



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
FOURTH REGULAR SESSION**

**Tokyo, Japan
9-11 September 2008**

AN INTERIM MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE FOR NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE

WCPFC-2008-NC4/DP-02

Proposed by the United States of America

At its third regular session, the Northern Committee considered the concept of an interim management objective for North Pacific albacore that would, in essence, maintain the spawning stock biomass in the range of its historical fluctuation until reference points are established. It is proposed that the following be adopted as an interim management objective for the stock:

For the purpose of formulating, and recommending to the Commission, conservation and management measures for the North Pacific albacore stock, the Northern Committee agrees to adopt and apply an interim management objective for the stock, as described in the following paragraphs.

1. The interim management objective is to ensure that the fishing mortality does not exceed the level at which there is a probability of 75% that the spawning stock biomass (SSB) will not in any single future year fall below the lower 25th percentile of historically observed SSB, where:
 - (a) “historically observed SSB” means the time series of annual SSB levels from 1968 through 2005, as estimated in the latest formal stock assessment of the ISC;
 - (b) “in any single future year” means any one of the years in the projection period used; and
 - (c) the projections of future SSB are made using:
 - (i) a projection period of 15 years;
 - (ii) an assumption that recruitment varies from year to year about the average annual recruitment level estimated over the period starting in 1966 and ending seven years prior to the last year for which spawning stock biomass is estimated in the latest formal stock assessment of the ISC; and
 - (iii) an assumption that the fishing mortality rate is constant and equal to the current level as estimated in the latest formal stock assessment of the ISC, where the “current” level is a geometric mean from several previous years.

2. The Northern Committee will formulate conservation and management recommendations that would be expected to achieve the interim management objective as soon as practical and on a continuing basis.
3. Achievement of the interim management objective will not preclude the Northern Committee from formulating and recommending conservation and management measures that would achieve additional objectives, particularly those stipulated in the Convention or otherwise adopted by the Commission.
4. The Northern Committee will develop more permanent management objectives for recommendation to the Commission, specifically reference points that fulfill the provisions of Article 6 of the Convention.
5. Starting in 2009, the ISC is requested to conduct its assessments of the North Pacific albacore stock, and to express the results of its assessments, such that they include the information necessary to apply this interim management objective. In the case that an assessment includes multiple model runs and multiple sets of associated results, the ISC is requested to recommend the model run and set of results that it believes is the most reliable for the purpose of applying this interim management objective. In that case, the Northern Committee will use that ISC-recommended set of results for the purpose of applying this interim management objective.