



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Pacific Islands Regional Office
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JUN 09 2009

Mr. Andrew Wright
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 2356
Kolonia
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Mr. Wright: *AW*

To satisfy the reporting requirements of WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures 2005-03 (North Pacific albacore) and 2006-04 (South Pacific striped marlin), included in Attachment 1 is the following information:

- (1) for the latter half of 2008 and for each of 2007 and 2008, U.S. catches of albacore north of the equator in the Pacific Ocean;
- (2) for each of the years 2004 through 2008, estimates of U.S. fishing effort north of the equator in the Pacific Ocean in fisheries directed at albacore; and
- (3) for 2007 and 2008, the number of, and catches by, U.S. vessels that fished for striped marlin, and bycatch of striped marlin, south of 15°S in the Convention Area.¹

If you have any questions about this information please contact Tom Graham at +1 808-944-2219 or tom.graham@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

William L. Robinson
Regional Administrator

Attachment

cc: William Gibbons-Fly, U.S. Department of State
Ufagafa Ray Tulafono, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
Celestino O. Igisomar, CNMI Department of Lands and Resources
Carlotta A. Leon Guerrero, Guam Office of the Lieutenant Governor

¹ Please see my letter to you of April 26, 2007, regarding the number of U.S. fishing vessels permitted to fish for striped marlin in the Convention Area south of 15° South latitude. The number cited in that letter still applies.



Attachment 1. United States reporting under WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures 2005-03 and 2006-04; reported June 2009.

Table 1. Estimated catches of albacore (metric tons) by U.S. vessels north of the equator in the Pacific Ocean, by gear type, second half of 2008, 2007 (updated from previous report) and 2008.

Gear type	1 Jul – 31 Dec 2008	2007	2008
Albacore troll	10,254	11,887	10,254
Longline	99	250	360
Gillnet	1	4	1
Pole and line	6	21	6
Purse seine	**	**	**
Other*	405	1,322	411
TOTAL	10,765	13,484	11,032

* Includes tropical troll and handline, charter sport, and miscellaneous gear, and for 2007, includes purse seine.

** Data are confidential, so are included in the "other" category.

Table 2. Estimated fishing effort (vessel-days fished) by U.S. vessels in fisheries directed at albacore north of the equator in the Pacific Ocean, by gear type, 2004-2007 (updated from previous reports) and 2008.

Gear type	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Albacore troll	26,522	25,682	22,303	23,126	21,515

Table 3. Number of, and catches by, U.S. vessels that fished for striped marlin, and bycatch of striped marlin, south of 15°S in the Convention Area, 2007 (updated from previous report) and 2008.

	2007	2008
Number of vessels fishing for striped marlin	0	0
Striped marlin catch by vessels fishing for striped marlin (mt)	0	0
Total bycatch of striped marlin (mt)	2	1