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North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Advisory Panel
Minority Report

I oppose the abrogation of the INHC Treaty as I feel where a stock of fish, such a Halibut, a (transnational) stock, that can be harmed by the harvesting practices of two nations, a mutual management scheme would seem to be in order. Such a management system has been functioning for the past 53 years through INPHC.

Currently under the INPHC, you have a full time staff directly responsible for one species, halibut. To abrogate the Commission would fractionate the scientific expertise required for this industry. Who would provide the funding and scientific work to the degree it is now coordinated? No entity of scientific capability has a greater working knowledge and history of a respective fishery which it is responsible for, than the INPHC has for halibut. This will all be lost with abrogation of the treaty.

Also, abrogation of the Halibut Treaty will result in the elimination of the U.S. trawl fleet off Canada; it will intensify negotiating problems with S.E. Alaska salmon and Frazer River salmon.

I oppose this resolution, I do not think abrogation of the treaty is a tactfully proper negotiation position to take to the Canadians and then to assume they will be receptive of our efforts for renegotiation.

/s/ _____
Robert D. Alverson