Background Document for February 2026 U.S. Stakeholder Meeting on North Pacific Albacore Management

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1. Introduction

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) anticipates discussions on North Pacific albacore (NPALB) status and management at meetings of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) in 2026, the two regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) responsible for international management of this stock. In particular, the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species (ISC) will be releasing a new stock assessment in 2026, and the Northern Committee (NC) of the WCPFC is anticipated to continue conversations on how to translate fishing intensity into limits, and when and how implementation of any limits should occur.

NMFS has in recent years held webinars to provide information on results of the NPALB management strategy evaluation (MSE) as well as to solicit input in the development of harvest strategies for NPALB fisheries. In 2025, WCR and PIRO held a webinar to gather stakeholder input on translating fishing intensity to management measures in the harvest strategy, exceptional circumstances, and electronic logbooks (a summary of the 2025 webinar is available here). NMFS received requests to host additional workshops with U.S. fisheries stakeholders to discuss the NPALB harvest strategy at the September 2025 and November 2025 Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) meetings. To address these requests, NMFS plans to build from the input of the 2025 webinar and hold two webinars in 2026. This background document is prepared to support the first NPALB webinar for 2026 to be held on February 18th from 1-5 pm PDT (11 am-3 pm HST).

2. Meeting Objectives

The objectives for this meeting are as follows:

a. Build stakeholder capacity on international management of NPALB – specifically, harvest strategies and implementing measures.
b. Solicit feedback on options to potentially revise the WCPFC/IATTC harvest strategy.
c. Discuss progress on e-logbook initiatives.
d. Discuss expectations for the next webinar and other opportunities to provide feedback.

3. Overview of Topics

NMFS has developed this background paper ahead of the workshop to help inform participants and provide a preview of questions we will be soliciting input on. The workshop will cover a range of topics to address the meeting objectives, including an overview of international management for NPALB, the primary fisheries for NPALB, translating fishing intensity into

limits, input on potential revisions to the harvest strategy and/or implementing measures, updates on e-logbook initiative and next steps. With respect to translating fishing intensity into limits, the workshop will facilitate discussion on several questions raised previously by stakeholders including defining effort for management purposes, and implications when a management response is triggered.

4. Background on the NPALB fishery, international management - development of Conservation Management Measures (CMM)/Resolution, Harvest Strategy

International catch and effort overview

NMFS will provide a brief overview of recent catch and effort data for NPALB to inform stakeholders on primary members and fleets that target and harvest NPALB and to show how the U.S. fleet compares to other nations. For the most recent NPALB catch statistics please see the ISC25 Annual Catch Table, section 7.7 of WCPFC SC21-GN-WP-01, section F of IATTC-103-01a, and the 2023 NPALB stock assessment (e.g. Figures 2.1 and 2.2; which are also included in the Figures of this document for quick reference). For updated information on NPALB fishing effort please see NC21-WP-01. A summary of effort data from NC21-WP-01 is included in Table 1 (attached). Additional country specific reports can be found on the ISC25 meeting webpage for Canada, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and the United States. Specific data on U.S. and Canada troll fisheries is available from the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty Data Exchange.

International Management of NPALB

Although management responsibilities for NPALB are divided between the WCPFC and the IATTC, members of both Commissions have tried to ensure consistency in how this stock is managed across the two Commissions. The IATTC and WCPFC both adopted initial management measures for NPALB in 2005, and minorly revised the measures in 2018 and 2019, respectively (i.e., IATTC Resolution C-18-03 and WCPFC CMM 2019-03). These measures generally limit fishing effort for vessels fishing for NPALB to 2002-2004 average levels.

Harvest strategies, often also referred to as management procedures, specify pre-determined management actions depending on the status of fish stocks to achieve management objectives for a fishery. Many RFMOs including the WCPFC and IATTC have been shifting their management of stocks to develop and use harvest strategies informed by MSE analyses to ensure that stocks and fisheries will be managed in such a way to achieve defined long-term management objectives.

NPALB was one of the first stocks for which an MSE was conducted in both the IATTC and WCPFC, and the ISC conducted an MSE for NPALB from 2015-2021. The outputs of this MSE were used to inform the harvest strategies for NPALB that were adopted in 2023 (i.e., IATTC Resolution C-23-02 and WCPFC Harvest Strategy 2023-01).

The harvest strategies adopted by the IATTC and WCPFC describe the management objectives for the stock, define reference points including target, threshold and limit reference points, define 20% as the maximum level of risk for breaching the limit reference point, describe the monitoring strategy, and also include harvest control rules that specify fishing intensity depending on stock status. Specifically, the harvest control rules mandate reductions in fishing

intensity if the female spawning stock biomass (SSB) falls below the adopted threshold reference point (ThRP). The harvest strategies only specify overall reductions to fishing intensity and do not detail how reductions might be translated into potential management actions. In 2023, the WCPFC NC and IATTC requested scientific advice from the Albacore Working Group (ALBWG) of the ISC on how fishing intensity could be interpreted to actual management measures under the harvest strategy, and in 2025, the WCPFC NC requested the ALBWG to provide estimates of the historical impact of each fleet group on the stock during the time periods of 2002-2004 and 1999-2015, to guide discussions on fleet specific reductions in fishing intensity if female SSB were to fall below the ThRP as mandated by the harvest strategy. Discussions on these topics may influence whether revisions to the harvest strategy are warranted, and may also influence whether revisions to the current management measures are desired and/or needed to ensure the goals of the harvest strategy are being met.

Summary of ISC Advice to Date

As noted above, both NC and the IATTC requested the ISC to advise how fishing intensity could be interpreted to actual management measures under this harvest strategy. The ISC has provided responses (SAC-15 INF-T, NC21-WP-07) to NC and IATTC, and this paper will attempt to provide a high-level summary of the information provided to the RFMOs in 2023 and 2024.

The NPALB stock assessment and the MSE use fishing intensity to describe the extent to which the stock is exploited. Fishing intensity for NPALB is defined as $F_{\%SPR}$, which is the fishing intensity associated with a specific spawning potential ratio (SPR). SPR is a measure of fishing mortality expressed as the decline in the proportion of the SSB produced by each recruit relative to the unfished state. Fishing intensity and SPR are useful because they allow fishing mortality at various age classes to be related to impacts on SSB equivalence and compared using the same units. For example, the surface fisheries generally catch smaller sized fish in comparison to longline fisheries which tend to capture larger sized individuals. Using SPR allows us to equate catches by the two different gears and two different life stages with respect to their impact on the stock as a whole.

The ISC through various analyses demonstrated that fishing intensity shows a strong relationship between catch and SPR and a moderately strong relationship between effort and SPR for certain fleets (e.g. the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) surface fleet and Japan pole and line fleet), and noted that in order for them to produce specific catch and/or effort metrics for specific fleets or members, information would need to be provided on how fishing intensity should be allocated (e.g., fleets, members) relative to what baseline (e.g., period of years) and what metrics (e.g., catch or effort) are desired. It should be noted that ISC can also calculate the percentage share of SPR for each fleet, fleet group, or member.

Defining Fleets

ISC noted that fishing intensity can be allocated in different ways such as by fleet and by member. Allocating SPR to each member would assign a certain share of fishing intensity to a member, which then would have the responsibility of further allocating that fishing intensity amongst its fisheries and translating into appropriate limits for its fisheries. For example, the United States has two primary gear types that capture NPALB – the longline and the troll/pole and line fisheries. If the United States were given an SPR, then it would have to allocate that

SPR between those two fisheries, and, if so desired, translate the allocated SPR into catch and/or effort limits for these fisheries.

Fishing intensity can also be allocated by fleet, and although the 2023 NPALB stock assessment used a 35 fleet model, the ISC recommended that for management purposes, a more simplified fleet definition would be easier to work with. The ALBWG developed a model in 2024 for illustrative purposes with nine groups of fleets (i.e., fleet groups), and is in the process of refining the fleet structure to 11 fleet groups in the model based upon input received from NC21 in 2025. It should be noted at this time that the U.S. surface fleet is combined with the Canadian surface fleet (as well as U.S. sports, U.S. miscellaneous, and Mexico) and reflected in ISC documents as the "EPO SF".[1]

Baseline Period

The selection of a baseline period is also important for defining the reference period particularly for allocation purposes. As noted above, the current management measures for NPALB (i.e., IATTC Resolution C-18-03 and WCPFC CMM 2019-03) limit fishing effort for vessels fishing for NPALB to the 2002-2004 average for most members. China has a 10 vessel limit, and recently after several years of negotiations, the NC agreed that Vanuatu could use a 2003-2005 baseline.

Table 1 contains effort statistics for the major countries that harvest NPALB. The 2002-2004 timeline represents a high level of effort for some members including the United States, but discussions at NC suggest that some members may be interested in considering a different baseline. Last year NC21 requested the ISC will provide estimates of the historical impact of each fleet group on the stock based on fishing intensity during the time periods of 2002-2004 and 1999-2015, and to guide fleet-specific reductions in fishing intensity should the female SSB fall below the threshold reference point as mandated by the harvest strategy. Canada requested that the analysis include 1999-2015, as this was the period used to simulate catch ratios in future projections in the MSE.

As fishing effort by some fleets has changed over time, some members may also have interests in changing the baseline to reflect more recent fishing pattern usage. To date, however, there have not been any explicit requests for analysis using a more recent reference period. NMFS notes that 2009-2011 was previously suggested by stakeholders in 2025 if an alternative time period is desired.

Management Metrics

As noted earlier, the ISC modeled relationships between SPR and catch, and SPR and effort for various fleet groups. Generally, they observed tight correlations between catch and SPR for all fleets (surface and longline). They also observed good correlations between effort and SPR for the surface fleets (EPO SF and Japan pole and line) and also found reasonable correlations

[1] The ISC will require guidance on how to allocate catch and/or effort in each country's EEZ during years when the US-Canada Albacore Treaty has had a regime in place before the countries' troll fleets can be separated out. NMFS acknowledges the June 2025 Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) recommendation "assuring U.S. fishery participants that any Canadian fishing effort in the U.S. EEZ will be attributed to the U.S. when establishing our historic effort per the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty". However, NMFS notes that these discussions will occur under negotiations of the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty.

between effort and SPR for the Japanese longline fleet that seasonally targets NPALB. The United States and Canada have repeatedly expressed a strong interest in managing their surface fleets by effort, while other members have expressed an interest in managing all fleets by catch. If changes to the management of NPALB need to occur because of stock status, the WCPFC and IATTC will likely need to identify what those management metrics will be for those fleets. As noted above, another option may be to allocate SPR to members, and allow members the responsibility of further allocating that fishing intensity amongst its fisheries and translating into appropriate limits for its fisheries.

ISC Analysis in 2026

As noted above, the ISC is conducting a new stock assessment for NPALB this year, and is also refining the fleet structure for a model that can show how catch and effort levels could vary for various fleets depending on decisions made on allocation, baseline periods and management metrics. Work on both of these products is underway and while they will not be finalized until the ISC plenary in late June, provisional results are expected to be available in late May. NMFS intends to hold a second webinar likely in late May to review the results. However, NMFS intends to give workshop participants a preview of the model based on the 2023 stock assessment, and demonstrate how it can be used to derive estimates of catch/effort limits given a selected baseline period and stock level.

Other Harvest Strategies

Although NPALB was one of the first stocks that both WCPFC and IATTC adopted harvest strategies for, both Commissions have and are currently undertaking work to develop MSEs and harvest strategies for other stocks. NMFS notes that harvest strategies for other stocks and their associated implementation measures may affect discussions on NPALB management. Specifically, in the WCPFC there is some overlap with fleets (i.e., Japanese pole and line) that are under effort limits through the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) skipjack management procedure that was initially adopted in 2022 (CMM 2025-03). The WCPFC is also in the process of developing a management procedure for WCPO bigeye tuna, and like skipjack, there will likely be some overlap between some of the fleets managed under the WCPO bigeye management procedure and fleets that catch NPALB (e.g., tropical longline). NMFS also notes that the WCPFC adopted an interim management procedure for South Pacific albacore (SPALB) in 2025 (CMM 2025-01), and intends to adopt an implementing measure this year to replace the current CMM. NMFS notes that the MSE process and subsequent development of the management procedure for SPALB is very different from the process that occurred for NPALB. However, given that there is some overlap in participants and members with interests in both fisheries, NMFS notes that work progressing on other stocks such as SPALB may influence discussions on NPALB management.

5. Discussion on translating fishing intensity, and associated questions on potential management implications

a. How could effort be defined for purposes of management

At the 2025 stakeholder webinar, NMFS received feedback that expressed general support for a mixed control approach with the surface fleet (e.g., troll and pole and line fisheries) to be managed via effort controls and the longline fleet to be managed via catch controls. NMFS also acknowledges that the Hawaii longline fleet is managed under a limited entry program.

For the surface fleets, the effort controls evaluated have been "number of vessels" and "number of fishing days." Both fishing days and number of vessels are used by members to manage fishing effort for those vessels targeting NPALB under the current regime. The United States currently uses the number of fishing days as its metric for assessing compliance. Last year, China stated that it was changing from using number of vessels to number of fishing days so there is some precedent for changing effort metrics if there is a desire to change between fishing days and number of fishing vessels.

For more information on the ISC's recommendations related to fishing intensity, please see the ISC25 Plenary Report and ISC/25/ALBWG 01/09.

b. What would this mean to U.S. fishery participants if a management response is triggered

One question NMFS has been asked during past stakeholder meetings is how U.S. vessels would be affected if management responses are required. Ultimately, the answer will depend on several factors, such as if 2002-2004 reference years or an alternative set of reference years are used, if current management responses are maintained or modified, how catch/effort/SPR are allocated to "fleets", and if fishing intensity is limited by catch or effort (in either vessels or vessel days).

Ultimately, the answers to these questions will depend on the above criteria and the most specific responses will depend on the calculated SPRs for each fleet. U.S. scientists will walk stakeholders through some examples of expected levels of catch, effort or SPR limits, given specific reference years and various SSB levels at the webinar, and they are hoping to develop an interactive spreadsheet or application to share with stakeholders in advance of the May webinar so that other possibilities can be explored. However, several simpler scenarios are explored below to begin addressing stakeholders' main questions.

U.S. Surface Fleet

In one hypothetical situation, we can imagine the ISC has recommended a reduction of 10% effort from the 2002-2004 baseline period for pole and line vessels. For the U.S. troll fleet, allocation issues with Canada notwithstanding, this 10% reduction would act on its 2002-2004 effort average (either 735 vessels or 13,311 days fishing) which would mean that the fleet's total effort would be reduced to either 661 vessels or 11,980 vessel days. Seeing that recent U.S. troll effort is lower than the 2002-2004 effort average (i.e., recent 10 year average of 450 vessels or 9,493 vessel days), this would provide some buffer in any actual reductions in effort until the stock were to rebound back above the ThRP. It is important to point out that under this scenario, reductions would follow the currently implemented harvest strategy and only be enacted if the ThRP were exceeded. Simply adopting a new CMM or Resolution with criteria to define fishing

intensity would not immediately force any reduction on the fleet unless further modifications were made. Future stock assessments would confirm whether or not the ThRP has been breached and if reductions are necessary.

Importantly, any reduction the U.S. fleet faced would be enacted commensurately on other fleets. For instance, with a 10% reduction Canada's pole and line fleet would be limited to 194 vessels and 8008 vessel days and Japan's pole and line fleet would be limited to 127 vessels and 17,855 vessels (which are 10% of their respective 2002-2004 averages).

Stakeholders should also recall that C-23-02 specifies that if the ThRP is breached, but not the LRP, the stability provisions in the harvest control rules cap reductions between management periods at 20%. For this example scenario, fishing effort for the U.S. surface fleet would be reduced by 20% of its 2002-2004 effort. That scenario would reduce the U.S. pole and line fleet to 588 vessels and 10,649 vessel days.

NMFS has also received a question about what management responses would be triggered if a rebuilding plan were required. In the unlikely event that the LRP were breached, C-23-02 species that shall, in collaboration with the ISC and in coordination with the WCPFC, adopt rebuilding measures that will rebuild SSB to certain levels within 10 years and that if rebuilding measures are not agreed to, fishing intensity would be set to F_{min} which equals $F_{87\%}$. Based on the above assumptions and applying results from the 2023 stock assessment, setting fishing intensity to the F_{min} for the EPO SF would limit this fleet to 4,392 vessel days total (remember, ISC cannot differentiate the U.S. SF and Canada SF fleets without explicit guidance).

Stakeholders should be aware that all of these examples are preliminary and hypothetical. If alternate reference years were chosen (i.e., 1999-2015) these numbers would change. When the 2026 stock assessment is released, these numbers will likewise need to be updated. As previously noted, the exact changes to the U.S. troll fleet effort will also depend on how the EPO SF SPR is allocated between the U.S. and Canada.

U.S. Longliners

The U.S. longline fleet incidentally catches NPALB and its primary targets are bigeye, yellowfin, and seasonally, swordfish. The current management measures in the WCPFC and IATTC do not manage catch of NPALB for fleets that are not fishing for NPALB. However, the ISC analyses and harvest strategy considered catches of NPALB by all fleets including those that catch NPALB incidentally. Any potential impacts to the U.S. longline fleet will largely depend on whether there are changes to the CMM/Resolution that would limit catches by fleets that catch NPALB incidentally.

Generally, the ISC noted a stronger relationship between SPR and catch particularly for longline fleets not generally targeting NPALB. Although fleets targeting NPALB still represent the majority of the catch of NPALB, the percentage of NPALB caught incidentally by other fleets has risen in the past 20 years, and so it may be important to consider some way to limit catches by fleets that are not targeting NPALB (e.g., explicit limits, *de minimis* limits, etc.). NMFS notes that some of these fleets such as the U.S. longline fleet are subject to limits for other stocks (e.g., bigeye tuna), and these limits may indirectly influence catches for NPALB.

6. Solicit initial feedback on management changes/thoughts/strategies

Fishing Intensity and the Harvest Strategy

As the existing harvest strategies for NPALB in the WCPFC and IATTC reference fishing intensity, both organizations recognize the importance of further defining fishing intensity to ensure there are clear metrics for management. Previously, U.S. stakeholders have opined a preference for the EPO surface fleet to be managed via effort, but that more discussion would be needed if there was a desire to further define effort (e.g., number of vessels, fishing days, etc.). Currently, the harvest strategy uses the total overall SPR, and if there is a desire to refine management by fleets, further discussions may be needed to discuss how that is then reflected in the harvest strategy or in the CMM or Resolution that implements the harvest strategy.

Option 1 - Maintain the status quo. No prescribed changes to existing management measures.

The current management (i.e., maintain albacore fishing effort at or below the average of 2002-2004) seems to be effective at maintaining the stock at or below the target reference point of 45% $F_{\%SPR}$. And importantly, has been dissuading other countries from increasing albacore effort. One major risk is that if current harvest strategies are reopened for negotiations and revisions, and country-specific allocations are provided, countries may look to increase their allocations. The stock would be able to handle increased fishing effort from current levels but increased longline effort and catch on juveniles would likely impact EPO surface catch per unit effort (CPUE).

Thus one potential option, if stakeholders prefer the current style of management, is to consider that the harvest strategies not be re-opened, but that the U.S. seeks a consensus from the NC on how to allocate fishing intensity in the future if the stock status falls below the ThRP and triggers a need to reduce fishing intensity.

Option 2 - Minor Revisions to Existing CMM/Resolution (i.e. for non-target catch, *de minimis* catch numbers)

The middle ground option is to attempt to revise the harvest strategy in a targeted way focused on the issues most important to U.S. stakeholders. For instance, codify the allocation of fishing intensity, define "targeting" or a *de minimis* catch value for non-target catch, and/or other items stakeholders find most important to implement in a CMM and Resolution.

Option 3 - Major Revisions to Existing CMM/Resolution (Codify allocation of fishing intensity, establish *de minimis* catch limits, prescribe exceptional circumstances, etc)

If U.S. stakeholders feel that significant changes are necessary in the harvest strategy to codify measures and address additional topics, for example exceptional circumstances, that could also be explored. As described above, this option carries the risk that other countries will also seek substantial changes and angle to increase their allocated effort from current provisions.

Note that both the IATTC Resolution and the WCPFC CMM apply north of the equator, but there is some risk that if the WCPFC CMM is revised, that any management measures developed by the WCPFC NC may be limited to north of 20° N given the management purview of the NC is

restricted to defined northern stocks that mostly occur north of 20° N, which would potentially lead to a gap in management for the stock in the WCPFC area between the equator and 20° N.

7. E-logbook updates

Over the past several years, 2 separate groups have been developing electronic logbooks focused on the hook and line fleet in the EPO. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) has been working with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center and Archipelago Marine Research Ltd. on one app, the "NOAA/PSMFC E-logbook" (i.e., FishVue Float). The app is now in use by the west coast groundfish non-trawl fleet and was also used by albacore hook and line vessels during the 2025 fishing season.

Another app was developed by the American Albacore Fishing Association (AAFA), the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, and Bluefin Data LLC. This app went through beta testing with the AAFA fleet in 2024 and 2025 and is expected to be available to the entire fleet in time for the 2026 fishing season.

In 2025, 58 different U.S. hook and line vessels used either the PSMFC or Bluefin Data LLC electronic logbooks to submit their catch and effort data.

These electronic logbook apps are currently optional for use in the EPO and for the moment fishermen may continue to use paper logbooks.

NMFS also notes that these apps have been developed to be compatible for use in the southern hemisphere by vessels that harvest SPALB. Note that CMM 2022-06 requires vessels to use electronic logbooks on the high seas in the WCPFC convention area, and NMFS is undertaking a rulemaking to implement this requirement.

As the electronic logbooks become available for use, NMFS will update the WCR Highly Migratory Species Logbook webpage with details on how to download and use the apps.

8. Next steps/next meetings

Upcoming Meetings Related to NPALB:

March 8th	Highly Migratory Species at PFMC Meeting
March 23rd - 30th	ISC Meeting of the ALBWG
May TBD	Executive Summary of the 2026 NPALB stock assessment released
May TBD	2nd NPALB Stakeholder Webinar
TBD	WCPFC Permanent Advisory Committee Meeting
Week of June 11th	PFMC Meeting
June 8th - 12th	IATTC Scientific Advisory Council
June 22nd - 29th	ISC26 Plenary
July 13th-14th	22nd Meeting of the WCPFC NC
August 24th - Sept 4th	IATTC Commission Meeting
Nov 30th - Dec 4th	WCPFC Commission Meeting

Similar to the stakeholder meeting summary produced after the 2025 webinar, NMFS intends to produce and share a summary of this meeting in advance of the March 4th-9th meeting of the PFMC and its Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel. The 2026 NPALB stock assessment will be finalized this spring, and the executive summary of that stock assessment should be released in May. After which time, NMFS intends to hold a 2nd webinar in late May to discuss updates and solicit additional comments in advance of NC22. Following the 2nd webinar there will be additional opportunities to provide feedback at the June PFMC (June 11-16) meeting, the WCPFC Permanent Advisory Committee meeting (TBD May/June), and at the IATTC General Advisory Committee and Scientific Advisory Subcommittee meetings in July (TBD) 2026.

Focus Questions to be Discussed at the Webinar

1) NMFS provided a preview of the inputs and outputs of the ISC analysis on fishing intensity and implications of reductions. An updated analysis will be presented in May. Is there anything additional stakeholders would be interested in understanding on these concepts of fishing intensity and potential management options?

2) Do stakeholders still prefer the 2002-2004 reference years? If not, what alternatives are preferred? Are there any thoughts on using 1999-2015 as reference years?

3) Do stakeholders still support managing the U.S. surface fleet using effort and managing the U.S. longline fleet using catch? Or is there a preference to manage by SPR by flag? Are there any opinions on potentially receiving an SPR that the United States could divide between gears (e.g., pole and line and longline)?

4) What feedback do you have to offer about the impact of other harvest strategies (i.e. WCPFC skipjack or SPALB) on the further development of harvest strategies and/or management measures for NPALB?

5) Do you have suggestions on how to address incidental catch of NPALB from fisheries not targeting albacore (e.g., catch limit, *de minimis* clause)? Is there a need to define targeting?

6) Do you have thoughts on maintaining the existing harvest strategies as is or what revisions should be considered either for the harvest strategy and/or the implementing measures?

7) How should the harvest strategy address expansion and contraction of fishing opportunities? Should the harvest strategy speak to allocation or should allocation be addressed in an implementing CMM/Resolution?

8) Are there concerns if the WCPFC CMM for NPALB was restricted to north of 20° N?

9) Are there any questions or concerns about electronic logbooks for the hook and line/troll fishery?

10) What changes can NMFS make to the presentation/webinar to enhance our outreach to stakeholders? What other information would be helpful? Are there other topics you would like to discuss at the May webinar?

Table 1. Historical Effort in Vessels and Vessel Days for WCPFC NC Members[2] Harvesting NPALB (from NC21-WP-01)

Year	CAN PL Vessels	CAN PL Days	CHN LL Vess	CHN LL Days	JPN LL Co Vess	JPN LL Co Days	JPN LL DW Vess	JPN LL DW Days	JPN PL DW Vess	JPWN PL DW Days	TWN LL Vess	TWN LL Days	US Troll Vessels	US Troll Days	VUT LL Vess	VUT LL Days	TOTAL Vessels[6]	TOTAL Days[6]
2002	232	8,323	10	1,250	296	40,988	633	26,851	141	19,839	25	–	696	13,311	34	2,753	2,072	113,500
2003	193	8,428	10	1,250	296	40,988	633	26,851	141	19,839	25	–	782	13,311	34	2,753	2,119	113,605
2004	221	9,942	10	1,250	296	40,988	633	26,851	141	19,839	25	–	727	13,311	34	2,753	2,092	115,119
2005	213	8,564	10	1,230	289	41,197	591	21,548	134	20,442	23	2,363	552	11,552	26	1,983	1,841	109,123
2006	174	6,243	10	1,150	287	43,366	538	21,186	125	16,059	24	4,156	615	10,892	32	2,868	1,807	106,091
2007	207	6,902	2	260	273	43,480	494	21,712	106	16,931	21	3,360	651	11,552	23	2,133	1,782	106,692
2008	137	5,773	2	250	276	40,030	480	17,823	104	15,667	18	2,603	477	11,138	20	1,883	1,519	95,291
2009	138	6,540	2	280	280	43,536	361	12,060	104	15,248	13	2,082	655	13,339	14	1,248	1,567	94,333
2010	161	7,294	2	240	286	45,877	342	13,084	101	15,541	20	2,093	609	13,076	10	1,053	1,532	98,260
2011	161	8,556	10	1,240	273	42,996	341	12,683	98	13,433	21	1,839	640	13,983	24	1,248	1,568	95,978
2012	172	5,974	10	1,280	266	38,977	320	13,818	95	14,646	21	1,423	816	15,218	21	760	1,730	92,326
2013	183	6,465	10	1,220	248	37,529	321	13,406	85	12,781	22	2,108	703	13,509	27	1,916	1,628	89,854
2014	160	4,747	10	1,290	246	35,362	305	13,305	84	12,147	22	2,348	617	12,199	25	1,904	1,489	83,965
2015	164	5,197	10	900	237	37,801	285	11,763	84	12,743	23	2,401	574	11,506	22	2,771	1,411	85,192
2016	152	5,359	10	910	229	37,308	256	10,419	81	13,923	24	2,259	569	12,691	18	1,382	1,348	84,489
2017	121	4,978	10	850	233	35,566	253	10,154	82	12,659	25	2,567	518	12,675	23	1,510	1,269	81,073
2018	121	4,196	10	838	229	34,725	248	10,126	80	13,236	25	2,943	452	10,959	27	2,035	1,198	79,238
2019	122	3,882	10	1,249	225	34,231	249	9,987	76	12,321	25	2,338	554	10,949	26	2,087	1,292	77,193
2020	104	3,301	10	1,075	226	35,573	249	10,182	75	11,093	25	2,079	404	8,727	32	2,224	1,129	74,386
2021	113	3,687	10	295	230	36,418	249	10,308	74	10,531	25	2,070	311	7,399	29	2,736	1,043	73,487
2022	118	4,073	10	429	222	29,135	237	7,533	69	9,487	25	2,283	433	8,475	26	1,889	1,140	63,304
2023	80	2,117	10	811	207	31,629	228	10,478	67	6,713	25	1,457	324	5,559	17	1,324	958	60,088
2024	100	3,618	10	889	210	34,640	219	10,563	67	8,845	25	1,594	357	5,990	12	919	1,000	67,058
2015-2024 Avg	120	4,041	10	825	225	34,703	247	10,151	76	11,155	25	2,199	450	9,493	23	1,888	1,179	74,551
2002-2004 Avg[3]	215	8,898	10	1,250	296	40,988	633	26,851	141	19,839	25	–	735	13,311	34	2,753	2,094	114,075
2009-2011 Avg[4]	153	7,463	5	587	280	44,136	348	12,609	101	14,741	18	2,005	635	13,466	16	1,183	1,556	96,190
2003-2005 Avg[5]															31	2,496		

[2] Table excludes effort for members that on average had fewer than 10 vessels targeting NPALB. See NC21-WP-01 for additional effort data from South Korea, Cook Islands, Fiji, and the Philippines.
[3] IATTC Resolution C-18-03 and WCPFC CMM 2019-03 generally limit fishing effort for vessels fishing for NPALB to this baseline period. At the 2025 U.S. stakeholder webinar, stakeholders expressed a preference to continue using this baseline period.
[4] 2009-2011 was previously suggested by stakeholders in 2025 if an alternative baseline is desired.
[5] NC20 agreed to allow Vanuatu to use this 2003-2005 time period as an alternative baseline.
[6] Includes additional effort data from South Korea, Cook Islands, Fiji, and the Philippines.

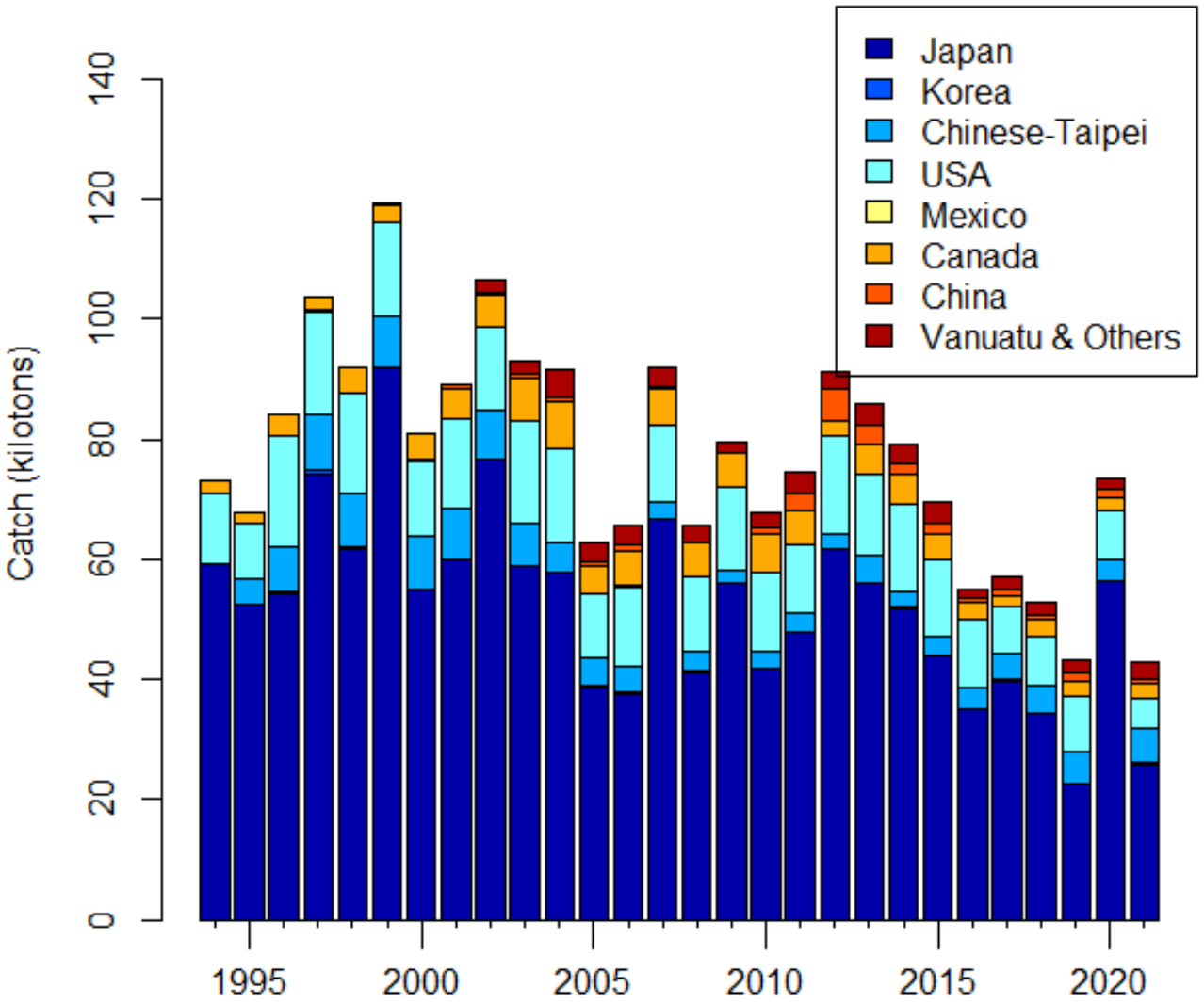

Figure 2.1 from the 2023 NPALB stock assessment. Total annual reported catch of north Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) by ISC member and non-member countries, 1994-2021. Catches by Vanuatu and other countries includes small amounts of catch by other countries such as Tonga, Belize, Cook Islands, and Marshall Islands.

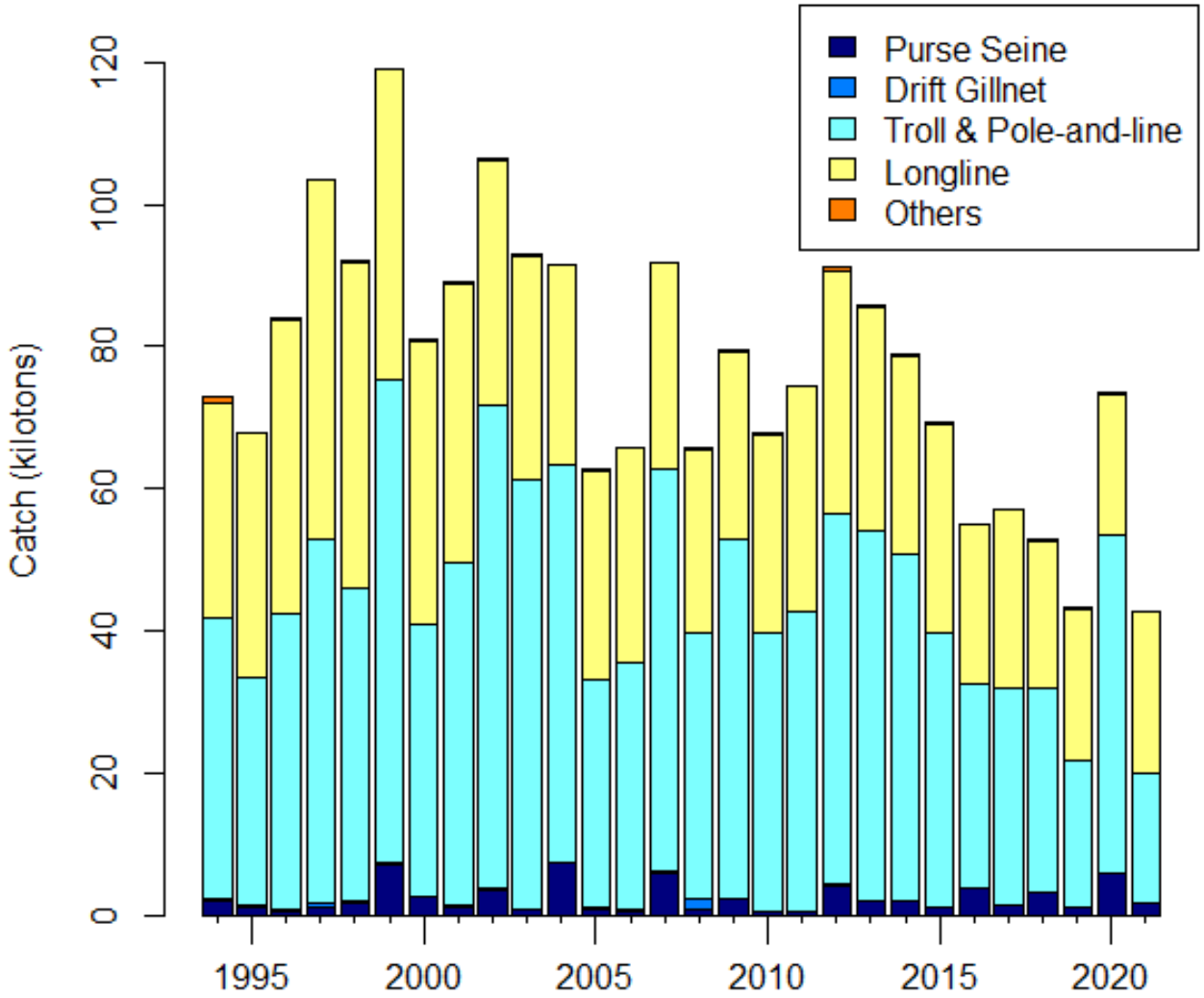

Figure 2.2 from the 2023 NPALB stock assessment. Total annual reported catch of north Pacific albacore by major gear types, 1994-2021. The Other Gears category includes set nets, recreational, hand line, and harpoon.