2012, Sapporo Hokkaido, Japan. ISC/12/PLENARY/11. 37 p.

PMFC. 2012a. Highly Migratory Species Management Team Report on Albacore Management Framework. HMSMT Report. Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Portland, OR, March 2012. 11 p.

PMFC. 2012b. Highly Migratory Species Management Team Report on Update on and Recommendations for International Management Activities (Albacore Management Framework). Supplemental HMSMT Report 2. Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Portland, OR, March 2012. 2 p.

PMFC. 2012c. Highly Migratory Species Management Team Report on International Management Activities, Including the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty. HMSMT Report. Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Portland, OR, June 2012. 4 p.

WCPFC. 2012. Northern Committee Eight Regular Session. Summary Report. 3-6 September 2012, Nagasaki, Japan. 42 p.

WCPFC. 2011. Northern Committee Seventh Regular Session. Summary Report. 6-7 September 2011, Sapporo, Japan. 33 p.

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

APPENDIX 1: Stakeholder Comments

Two submissions/comments were received from different stakeholders during the course of the audit or subsequent to the audit.

Submission	Party making submission/comment	Details of Submission
1.	Henry (Chip) Bissell , representing AFAA North Pacific Albacore tuna fishery during stakeholder meetings (January	A report SUSTAINING CANADIAN MARINE BIODIVERSITY An Expert Panel Report on Sustaining Canada's Marine Biodiversity: Responding to the Challenges Posed by Climate Change, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Prepared by: The Royal Society of Canada: The Academies of Arts, Humanities and Sciences of Canada. February 2012 Members of the Panel; Prof. Isabelle M. Côté, Prof. Julian J. Dodson, Prof. Ian A. Fleming, Prof. Jeffrey A. Hutchings (Chair), Prof. Simon Jennings, Prof. Nathan J. Mantua, Prof. Randall, M. Peterman, Dr. Brian E. Riddell, Prof. Andrew J. Weaver, FRSC and Prof. David L. Vander Zwaag. http://rsc-src.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/RSCMarineBiodiversity2012_ENFINAL.pdf The basis of the submission was respect to the performance of the CHMSF North Pacific Albacore tuna fishery against the MSC Standard in light of the information contained in the report.
2.	Alison Cross Senior Program Officer - Fisheries World Wildlife Fund	Refer to the attached letter and response.

Submission 1:

From the report (page 14): 'The Report is submitted in response to a request by the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) that an independent Expert Panel be convened to advise on a series of questions related to the sustainability of Canada's marine biodiversity. The questions were specified in a provisional Terms of Reference communicated by the Royal Society of Canada Committee on Expert Panels (CEP) to the Society's President in 2009. Following consultations with the CEP, the President then selected a group of ten people from Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States who represented a wide range of scientific and policy-related expertise relevant to the questions submitted. The Panel and its membership were announced by the Royal Society in November 2009.

From the report (page 14) 'The mandate of the Expert Panel on Sustaining Canada's Marine Biodiversity: Responding to the Challenges Posed by Climate Change, Fisheries, and Aquaculture is to prepare expert assessments of: (i) the past and projected trends in Canada's ocean environments and marine biodiversity; (ii) the causes and projected consequences of these trends for biodiversity; and (iii) the extent to which Canada is fulfilling its national and international obligations to sustain

marine biodiversity. Drawing upon the conclusions resulting from these assessments, the Panel is to identify new approaches, measures, and research initiatives to promote the sustainability of Canadian marine biodiversity. By combining these assessments and recommendations in a single document, the Panel Report represents a unique contribution to the state of knowledge of Canadian marine biodiversity and of Canada's commitments to sustain that biodiversity (page 14). The report was not part of the formal management system review process but did serve to provide advice and recommendations to the federal government.

From the report (page 13)

(4. Recommendations)

- That the Government of Canada identify international leadership in oceans stewardship and biodiversity conservation as a top government priority.
- That the Government of Canada resolve regulatory conflicts of interest affecting Canada's progress in fulfilling obligations to sustain marine biodiversity.
- That the Government of Canada reduce the discretionary power in fisheries management decisions exercised by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.
- That Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) rapidly increase its rate of statutory and policy implementation.
- That Canada implement statutory renewal to fulfil national and international commitments to sustain marine biodiversity.
- That the Government of Canada establish national operational objectives, indicators, and targets for marine biodiversity.
- That Canada establish strategic research initiatives to strengthen scientific advice on sustaining marine biodiversity.

From the report (page 273, DFO's participation in the report is noted here.)

The Invitations to submit evidence to the Expert Panel were solicited from three federal government agencies: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO); Environment Canada; and Parks Canada. The report notes that DFO was the only agency to respond to the Panel's invitation. DFO's initial submission (30 November 2010) was accompanied by an offer to provide additional information should the Panel request it. In response to a follow-up request by the Panel for greater specificity in DFO's original submission, the Department submitted a second submission on 4 May 2011. Both submissions are presented here.

In synopsis; SAI Global makes the following comments:

It is important to note that the Report outlined a number of strengths in the Canadian fisheries and oceans management regime. These include:

- Canada has made numerous commitments through international agreements to sustain marine biodiversity. A plethora of soft law documents have emerged to provide more specific guidance to decision-makers and to progressively develop international law and policy.
- Appropriate Canadian policies are in place under the Sustainable Fisheries Framework to enable implementation of the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based fisheries management in Canada.

- Canada has contributed significantly to fisheries management reform in international waters, including efforts to encourage a precautionary approach in NAFO and strengthened international efforts to prevent, deter, and eliminate Illegal, Unreported or Unregulated Fishing.

It is also worth highlighting the areas of progress since the publication of the report:

- Further adoption in fisheries of reference points and decision rules under the Precautionary Approach Policy.
- Drafting of national *Policy on Managing Bycatch, Guidance for the Development of Rebuilding Plans under the Precautionary Approach Framework and Ecological Risk Assessment Framework for Coldwater Corals and Sponge Dominated Communities*.
- The launch of two DFO Science sector programs one to support implementation of an ecosystem approach and one on adaptation to climate change, which will help to advance research and scientific advice of the effects of human activities on biodiversity issues and on the effects of climate change on biodiversity.
- Progress in developing a network of marine areas and establishing Marine Protected Areas.

SAI Global also notes that Canada does not manage the North Pacific Albacore tuna fisheries in isolation. Canada is a full participatory member of both the IATTC and WCPFC, and takes an active role in the processes of each organization for the effective management, long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks, including North Pacific albacore.

SAI Global has provided MSC certification services for a number of fisheries in Canada which have met the requirements for MSC certification. Currently, there are in total, 27 Canadian fisheries within the MSC program (5 of which are within assessment) serviced by a number of MSC accredited certification bodies. There is a range of conditions, some specific to Principle 3 associated with these certificates. It is worth noting that Canada as a region has more MSC certified fisheries than anywhere else in the world.

Notwithstanding the value of independent, objective reviews and their recommendations such as that undertaken by The Royal Society of Canada, we do not foresee a change in the outcome of performance of the CHMSF North Pacific Albacore tuna fishery against the MSC Standard for Sustainable Fishing associated with the findings made in this report. However, SAI Global will continue to seek the evidence from client and management organizations necessary to confirm continued certification to the MSC Standard of the CHMSF North Pacific Albacore tuna fishery at subsequent MSC surveillance audits.



WWF-US
Fisheries Program
1250 24th St NW
Washington, DC 20037
USA
February 22, 2013

Dear Karen and Julie,

As you prepare the third annual surveillance report for the Western Fish Boat Owners Association (WFOA) and the Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation (CHMSF) fisheries for albacore tuna in the North Pacific Ocean, WWF would like to take the opportunity to register its concerns with regard to the conditions of certification placed on both fisheries at the time of certification and the progress made toward improving the fisheries' scores against the MSC standard during the certificate period.

WWF recognizes that the formal MSC guidelines with regard to certification requirements (including condition setting) have been substantially strengthened since the time of WFOA's and CHMSF's initial certifications (as outlined in the MSC Certification Requirements section 27.11 and Annex CI for harmonised fisheries). However, even though the current conditions for the two units of certification are not articulated as explicitly as is now required by the MSC, WWF sees no evidence that the spirit of the MSC standard is on track for being met by WFOA and CHMSF. In order to fulfill their conditions, WFOA and CHMSF must ensure that:

PI 1.1.2: Limit and target reference points are appropriate for the stock. Appropriately precautionary, scientifically based, formal target and limit reference points (or measures/surrogates with similar intent) for North Pacific albacore tuna, that meet the MSC standard at SG80, must be adopted by the IATTC and WCPFC.

PI 1.2.2: There are well-defined and effective harvest control rules in place. Well-defined harvest control rules must be in place at the IATTC and WCPFC 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 rule must take into account the main uncertainties, and available evidence must indicate that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.

WWF notes and applauds WFOA's and CHMSF's continued participation in management and advisory forums and advocacy for the development of formalized and documented decision making management processes on the North Pacific albacore stock. However, WWF firmly

believes that stronger conditions, milestones and a client action plan, with explicit, measurable milestones, are necessary for continued certification of the fishery.

As completion of the above activities will allow WFOA and CHMSF to achieve recertification in 2015, WWF encourages WFOA and CHMSF to begin collaborating with other MSC certified albacore tuna fisheries in the North Pacific toward these mutual goals. This is especially important as harmonized conditions will require WFOA and CHMSF to have tighter timelines for the development and implementation of reference points and harvest control rules at the IATTC and WCPFC level. And, indeed, coordinating these efforts with other fisheries would only help move toward these goals. WWF looks forward to engaging as a stakeholder in the reassessment process in 2014-2015 and seeing the conditions and milestones for WFOA and CHMSF aligned with other certified albacore tuna fisheries in the North Pacific.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the assessment process for this fishery.

Sincerely,

Alison Cross
Senior Program Officer
WWF-US Fisheries Program
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Cc: Bill Fox, WWF-US
Cc: Daniel Suddaby, WWF Smart Fishing Initiative
Cc: Wayne Heikkila, WFOA
Cc: Lorne Clayton, CHMSF

SAI Global Assurances
3rd Floor, Block 3
Quayside Business Park
Millstreet
Dundalk
Co.Louth
Ireland.

Dear Alison,

Thank you for your submission regarding MSC surveillance audits for WFOA and CHMSF North Pacific Albacore tuna. The surveillance audit team has reviewed your comments with reference to MSC Certification Requirements in place at the time of initial assessment, current requirements v1.2 (now to be superseded by v1.3) and the new conditions placed on other fishery certificates of the North Pacific albacore.

As you have rightfully noted, the closure of the current conditions (1.1.2) and any subsequent conditions placed upon 1.2.2 (harvest control rule) is largely subject to the actions of IATTC and WCPFC with respect to the adoption of explicit reference points and an associated harvest control rule. SAI Global also notes WWF's comments in support of these fisheries in their continued participation in management and advisory forums and advocacy for the development of formalized and documented decision making management processes on the North Pacific albacore stock.

I would like to acknowledge and confirm that during re-assessment of the WFOA and CHMSF certificates in 2014, application of the MSC requirements for certification at that time will be applied; including the requirements for setting conditions and action plans with explicit, measurable milestones and harmonization with other certificates consistent with MSC requirements.

The final annual surveillance audit will continue to review and document the efforts undertaken by WFOA and CHMSF in this regard (and documented within the third annual surveillance audit) with respect to monitoring progress in fulfilling the requirements of the current condition set on each fishery certificate. Furthermore, at the time of re- assessment, all performance indicators will be subject to full review according to MSC requirements at that time.

Thank you for your continued interest in the MSC certification of these fisheries. Your contact details will be added to the stakeholder file for notification of subsequent annual surveillance and re-certification assessment.

Yours sincerely,



David Garforth
Seafood Business Manager

Cc: Bill Fox, WWF-US
Cc: Daniel Suddaby, WWF Smart Fishing Initiative
Cc: Wayne Heikkila, WFOA
Cc: Lorne Clayton, CHMSF