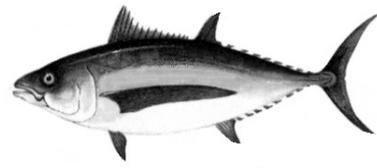


WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

May 4, 2015

With about two months to go to the normal start of the west coast albacore fishing season, there remains a number of market issues as well as new regulations ongoing. We will try to simplify some of the most pressing ones within this newsletter and attachments. WFOA will send another newsletter around June 20th in advance of the fishing with updates on markets and buyers and rules and regulations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Annual Meeting: Thanks to all those that took part in the annual WFOA/AFRF meeting in Astoria, Oregon. WFOA especially thanks those listed below who contributed to the reception and dinner on March 31st. Also many contributed raffle prizes and again we express our thanks.

DINNER / RECEPTION SPONSORS

Bornstein Seafoods Inc.
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Pacific Seafood Group
Seafood Producers Coop
Star Kist Seafoods
Trident Seafoods
Tri-Marine Fish Company
Willcox & Flegal Oil
Wild Planet Foods

Dinner Speaker: Dr. Cisco Werner - Director of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center - NOAA/NMFS

Seminars: Thanks to Mark Hess-Ocean Imaging, Lori Goodwin - Gallagher Transport, Mend Jenkins - Marine Refrigeration Solutions, Nancy Fitzpatrick / Rick Goche - Oregon Albacore Commission, Doug Fricke - Coalition of Coastal Fisheries, Peter Flournoy/Dr. Vidar Wespestad - WFOA/AFRF, Curt Farrell - USCG

Dues 2015: There are still a few members out there that have not paid 2015 dues. They are due on June 30th.

WFOA appreciates members who have paid. You can pay WFOA dues by check, cash, credit card, and Paypal. If you have a Paypal account just log in and use wfoa@charter.net to send the payment to. Paypal can be linked to your bank accounts or credit cards.

WFOA Classifieds: WFOA members can list fishing boats, gear, parts, and/or services they want to sell or buy or exchange. If you have an item to add, please e-mail wfoa@charter.net with "Sale Item" in the subject field. WFOA will post it on our website in the "Classified" link.

2015-2016 Raffle: In Astoria at the AGM we had winners of the \$500 Southwest Airlines Certificate and the Go Pro Silver as 1st and 2nd prize plus England Marine Gift Certificates for 3rd and 4th prize this is now staring new. Any Public Outreach donation of \$25 will receive one (1) ticket. You can contribute anytime or when you pay dues.

MARKET & PRICES:

South Pacific 2015: Only a handful of vessels fished in the South Pacific this season. Fishing again was mostly slow to moderate and boats are now on the way home. The absence of vessels due to the long voyage and costs which are completely understandable serves the interests of the uninformed regulators as we try support our continued existence in the SP. At international management meetings the U.S. fleet presence continues

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MARK HALVORSEN
(Secretary / Treasurer)

in jeopardy being caught up in the management scenarios over albacore longlining in the Western Pacific, even though we are a speck in the whole realm of things.

West Coast 2015: It again seems like the same tune is playing again as we have heard over the last 30 years. It tends to go that inventory is high and economic conditions and supply overseas are not favorable to export U.S. troll caught albacore at current prices. Yes, same old song, but some things are changing as they have over the past five seasons.

In 2014 about 50% of the catch was sold to domestic markets whether that is custom canned, loins, steaks, sashimi, iced/fresh to fish markets and restaurants, off vessel sales directly to consumers, and high volume canned albacore canned overseas but sold in U.S. markets. We all would like to see most albacore consumed in the U.S. with high consumer demand and increases in value-added local wild albacore in all forms. It is not here yet but it is much improved in the last five years.

Unfortunately reality still exists for 2015 with some inventory remaining of blast albacore especially in Canada, and an economic roller coaster in many nations economies creating uncertainty, tight money, and higher value of the U.S. Dollar which stifles exports. The USD was high before and markets in Spain and Japan did fine, it seems the fast movement of values makes buyers uncertain. Thus, another reason to sell to U.S. consumers!

Ocean conditions may be a real factor in 2015. The blocking high pressure of the entire west coast this past winter was strong. Water temperatures in the NE Pacific are above normal from California to Alaska. Cooler water remains in place around the dateline. With such conditions we could expect early arrival of albacore off Oregon and a push northward throughout the season. 2014 was a good year in Canadian waters and some catches were made in Alaska. This could be enhanced in 2015. But then again we may be all surprised by the final outcome.

At this time we expect markets to be similar to 2014 at least at the start. Much depends on how much blast inventory is moved by July for that market. Japanese albacore catches beginning now also factor in as most of these get sold to Europe and major canners in Samoa and Thailand.

Recreational Sales of Albacore: Just a reminder that selling recreational albacore and/or buying it is illegal. If a recreational vessels want to sell albacore as a commercial vessel they need the following in WA state, other state requirements may be similar but the federal licence requirements and USCG safety equipment are for all to comply:

- Federal HMS license
- WA State food fish license
- WA State wholesale dealers license if selling retail
- U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment
- Buyers must maintain chain of custody records
- Fishermen cannot legally recreational fish and commercial fish during the same trip

Cost Earnings Survey West Coast Commercial Albacore Fishery: Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. (LWC) requests your participation in a survey designed to gather information on the cost and earnings of fishermen operating in the West Coast commercial albacore fishery. This survey is an elaboration of the 2002 Albacore Fishery Economic Survey spearheaded by the American Fishery Research Foundation (AFRF). The project is being sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Science Center (NMFS/SWFSC).

To Participate below is a printable version to fill out or a PDF interactive version:

pacificalbacore.com/wfoa/cost-earnigs-survey/

Thanks to all the vessels that participate in this survey. Although voluntary and it will take some time we feel it is important information that LWC will compile about the fleet. The survey approach is completely confidential; data will only be released in aggregate form without personal or vessel identifiers.

Should you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact Henry Pontarelli at:

henry@lisawiseconsulting.com or (805) 801-9646.

MANAGEMENT & REGULATION:

PFMC: There will be a PFMC meeting with a number of HMS issues on the agenda in Mid June in Spokane, WA. Also, the update data pages of the SAFE Report are well done and reflect many aspects of west coast landings

See: <http://tinyurl.com/kcp6aod>

USCG Safety Exam Notice: Passing a U.S. Coast Guard fishing vessel safety examination will become mandatory Oct. 15, 2015. Any fishing vessel crew operating beyond three miles off shore will need to complete their safety examination and receive a commercial fishing vessel safety decal, which should be displayed on the vessel.

Due to the upcoming mandatory examination date, fishing vessel crews are encouraged to do their examinations now. For inspections along central Washington Coast and the Puget Sound, contact Robert Cuddeback at 206-217-6187. For inspections along the Oregon coast from Brookings to Westport, Washington, contact Curt Farrell at 503-240-9373.

Comments on: Permitting and Monitoring of U.S. High Seas Fishing Vessels - VMS:

COMMENT PERIOD ENDS 05/13/2015 UNLESS EXTENDED - See: <http://tinyurl.com/kzex6h3>

NMFS proposes regulatory changes to improve the administration of the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act program and the monitoring of U.S. fishing vessels operating on the high seas. The proposed rule includes, for all U.S. fishing vessels operating on the high seas, adjustments to permitting and reporting procedures. It also includes requirements for the installation and operation of enhanced mobile transceiver units for vessel monitoring, carrying observers on vessels, reporting of transshipments taking place on the high seas, and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems. This proposed rule has been prepared to minimize duplication and to be consistent with other established requirements.

Canada Treaty: At the WFOA annual meeting the board of directors took no action on the treaty and WFOA's position at this time remains support for the ongoing phase out of the fishing regime after the 2016 season. The board thought this coming season and possibly the 2016 season could show any trends or shifts of the albacore stocks farther north or not.

Also, there has been no action from the U.S. Dept of State or NMFS to move forward on required data exchange at this time.

Application to Enter Canadian Waters and Ports: Last fall four US albacore troll vessels were charged with violating one of Canada's fishing laws called the "Coastal Fisheries Protection Act (the vessels nor their

loads of albacore were seized nor were they prevented from unloading and leaving the port).

The U.S. NOAA/NMFS web site at: <http://tinyurl.com/pcgv79a>, is the official U.S. government site which the U.S. fishermen depend upon to be sure they are in compliance with U.S. and Canadian laws and regulations. That website includes the "Guide For Complying With The Vessel Fishing Requirements of The U.S. - Canada Albacore Treaty". This Guide is in effect for the 2014, 2015, and 2016 seasons. Unfortunately, in the case of these four US vessels, the Canadian enforcement authorities have taken the language quoted below out of context.

"In addition, all US vessels must obtain Authorization for Port Activity and Exclusive Economic Zone Entry by a Foreign Vessel" (EEZ license) from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans prior to accessing Canadian ports.

That language, comes from a section entitled "What Canadian Ports are U.S. albacore fishing vessels allowed to use?" In this section it is stated that the vessel to enter a Canadian port needs to fill out and submit a form entitled the "Licence Application and Authorization for Port Activity and Exclusive Economic Zone, etc. However, there is nothing in the U.S. Guidebook that suggests the License has to be obtained before entering the Canadian EEZ. In fact on page 3 of the Guide the specific question is asked "What are the border crossing requirements?" The entire "Answer" is:

Canadian regulations require U.S. albacore fishing vessels to file a hail-in report to the Canadian Coast Guard at Tofino at least 24 hours prior to entering Canadian waters and 72 hours before leaving Canadian waters.

The form "Licence Application and Authorisation For Port Activity and Exclusive Economic Zone, was first introduced after the 2013 season, and at that time no one noticed the title included both port entry and entry into the Canadian EEZ. It is believed this oversight has led to the mistaken idea by the Canadian enforcement officials that more is required of US vessels other than reporting in and out to the Canadian Coast Guard (the Tofino station was recently closed down and all operations were combined into the Prince Rupert station, Phone 250-627-3074). Nevertheless, it has recently been confirmed to U.S. officials by Canadian officials that under the Treaty there is no requirement for an EEZ license under the treaty regulations.

This form, "Licence Application and Authorisation For Port Activity and Exclusive Economic Zone, etc." is required to be filled out, signed by the vessel's captain and submitted to Canadian officials before entering a Canadian port to resupply, pick up foreign crew, or unload fish. This requires the U.S. vessel owner to work with the Canadian agent to determine how this can be done. One suggestion is for vessel owners to obtain these forms at the beginning of the 2015 season, have their Captains sign them before they leave a U.S. port, and then fax or scan and email them to the agent well in advance of when the vessel might enter a Canadian Port. Often vessel owners don't know if this port entry will be needed or not, but it is better to be prepared.

No progress has been made with the State Department to instruct Embassies to issue C-1/D visas for foreign crewman seeking to join U.S. vessels leaving to fish for HMS on the high seas.

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Articles that could have bearing on the 2016 albacore season catch and markets:

The Pacific Ocean may have entered a new warm phase — and the consequences could be dramatic:

Two new studies have just hit about the "warm blob" in the northeast Pacific ocean — a 2 degree C or more temperature anomaly that began in the winter of 2013-2014 in the Gulf of Alaska and later expanded.

Scientists have been astonished at the extent and especially the long-lasting nature of the warmth, with one NOAA researcher saying, "when you see something like this that's totally new you have opportunities to learn things you were never expecting."

The Post's Sarah Kaplan has covered some of the most immediate consequences of the "blob," such as weird appearances of strange marine species more typical of warm water, like ocean sunfish, off the Alaskan coast. She also notes that the blob may be linked to the California drought and other odd weather phenomena.

For Full Article <http://tinyurl.com/pvcvzz7>

Article: First radioactivity from Fukushima hits B.C. Coast - Amounts are too tiny to affect humans or wildlife: <http://tinyurl.com/o2q6usq>

Radiation: National Fisheries Institute has developed a simple website, Fukushimafishfacts.com, to explain the issue. Importantly, Dr. Timothy Jorgenson of

Georgetown University's Radiation Safety program, emphasizes the minute risks associated with Fukushima.

Other:

Vessel Captain Wanted: Looking for captain to run the Wendy Seaa. Would like albacore experience and able to run bigger boats. Thank you, Paulette & Mike Brown 360-317-8687 cell Mike - 360-471-0416 cell

Peter Dupuy: Pierre Roland (Pete) Dupuy Pierre (Pete) Roland Dupuy, 79, Died peacefully at home in Tarzana on April 16, 2015 Pete was a well-respected, hardworking, good and kind man. He loved motorcycles, sailing, and exploring Baja and nearby mountains. As a Commercial Fisherman for over 40 years, he was a staunch advocate for Commercial fisherman's rights. He started the Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association, (VCCFA), and Federation of Independent Seafood Harvesters, (FISH), and was on the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel for the Pacific Fishery Management Council. He also worked closely with National Marine Fisheries Service, taking out Federal charters for research on sharks and other fish species. He took a Federal Observer on every fishing trip to document catch data to help ensure the future of sustainable fisheries.

LA Times Story: <http://tinyurl.com/k9cvt72>

Jack Emmons: Manager of Hallmark in Charleston, OR died April 3. WFOA wishes his family, friends, and coworkers condolences.

New Members Since March 1, 2015:

Andrew Halvorsen	F/V Pelican	Puget Sound
Scott Kastengren	F/V Sunset Charge	Ast/Westport
Ron Wright	Globalstar	
Mendi Jenkins	Marine Refrigeration Solutions	

LARGE TURN-OUT TO HONOR ZEKE GRADER: Over 300 people turned out at the San Francisco Bay Model in Sausalito last Friday evening, 10 April, to celebrate Zeke Grader's 40-year career as executive director for the PCFFA and IFR. Individuals came from Maine and Connecticut, Washington, DC and Texas, Anchorage, Vancouver, BC, Seattle and San Diego in a celebration for Grader, but for much of the work done by PCFFA and IFR, as well. On hand were members of the fishing fleet, along with public officials, family and friends. See: <http://tinyurl.com/nqfermf>

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