



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
8604 La Jolla Shores Dr.
La Jolla, CA 92037

Dear albacore fisher,

The National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) has developed a computer program to allow albacore troll and baitboat fishermen to record their daily catch and effort information into an electronic format and to submit this information electronically to the SWFSC. The SWFSC believes that this computer program will improve the quality of the logbook data and the efficiency with which it is collected and transmitted. The program incorporates quality checks that will prevent common mistakes and omissions that might otherwise result in an incomplete logbook being mailed back to the permit holder for correction and/or missing data. The program was tested on several U.S. albacore troll and baitboat vessels in 2005 and 2006 and has proven to be a valuable tool in the collection and validation of logbook data. The SWFSC anticipates approximately 10-20 vessels will utilize the program in 2007. The program was developed at no cost to the fleet and is free of charge. The SWFSC will rely on feedback from the fishermen using the software to identify additional enhancements to the program that will be needed.

In an effort to ease the burden of reporting and to comply with the requirement for a hard copy logbook signature, as specified in the Fishery Management Plan for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (HMS FMP), the attached statement should be signed and submitted to the SWFSC, at the above address, prior to submitting data collected through the program. This statement will be the permit holder's verification that the logbook data submitted through the program came from him/her. Please be aware that you will be responsible for all existing HMS FMP requirements related to record keeping and reporting including the requirement to allow authorized enforcement personnel access to your records. You will not, however, be required to maintain a separate hard copy of your fishing logbook if you are participating in the electronic logbook program.

Any questions on the installation or use of the program or submission of data collected through the program should be directed to John Childers at the SWFSC: phone (858) 546-7192, email john.childers@noaa.gov. Any questions on the reporting and record keeping requirements of the HMS FMP should be directed to Craig Heberer at the Southwest Region: phone (760) 431-9440, ext. 303, email craig.heberer@noaa.gov.





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Electronic Logbook Signature Certification

I, _____, as HMS FMP permit holder for the vessel _____
[print or type your name here] [print or type vessel name here]
intend to submit my Pacific Albacore Logbook information to the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in electronic format. I hereby certify that the Pacific Albacore Logbook information I submit electronically will be accurate and complete. My signature on this form is provided in lieu of the signature that I would otherwise have provided on the paper logbook form.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

