

The second purpose of this legislation is to prevent those latent permits for the U.S. Atlantic swordfish fishery under which no swordfish was reported to NMFS as landed after January 1, 1987, from being used to fish in the U.S. Atlantic swordfish pelagic longline fishery. Again, I would note as before that although this latent permit provision relates specifically to the use of such permits in the Atlantic swordfish pelagic longline fishery, this is not intended to preclude or prejudice any future consideration of a similar latent permit prohibition with respect to other Atlantic swordfish fisheries including the drift gillnet and handgear fisheries.

I believe the combination of these two provisions will go a long way toward addressing the threat of further overcapitalization within the swordfish pelagic longline fisheries and begin moving the fishery in the direction of reduced capacity. However, it is my sincere hope and intent that the NMFS will respond to this wake-up call and move forward expeditiously with the timely implementation of a comprehensive system of limited access for not only the Atlantic swordfish pelagic longline fishery, but also the closely related pelagic longline fisheries for Atlantic tunas and Atlantic sharks.

On a broader note, I would like to take this opportunity to express my increasing concern—and that of a number of my colleagues—over the interpretation by NMFS of U.S. HMS policies and laws relative to the setting of our multilateral objectives at ICCAT, as well as in the context of domestic implementation of our international obligations. We are equally concerned about the ability and efficiency of NMFS to put into place sensible and practicable domestic measures that are fair and equitable to all U.S. fishermen. These concerns are heightened by the impending rebuilding requirements of the Sustainable Fisheries Act and the fact that fishermen are increasingly turning to the judicial branch for solutions.

For example, it remains unclear how NMFS plans to implement the new rebuilding provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act as they relate to HMS. Specifically, it is unclear how NMFS plans to coordinate the promulgation of a rebuilding plan for bluefin tuna with the results of the upcoming ICCAT meeting in November which is scheduled to focus on bluefin tuna. Perhaps even more unsettling is how the agency plans to coordinate the promulgation of a rebuilding plan for swordfish with existing ICCAT swordfish management measures, given that ICCAT will not focus on swordfish again until November, 1999.

Another concern is that in 1995, ICCAT recognized the need to further protect juvenile swordfish and authorized ICCAT member nations to prohibit the sale, including importation, of small swordfish less than 33 pounds. This was done with the concurrence of the Office of U.S. Trade Representative. This initiative has been a priority of the U.S. swordfish industry for several years, and earlier this year, the President pledged to impose and fund the implementation of a ban on the importation of undersized swordfish. However, while the NMFS has succeeded in imposing and enforcing the undersize swordfish prohibition on U.S. fishermen, it has failed to impose or fund the enforcement of a equitable restriction on foreign fishermen through the import prohibition authorized by ICCAT and promised by the

President. It remains unclear to this day how and when NMFS plans to implement or fund this crucial ICCAT recommendation.

As one further example of concern, there is a great deal of interest in the use of gear modification such as circle hooks in Atlantic HMS fisheries as potential tools to at least partially address one of the most critical problems facing HMS fisheries today including: reducing the mortality of bycatch in commercial HMS fisheries; reducing the mortality of fish that are released in recreational HMS fisheries; and reducing the catch (and mortality) of small swordfish in the pelagic longline fisheries.

Reducing bycatch and minimizing the mortality of bycatch that cannot be avoided is, of course, a strong statutory mandate for NMFS. But, it concerns me that the first and primary approach considered by NMFS for HMS seems to be to shut down pelagic longline fisheries during some rather uncertain times and in some rather uncertain areas based on some very uncertain scientific data. This appears to be a very disruptive approach with a very high cost relative to a very uncertain benefit. It is unclear what alternative steps NMFS plans to take to quickly and efficiently evaluate the benefits of circle hook use as a potentially more effective and certainly less disruptive measure.

As we conclude our consideration of the reauthorization of the ATCA this year and begin our preparations for the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act in the next Congress, it may be necessary for us to consider a more comprehensive package of legislative measures intended to improve the management of Atlantic HMS and their fisheries by the NMFS. The legislation I am introducing today represents a good start in that direction and, to the extent a larger package becomes necessary, I look forward to working with my colleagues, the NMFS, the U.S. ICCAT Commissioners, the commercial and recreational fishing industries and other affected parties toward achieving some of the most important goals of HMS fisheries management.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in support of my good friend and colleague, Congresswoman PATSY MINK's amendment. Her amendment increases funding for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights by \$2.26 million, the amount requested in the President's budget.

As my colleagues know, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency established to monitor, inves-

tigate, and report on the status of civil rights protections in the United States. In recent years we have experienced a disturbing trend of increased hate crimes, racial violence, discrimination against the immigrant population, and an intolerance for those who are perceived as "different" because of their color, national origin, gender, religion, or disability.

Now is the time to invest in a modest increase in the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. It is important that we assess the current trends which violate the civil rights of groups and individuals in this Nation. I urge my colleagues to support the Mink amendment to H.R. 4276.

53RD COMMEMORATION OF
HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today, we solemnly commemorate the 53rd anniversary of the uranium bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 and, three days later, the plutonium bombing of Nagasaki on August 9, 1945.

The August 6th bombing was a shocking and tragic event; the second bombing three days later was no less cataclysmic. Now, 53 years later, for those of us who dare to look into the pit of this, our historical act, we can see the impact and the aftermath of the bombings and their implications in the arenas of defense and arms control, international relations, and human rights. As we commemorate these two events, it is not only to remember; we must also call upon ourselves to say to ourselves, to our neighbors, and to our children: Never again.

Today we must also recognize those heroes and heroines who called our attention to the danger of strontium 90 distributed in our air—strontium 90 released into our atmosphere during the testing of ever more powerful nuclear weapons. These pioneers in the anti-nuclear movement helped to create a force that alerted people all over the world to the incredible menace of an arsenal of over 36,000 nuclear weapons.

Thankfully, the cold war is over. But the danger of nuclear war, of nuclear accidents, or of nuclear terrorism, is as real as it was during the long cold war. The United States had 6 nuclear warheads at the end of 1945. We now have 12,000. The USSR, now Russia and the Ukraine, had one warhead in 1949, and now have 23,000. In 1953, the United Kingdom had its first nuclear weapon; now, the nation has 260.

France built 4 in 1964 and now has 450. China also built its first in 1964, and now has 400. Today we have definitive proof that India and Pakistan have nuclear bombs. Israel, North Korea, Iran, Iraq, and other nations appear poised to inform us that they, too, belong to the "club."

It is extremely difficult to contemplate any level of normalcy when we consider the implications and the threat that these weapons pose, the constant and ever-present possibility that something, or a combination of something, might go terribly wrong once again.

The New England Journal of Medicine, in its April 30, 1998 issue, gave a special report on