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Ser. No. 3336
Rev. No.
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CATCH STATISTICS FOR THE CANADIAN
ALBACORE FISHERY. 1952-1987

by

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Submitted to the
INTERNATIONAL NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION
by the
CANADIAN NATIONAL SECTION

September 1988

THIS PAPER MAY BE CITED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

Wood, C.C. 1988. MS. Catch statistics for the Canadian albacore fishery, 1952-1987. 4 p. (Document submitted to the Annual Meeting of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, Tokyo, Japan, October 1988.) Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Biological Sciences Branch, Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, B.C., Canada V9R 5K6. (Unpublished Report.)

CATCH STATISTICS FOR THE CANADIAN ALBACORE FISHERY, 1952-1987

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 30 years have fluctuated erratically between 0 and 3558 tonnes for a variety of economic and environmental reasons (see accompanying table and figure). The small catches in 1984 through 1987 (30-104 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 330 km. 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 1600-2300 km. off the Washington-Oregon coast (135°-150°W Long.). In 1987, most of the catch was taken 250 km off southern Oregon and northern California using jig gear. The landings reported for 1987 do not include albacore taken by Canadian fishermen incidentally to the gillnet fishery for squid.

Canadian landings of albacore (Thunnus alalunga) from the northeast Pacific Ocean, 1951-1987 (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	87	104

Canadian landings of albacore from the northeast Pacific Ocean, 1952-1987.

