

Canadian Catch: During the Albacore Working Group meeting I received information from WFOA and AFRF that 2004 Canadian logbook data may not be a true representation of actual Canadian catch. I was informed that it was impossible for Canadian vessels to have landed as much as reported.

Max Stocker, DFO, presented a summary of catch, effort, and catch per unit of effort (CPUE) data for the Canadian North Pacific albacore tuna fishery in 2004. He reported that since 1945, sales slip records were the source for Canadian catches of albacore. In 1995 Canada implemented a comprehensive database for collecting albacore fishery statistics. All Canadian vessels must carry logbooks while fishing for highly migratory species in any waters. Detailed analysis of a combination of sales slips, logbooks, phone-in and transshipment records are undertaken to report fisheries statistics for the Canadian albacore fishery.

Details can be found at: <http://www.iattc.org/PDFFiles2/DC-1-02b.pdf> where Canadian data through 2004 are reported to IATTC. This report is similar to that presented to the Albacore stock assessment working group.

The Canadian logbook system is slightly different than the U.S. system. The Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation sells logbooks to the Canadian Fleet. The purchase cost pays for a third party contractor to extract and compile the data. The logbook data has not yet been validated by DFO. DFO was reported to have granted funding to examine the 2004 logbook data against fish landing slips to confirm logbook data. The 2003 data has already been checked against landing slips and certified by DFO.

In 2004, 218 Canadian vessels operated in the North Pacific and caught 7,796 metric tons (t) of albacore in 9,728 vessel days of fishing for a CPUE of 0.8 t/vessel-day. **Estimates for 2004 are considered preliminary.** Both catch and CPUE have followed an increasing trend over the period 1995-2004. As in previous years, most of the 2004 catch was taken within 200-miles of the North American coast.

Year	Canadian Catch			U.S. Catch		
	Catch	Troll Vessels	CPV	Catch	Troll Vessels	CPV
2000	4,465	243	18.37	9,645	649	14.86
2001	4,985	244	20.43	11,210	870	12.89
2002	5,022	230	21.83	10,387	641	16.20
2003	6,735	193	34.90	14,102	834	16.91
2004	7,796	218	35.76	13,432	731	18.37

The logbook examination is underway and will be reported to the next working group. Unless there are errors in the logbook that will be revealed by landing slip analysis the logical interpretation of Canadian landings in 2003 and 2004 is that albacore were more available to Canadian vessels relative to previous years.