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CATCH STATISTICS FOR THE CANADIAN
ALBACORE FISHERY. 1952-1986

by

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CATCH STATISTICS FOR THE CANADIAN ALBACORE FISHERY, 1952-1986

Historically, the fishery for albacore (Thunnus alalunga) has been of minor importance to the Canadian (British Columbia) fisheries economy. Landings by Canadian vessels over the past 4 years have fluctuated erratically between 0 and 3558 tonnes for a variety of economic and environmental reasons (see accompanying table). The small catches in 1984 through 1986 (30-56 tonnes) are attributed to the low abundance of albacore in areas fished by the Canadian fleet.

Canadian fishermen have traditionally fished albacore with salmon troller-type gear and feathered jigs within 200 miles of the North American coast from central British Columbia (about 52°N Lat.) southward to northern California (about 35°N Lat.). In recent years, a few vessels have fished farther offshore, some as far as 1000 -1400 miles off the Washington-Oregon coast (135°-150°W Long.). In 1986, most of the catch was taken 600-900 miles off the Columbia River using jig gear.

Canadian landings of albacore (Thunnus alalunga) from the northeast Pacific Ocean, 1951-1986 (weights in tonnes).

Year	Catch	Year	Catch
1952	71	1970	354
53	5	71	1,587
54	-	72	3,558
1955	-	73	1,270
56	17	74	1,207
57	8	1975	101
58	74	76	252
59	212	77	53
1960	5	78	23
61	4	79	521
62	1	1980	212
63	5	81	200
64	3	82	104
1965	15	83	225
66	44	84	50
67	161	1985	56
68	1,028	86	30
69	1,365		
