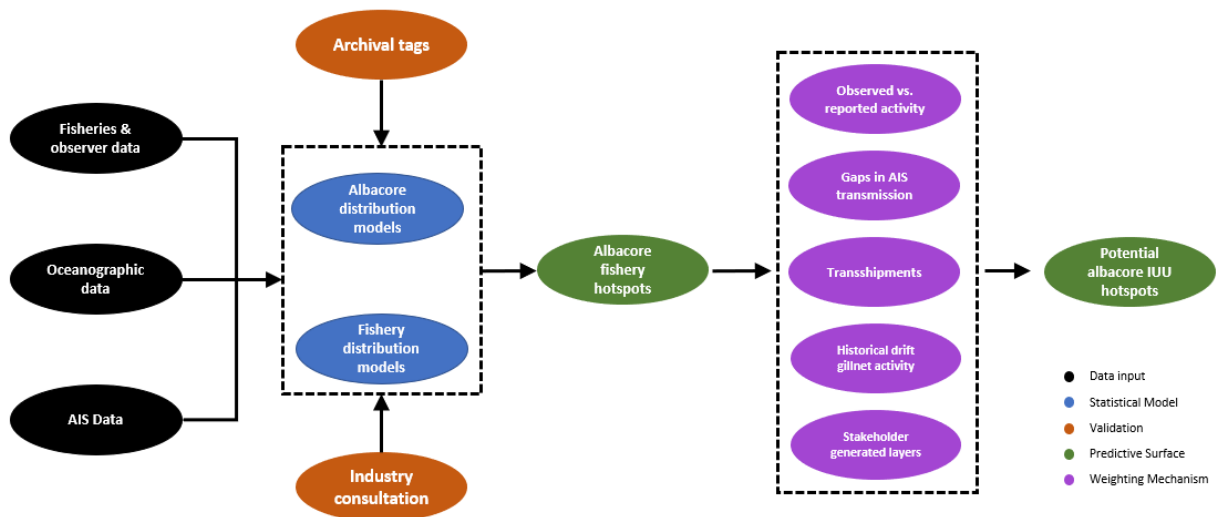


June 1, 2020

Dear US West Coast tuna fishermen,

I am writing to ask for your assistance and to inform you of a new collaborative research initiative between NOAA scientists and the commercial fishing industry designed to combat Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) fishing activity impacting Pacific albacore.

This project (“Dynamic decision-support tools to counter IUU fishing for Pacific albacore”) was designed to address research priorities articulated by members of the American Albacore Fishing Association (AAFA), the American Fishermen’s Research Foundation (AFRF), and the Western Fishboat Owners’ Association (WFOA) during meetings of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council. Broadly speaking, our objectives are to advance understanding of high seas fishing operations impacting Pacific albacore and to provide guidance to enforcement agencies like the USCG seeking to maximize the efficiency of their patrols. A schematic of the proposed workflow is copied below:



To identify high seas fishing operations impacting Pacific albacore, we plan to describe areas of overlap between suitable albacore habitat (as determined by oceanographic data, fisheries observer and logbook data, and archival tags) and the activity of foreign fishing fleets (as shown by Automatic Identification Systems data). To identify potential IUU fishing hotspots, we will develop a series of weighting mechanisms designed to highlight areas and activities of interest (i.e. Gaps in AIS transmissions, unreported fishing effort, transshipments, historical drift gillnet activity, etc.). Beyond aiding targeted enforcement efforts, it is our hope that this work will productively inform future negotiations re: international harvesting agreements.

Throughout the duration of this multiyear project we intend to rely upon the knowledge and guidance of stakeholders to ensure that our analyses are useful and accurate. In the short-term, we are asking for your assistance during the upcoming fishing season in helping to

document observations of 1) net-marked fish and 2) foreign fishing vessels. Observations (with photos) of net-marked fish can be made using the form available at [netmarkedalbacore.com](http://netmarkedalbacore.com). Observations of foreign fishing vessels can be made using the attached form, generated by the USCG, and emailed to [d13.cc@uscg.mil](mailto:d13.cc@uscg.mil).

The more reports we are able obtain from individuals working out on the water, the stronger the resulting evidence will be. Please spread the word to your colleagues and friends and share these forms in whatever manner you are comfortable with. My thanks in advance for your assistance; don't hesitate to reach out to me directly with any questions, concerns, or fishing reports! Good luck and good fishing to you.

Regards,

Dr. Timothy H. Frawley  
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