

# American Fishermen's Research Foundation News

This is a short newsletter concerning AFRF issue prior to fall and winter board meetings, and meetings with the scientific community concerning cooperative comprehensive research in the coming years. All of what AFRF does is to support the west coast albacore trollers and baitboats to maintain sound science and research aimed at supporting the U.S. fleet and its access to the ocean and to call out misinformation and politics that tends to permeate the federal and international management processes.

AFRF depends on fishermen and processors who pay the expenses at per pound fees over and above dock prices. Those supporting processors are listed at the end of this newsletter and we thank them for their unseen efforts to support the industry.

Unfortunately, there are some that do not support the work of AFRF. One reason is because that much of the many hours and expenses spent on long overseas meeting is sort of out of sight, out of mind. Also, for some there is a belief that some of the extensive tagging and tag information may get spread to foreign fleets to the detriment of the U.S. fleet. Needless to say in today's information age any and all information from many years past is probably already widely distributed through scientific, enforcement, and management forums.

**Archival Tagging:** Once again the 60 tags at SWFSC were not deployed. The main reason was the overwhelming numbers of very small albacore all over the region and very few larger tagable fish. AFRF has funds designated to a tag trip and felt it would be a waste of the funds to try.

The tags are aging but stored in cold temps to preserve their life. AFRF is exploring if the tags could be used in the South Pacific this coming season given all the management coming down in that region. A crew on one of the boats could possibly be trained to do the surgical procedure and video each tagging for the record. AFRF is also looking into swapping older tags for newer tags or updating the older ones.

**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

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assessment of large pelagic species.

**AFRF Fees** for 2018 North Pacific albacore deliveries are due and payable on or before December 31, 2018. 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 relies on funding such as yours to continue this unique organization that has been involved in cooperative research and public education for all U.S. and Canadian North Pacific troll and baitboat albacore fishermen over the past 47 years.

Unfortunately, over the last two seasons of low catches with fish being sold into non-AFRF buyers has resulted in tight budgets for research and exploring innovative projects that will benefit the albacore industry now and in the future. AFRF has managed to send representatives to most RFMO meetings internationally, with albacore issues on the agenda, as well as the ISC-Albacore working group that AFRF sends its science consultant to as a member. It is difficult to compete with ENGO's and others with large well funded operations that can send many representatives to these events with agendas contrary to our goals.

AFRF continues to promote research and education helpful to all those that harvest Pacific albacore with troll and baitboat methods. AFRF research has been vital in securing and maintaining WFOA's MSC certification. Thus, fee obligations extend to the entire U.S./Canada troll and baitboat fleet not just WFOA members! We continue to stress that AFRF is entirely about research and striving to keep all albacore fishermen on the ocean and supplying a sustainable product to the consumer.

**October 2018 ENSO Update:** El Niño Watch Continues as Winter Chances Increase Up to 75%

October 12, 2018 - By Emily Becker - ENSO-neutral conditions still reign as of the beginning of the month, but we're starting to see some clearer signs of the development of El Niño. Forecasters estimate that El Niño conditions will develop in the next few months, and there's a 70-75% chance El Niño will be present through the winter. Most computer models are currently predicting a weak El Niño event. For article See: <http://tinyurl.com/y7c9d5gt>

**Plastic Debris Harvest in Gyre:** San Francisco (CNN)A 2,000 foot-long floating pipe nicknamed Wilson is about to start its mission to collect all the plastic in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Last month, the Ocean Cleanup foundation launched the world's first ocean cleanup system out of San Francisco to take on the notorious "Great Pacific Garbage Patch," a giant floating trash pile between San Francisco and Hawaii that is twice the size of Texas. It's the largest of five ocean trash piles on Earth.

The pipe is set to arrive at its destination in the ocean on Tuesday and begin the cleanup process soon after, according to a company spokesperson. The pipe, which is in the shape of a U, features a 3-meter deep net underneath it to trap floating plastic under the water's surface. A boat will return to the spot every couple of months to remove the debris -- like a garbage truck for the ocean -- and return it to shore. The goal is to recycle the plastic and create new products. See - <http://tinyurl.com/yassusvx>

**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