

American Fishermen's Research Foundation News

AFRF Board Meeting: The AFRF board met on March 26th in Astoria, OR at the Holiday Inn Express. Discussion centered on budget items but also a potential NOAA/NMFS plans for a comprehensive tuna research plan, that maybe in the works. AFRF is working towards being able to contribute more with past and future research and data and have it apply toward international stock assessments and access to the resource.

Archival Tagging 2019: Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) still retains about 60 tags to deploy but depending on future direction and how to use data collected those tags may be used in other fisheries.

VESSEL NEEDED FOR 2019 TAGGING TRIP:

NOAA/NMFS requirements are below. Contact AFRF for an application. You are welcome to request an application even if you believe you do not meet all the criteria below.

Requirements for albacore archival tagging vessels:

1. Vessels must meet Coast Guard safety standards.
2. Vessels must be compliant with HMS FMP regulations.
3. Vessels operating in the northeast Pacific will be equipped with commercial albacore gear appropriate for live capture of albacore for tagging and release of up to 100 healthy albacore per trip, including: hand lines, lift poles, rod and reel, and troll gears. Vessels operating off Hawaii will be commercial handline vessels for the capture and release of up to 10 healthy adult albacore.
4. Vessels operating in the northeast Pacific will carry live bait in sufficient quantity to accomplish capture and tagging of the proposed number of fish.
5. Vessels operating in the northeast Pacific must have desk arrangements to allow access to the waterline for capturing and releasing albacore.
6. Fishing methods will be approved in advance by the SWFSC scientist conducting tagging operations.
7. Vessels operating in the northeast Pacific will be capable and equipped to stay at sea for a minimum of 15 days and have a range of 1,200 nm. Vessel operating off Hawaii will be capable and equipped to stay at sea for 5 days and have a range of 300 nm.
8. Meals will be provided for scientists.
9. Vessels will have adequate berthing and workspace, free of smoke, for two SWFSC scientists.
10. Vessels will have working head available to SWFSC scientists.
11. Captain must have minimum 5 years albacore fishing in the operating areas.
12. Vessels operating in the northeast Pacific must have a minimum of two crewmembers (not including captain); one crew must have experience in catching albacore using pole and line.

Electronic Logbooks: From NMFS - The operator of any commercial fishing vessel and any recreational charter fishing vessel for highly migratory species in the management area must maintain onboard the vessel an accurate and complete record of catch, effort, and other data on report forms provided by the Regional Administrator or state agency. All information specified on

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the forms must be recorded on the form within 24 hours after the completion of each fishing day. The original logbook form for each day of the fishing trip must be submitted to either the Southwest Fisheries Science Center or the appropriate management state agency within 30 days of each landing or transshipment of the highly migratory species. Each form must be signed and dated by the fishing vessel operator.

E-Log Information and Download Link: <https://tinyurl.com/y6kpsrcr>

Frank Martins Award: This award for long and dedicated service to AFRF was given in the past to Frank Martins, Pierre Marchand, Vidar Wespestad, and Mike Laurs. The board voted to award it this year to John LaGrange who was a board member and then President of AFRF for many years and remains involved.

EPA and U.S. Coast Guard Webinar: The 2018 Vessel Incidental Discharge Act

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Coast Guard invite you to join a webinar on the 2018 Vessel Incidental Discharge Act.

Dates:

May 7, 2019 — 3:00–4:30 PM EDT

May 15, 2019 — 9:30–11:00 AM EDT

Location: Virtual webcast

Register for the webinar on May 7, 2019

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6495610530192866316>

Register for the webinar on May 15, 2019

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3129022474263622668>

For more information see:

<https://www.epa.gov/vessels-marinas-and-ports/vessel-incident-discharge-act-vida>

<http://tinyurl.com/y4gxap4m>

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) are hosting a webinar to enhance public awareness about the newly-passed Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA). VIDA was signed into law on December 4, 2018 in an effort to streamline the patchwork of federal, state, and local requirements for vessel discharges. The new VIDA regulations will apply primarily to discharges incidental to the normal operation of large commercial vessels, as well as discharges of ballast water from small vessels and fishing vessels of all sizes.

During the webinar, the EPA and the USCG will provide a general overview of VIDA, discuss interim and future discharge requirements (including the implications on the Vessel General Permit (VGP) and USCG ballast water requirements), describe future state and public engagement opportunities, and answer select clarifying questions raised by the audience.

You may choose to register for the webinar on either of the dates provided. We welcome your participation and look forward to engaging with you on the VIDA rule-making process. For those unable to attend, the recordings will be posted to the EPA VIDA Engagement Opportunities webpage within 30 days following the date of the webinar.

For more information on VIDA, visit the EPA VIDA page and the USCG VIDA page.

Permanent Advisory Committee to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission;
Meeting Announcement AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces a public meeting of the Permanent Advisory Committee (PAC) to advise the U.S. Commissioners to the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC) on June 10, 2019. Meeting topics are provided under the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this notice.

DATES: The meeting of the PAC will be held via conference call on June 10, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time (HST) (or until business is concluded). Members of the public may submit written comments on meeting topics or materials; comments must be received by June 5, 2019.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be conducted via conference call. For details on how to call in to the conference line or to submit comments, please contact Emily Reynolds, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office; telephone: 808-725-5039; email: emily.reynolds@noaa.gov. Documents to be considered by the PAC will be sent out via email in advance of the conference call. Please submit contact information to Emily Reynolds (telephone:808-725-5039;email:emily.reynolds@noaa.gov) at least 3 days in advance of the call to receive documents via email.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Emily Reynolds, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office; 1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176, Honolulu, HI 96818; telephone: 808-725-5039; facsimile: 808-725-5215; email: emily.reynolds@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

In accordance with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (16 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), the Permanent Advisory Committee, or PAC, has been formed to advise the U.S. Commissioners to the WCPFC. The PAC is composed of:

Not less than 15 nor more than 20 individuals appointed by the Secretary of Commerce in consultation with the U.S. Commissioners to the WCPFC; (ii) the chair of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's Advisory Committee (or the chair's designee); and (iii) officials from the fisheries management authorities of American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands (or their designees).

The PAC supports the work of the U.S. National Section to the WCPFC in an advisory capacity. The U.S. National Section is made up of the U.S. Commissioners and the Department of State. NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office provides administrative and technical support to the PAC in cooperation with the Department of State. More information on the WCPFC, established under the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, can be found on the WCPFC website: <http://www.wcpfc.int>.

Meeting Topics

The purpose of the June 10, 2019, conference call is to discuss outcomes of the 2018 regular

session of the WCPFC (WCPFC15), U.S. priorities leading up to the 2019 regular session of the WCPFC (WCPFC16), and potential management measures for tropical tunas and other issues of interest.

Upcoming Meetings With Albacore Issues:

Lake Arrowhead Tuna Conference, May 20-23, 2019, Lake Arrowhead, CA

Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) - June 19-24, 2019, San Diego, CA

IATTC - July 22-26, 2019 - Bilbao, Spain

WCPFC - Northern Committee - September 2-6, 2019 - Portland, OR

Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) - September 11-18, 2019, Boise, ID

Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) - November 13-20, 2019, Costa Mesa, CA

WCPFC Regular Session - December 5-11, 2019 - Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

The 70th Tuna Conference will take place at the University of California Conference Center at Lake Arrowhead during May 20-23, 2019. The theme will be "Data collection: emerging tools that address fundamental challenges in the research and management of large pelagic species".

Fisheries science and management hinge ultimately on the quality of the available data. More and more, fisheries science depends on analyses enriched by data collected using innovative procedures and techniques. For example, electronic monitoring systems are being increasingly used to collect effort, catch, and bycatch data, thus maximizing coverage of fishing activities while minimizing costly human observer programs, and satellite data now allow scientists to not only follow the movements of fish-aggregating devices (FADs) formerly estimated through simulation models, but also to remotely estimate the biomasses aggregated and gain insights on residence times of large pelagics around FADs. It is essential for fisheries scientists to be up-to-date with all these advances in data collection, and so, for the 2019 Tuna Conference, we are calling on researchers to share their experiences and opinions in this respect, and to illustrate the use of contemporary, novel, and promising data-collection tools in the assessment of large pelagic species.

AFRF Fees for 2018 North Pacific albacore deliveries are due and payable. We appreciate companies, as well as individuals who have already paid for 2018.

Also, buyers who purchased albacore from the South Pacific last winter those fees should also have been paid.

AFRF Fees were raised in the spring of 2018 to \$30/st.

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