

**LETTER FROM PA2 CHAIR ON ALBACORE
(WAY FORWARD ON ROUND 3 OF CORRESPONDANCE PERIOD)**

November 20, 2020

Dear Panel 2 members:

Again, let me first express my thanks to those CPCs which submitted comments to various issues. As we are going into the third round of discussion, we are supposed to wrap up discussion. This letter deals with Northern albacore only since discussion is still going on bluefin tuna.

1. Mediterranean albacore (Rec. 17-05)

This item was already closed in the previous round. I will report to the plenary that Rec. 17-05 will continue to be valid as it is.

2. Northern albacore (Recs. 16-06 and 17-04) (PA2-606A and PA2-607A)

(1) Texts

I have received several editorial suggestions from the United States, which I believe are not controversial. Accordingly, I would like to submit PA2-606B and PA2-607B that reflected those suggestions to the plenary for endorsement.

(2) Consolidation of Recs. 16-06 and 17-04

I have not received any opposition to my proposed way forward. I will report to the plenary that Panel 2 recognizes that these two Recommendations should be consolidated at the 2021 Commission meeting.

(3) MSE related work (particularly exceptional circumstances protocol)

Since I suggested separately in Circular 7749/2020 that this issue be discussed under Item (7) (b) of the Panel 2 Intersessional meeting, I will deal with this in a separate letter.

There will be a two-week period for comments. As in the previous cases, the exact deadline will be specified by the Secretariat as it depends on their translation.

Best regards,



Shingo Ota
Panel 2 Chair