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Abstract

Canadian catches of albacore tuna have been irregular and of minor importance to the Canadian fisheries economy, ranging from 0 to 3,558 tonnes since 1952. The total Canadian catch during 1988 decreased slightly to 86 tonnes from 104 tonnes in 1987. The small landings are attributed to the low abundance of albacore in areas fished by the Canadian fleet.

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 3,558 tonnes for a variety of economic and environmental reasons (see accompanying table and figure). The small catches in 1984 through 1988 (ranging from 30 to 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 further offshore, some as far as 1600-2300 km. off the Washington-Oregon coast (135°-150°W Long.). In 1988, most of the Canadian catch (58%) was taken off the U.S. coast and the rest (42%) was taken off the Canadian coast.
Canadian landings of albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) from the northeast Pacific Ocean, 1951-1988 (weights in tonnes).

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Catch by Canadian fleet (thousand t)

Year