

## American Fishermen's Research Foundation News

**AFRF Directors:** Since we will not have a live general meeting this spring the AFRF board will meet online 2-3 times between now and June to conduct business. WFOA will have to elect new AFRF directors for 2018-2019 and the processor's segment of AFRF will have to elect their board members as outlines in the bylaws. There have been some changes and a vacancy on the board for a processor.

**Albacore Archival Tagging Program: Progress Report:** See included tagging update.

**Vessels for Tagging:** As most know AFRF has been involved in a cooperative research program conducting archival tagging on albacore with NOAA/NMFS through the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) since 2002. More than 1,000 tags have been deployed coast-wide with nearly 40 recoveries over the years. Unfortunately due to slow unpredictable fishing, tags were not deployed in the 2017 season. They will be deployed next season. AFRF will have a boat and plan worked out prior to the 2018 season.

AFRF is requesting boats that qualify to ask for a new simplified application so we can gather a list of potential boats to draw from.

Vessels will be needed for one or possibly two charters that could be up to two weeks long, but probably shorter as tags are placed. They will be conducted off WA, OR, and CA, most likely in late August or September.

Vessel Requirements for Archival Tagging of Albacore: (SWFSC Requirements)

1. Carry and maintain live bait (anchovies and sardines) for up to two weeks. Supply crowders, scoops, and water supply on deck for bait (technician will provide hand scoops and bait bags for chumming and baiting hooks if needed).
2. Water-level access (such as a rack) for transferring hooked fish into a hand-held sling or a suitable alternative for transferring hooked fish to the deck without damage to the fish. Fish cannot be lifted out of the water by the hook and leader.
3. A minimum of two crew members in addition to the captain, at least one of which is experienced in live bait fishing (rod & reel or lift poles).
4. Provide an accessible location near the stern rail to accommodate a tagging cradle (36" long x 20" wide x 12" high) for surgery (see figures below) and a relatively dry area for recording data.
5. Dry storage on deck for toolbox, surgical box (24" long x 12" wide x 12" high)
6. Provide a deck hose that can be adapted to a garden hose with adjustable pressure for irrigating the gills of the fish.

NMFS /AFRF will supply any equipment necessary to complete the project. The NOAA/NMFS technician will carry insurance. The vessel and alternates will be selected by June 30, 2014 by AFRF and SWFSC personnel.

NOTE: If you do not meet all the above requirements please feel free to submit your information as we will maintain a list and work with the vessel owners and SWFSC to make it work if possible. You do not have to be a WFOA member.

We appreciate the interest and will be in contact as we prioritize for next season.

### AFRF DIRECTORS '2017-2018'

Rick Goche  
WFOA  
(President)

Vacant  
Bornstein Seafoods  
( Vice-President)

Bill Carvalho  
Wildplanet, Inc.  
(Secretary)

Kevin McClain  
Bumble Bee Seafoods

Kevin Bixler  
William Gounder  
Chicken of the Sea

Cary Gann  
Star Kist Seafoods

Anthony Vuoso  
Tri-Marine  
International

Christa Svensson  
Ilwaco Fish Company

Larz Malony  
Pacific Seafoods

Wayne Moody  
WFOA

Shawn Ryan  
WFOA

John LaGrange  
WFOA

Lewis Hill  
WFOA

Karl Johnson  
WFOA

Ron Harper  
WFOA

Henry deRonden  
WFOA

**Offshore Tagging and Comprehensive Research:** SWFSC has indicated to AFRF that a larger comprehensive research program on albacore and tun's be planned and undertaken for the future. In the meantime AFRF with SWFSC is discussing whether tagging albacore in the offshore /dateline region is something that would be useful. Such a project is problematic and expensive due to the distance and time involved. However, it could be combined with other items such as IUU reporting from that region, plastic trash in the Gyre and beyond, acidification, albacore catch reporting, stomach and otolith sampling etc... One possible way to solve this is during tagging this summer the technicians could do a "Training Video" of the tagging process in detail and step by step. Then that could be used to train a "qualified" crew person on a boat to carry out the tagging in-season. It would also require some hands on training on frozen/thawed albacore. Once on the offshore boat we though and will explore if a live video feed could be established. If not the next best would be to video each tagging and send back the video via satellite email to John for review and suggestions. All of this would be part of the funding AFRF would attempt to raise.

Additionally, since getting coastal tags deployed seems to be an increasingly difficult logistic to navigate, we could use a similar program for the coastal tagging effort. That would be a game changer as logistics would be vastly simplified hopefully avoiding another situation like last year.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS and EVENTS:**

**69th Tuna Conference Lake Arrowhead, California May 21-24, 2018:** Note from the Conference Organizers - We'd like to remind you about the 69th Tuna Conference, which is being planned for May 21-24, 2018, at the Lake Arrowhead Conference Center in California. This year's theme will be "Climate variability and ecosystem considerations in management of large pelagics". Variability in the ocean environment drives changes in the distribution, feeding behavior and reproduction of pelagic fishes. This can result in altered stock productivity and availability to fishing fleets, with subsequent impacts on fishing communities. Climate variability and long-term change can therefore challenge traditional assessment and management frameworks. To maintain resilience of populations of large pelagics and limit socioeconomic impacts, future fishery management advice needs to be robust to climate-driven biological responses. This will require improved understanding of species ecology across life stages, of the structure and function of the ecosystems they rely on, and of methods for including these factors in assessment and management. However, as always, we welcome all presentations on tuna and tuna-like species whether or not they conform to the theme.

Information on student scholarships, abstract submission, and registration are attached here, and available at [www.tunaconference.org](http://www.tunaconference.org).

Stephanie Flores - Tuna Conference Coordinator  
Phone: (858) 334 - 2877, Email: [info@tunaconference.org](mailto:info@tunaconference.org)

Stephanie Snyder will be doing a poster presentation on the Tagging Program at this event. AFRF science rep David Itano will also be attending.

**Pacific Fishery Management Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan:** Please Save The Date for this unique invitation-only, two-day workshop. The purpose of this working meeting is to help inform the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan by examining how climate-related variability and changes could impact managed fisheries as well as identifying potential opportunities for responding and adapting to climate-related changes.

Through collaborative discussion, workshop participants will:

- ▶ Increase their understanding of climate related changes, the drivers of change, and the scientific information available;
- ▶ Develop shared understanding among the Council, its science and management advisors, industry and the public to discuss and respond to climate-related changes;
- ▶ Share perspectives on the region's most pressing issues related to climate variability and change;

- ▶ Consider the pathways for addressing these issues, including specific management and non-management actions;
- ▶ Identify information needs to support action or further consideration; and
- ▶ Provide ideas and information to support the Council's development and implementation of the climate shift initiative.

To register for the workshop: <http://bit.ly/2p0pUJS> There is limited travel support available. Please contact Gway Kirchner if you would like to be considered for financial assistance with travel: [gway.kirchner@tnc.org](mailto:gway.kirchner@tnc.org); (541) 336-7215.

**International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), Albacore Working Group (ALBWG):** Overview - This workshop will review the last MSE WS outputs (17-19 Oct. 2017), ALBWG WS (20-21 Oct. 2017) and progress of OM developing.

Meeting Site: SWFSC/NOAA, 8901 Ja Jolla Shores Drive, Ja Jolla, CA 92037-1508

Meeting Dates: 30 April (Monday) – 5 May (Saturday) 2018

Meeting Hours: 10:00 – 18:00 (30 April)

09:00 – 18:00 (1-4 May)

09:00 – 13:00 (5 May)

Meeting Goals:

- (1) review the last MSE WS (17-19 Oct. 2017) and ALBWG WS (20-21 Oct. 2017)
- (2) review progress of OM developing and preliminary MSE results.
- (3) summarize executive summary for ISC plenary in 2018 Paper Submission

**Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Workshop:** SWFSC scientists and academic collaborators were awarded a NOAA-OAR-CPO grant for the FFO: Understanding Climate Impacts on Fish Stocks and Fisheries to Inform Sustainable Management in the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem . The three-year project, started in September 2017, is titled From Physics to Fisheries: A Social-Ecological Management Strategy Evaluation for the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem and aims to develop an end-to-end framework to identify climate-resilient management strategies for the California Current and evaluate the impacts of climate change on US-managed marine species, the US fishing industry, and fishing communities. The focus of the project will be on the Pacific sardine, albacore, and swordfish fisheries.

As part of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process for this project we are planning on hosting a 1 day MSE workshop on March 28, 2018 in La Jolla, CA. The goals of the workshop are 1) to inform stakeholders of the projects objectives, methodology, proposed output, and time lines, and 2) to receive feedback from the participants on proposed performance metrics with which to evaluate the success of particular management strategies for the above fisheries.

We are inviting to the workshop a selected number of stakeholders. Given your current involvement with albacore or swordfish management and/or the albacore or swordfish fishing industry it would be great to have you in attendance. We look forward to hearing your input on the management objectives for the above fisheries.

If you have any questions, would like more information, or to confirm your attendance please email me at [desiree.tommasi@noaa.gov](mailto:desiree.tommasi@noaa.gov). A response by February 28 would be greatly appreciated. Limited travel funds are available, please let me know in your reply if you will require travel support. This is a meeting hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Southwest Fisheries Science Center. This workshop aims to inform stakeholders of the project's objectives, methodology, proposed output, and time lines. It also aims to work together with stakeholders to identify management objectives for the fisheries to be evaluated under this project, namely Pacific sardine, albacore, and swordfish.

Robert P. Scripps II Room, Scripps Seaside Forum  
 University of California San Diego 8610 Kennel Way, La Jolla, CA 92037  
 Desiree Tommasi, PhD - MSE Specialist - NOAA SWFSC, Office 347

8901 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037  
Phone: 858-546-7099, Email: [desiree.tommasi@noaa.gov](mailto:desiree.tommasi@noaa.gov)

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)** rescheduled their public meeting in Washington State on their proposed offshore oil and gas leasing program. According to their website, it is now scheduled for March 5, 3- 7 pm in Olympia. The format for all these meetings is "open house". Stations are set up throughout the room where people can learn more, ask questions, and provide comments (online and written submissions).

What: National Offshore Outer Continental Shelf Program Public Meeting  
When: March 5, 2018, 3 pm – 7 pm  
Where: Hotel RL Olympia by Red Lion, 2300 Evergreen Park Dr SW, Olympia, WA

More information is available at: <https://www.boem.gov/National-Program-Participate/>. Comments on the proposed program and programmatic EIS are due March 9, 2018.

**Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture hearing scheduled:** Senator McGuire, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (JCFA), is announcing the upcoming JCFA hearing on March 8, 2017 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., State Capitol, Room 2040, Sacramento, CA. The 45th Annual Zeke Grader Fisheries Forum is an informational hearing that will include presentations and discussions of fishery and aquaculture issues from throughout California. More detailed information will be provided in the upcoming weeks. Please contact Tom Weseloh, the Committee Consultant, with any questions (contact information below).

Tom Weseloh, Chief Consultant  
Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Senator Mike McGuire, Chair  
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Eureka, CA 95501  
[Tom.weseloh@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Tom.weseloh@sen.ca.gov)  
<http://fisheries.legislature.ca.gov/committeehome>  
707.445.6508

**WFOA Members Obligation to AFRF Contributions:** Under WFOA's bylaws you are required as a member to submit AFRF fees for any albacore landed to buyers that are non-AFRF contracted buyers. If you unloaded all or a segment of your catch to those AFRF buyers you need not submit to that portion.

Payments of USD \$20/ton can be made to:

American Fishermen's Research Foundation  
P.O. Box 992723  
Redding, CA 96099

AFRF relies on funding such as yours to continue this unique organization that has been involved in cooperative research and public education for all North Pacific troll albacore fishermen over the past 46 years. It is extremely hard to show short term benefits of this contribution but without AFRF we may not have access to albacore grounds.

**AFRF Contracted Buyers:** Bornstein Seafoods Inc., Bumble Bee Seafoods, C2C Premium Seafood, Chicken of the Sea International, Driscoll's Wharf, Hag Fish LLC, High Seas Tuna Inc., Interocean Fisheries, Island Trollers Inc., Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Company, JK Fisheries, Ilwaco Landing LLC, Oregon Seafoods, Pacific Seafood Group, Papa George Gourmet Albacore, Pelican Packers Inc., Seafood Producers Co-op, Star Kist Foods, Trident Seafoods, Tri-Marine International, Westport Seafood Inc, Wild Planet Foods