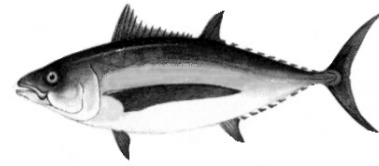


# WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

August 15, 2016

When WFOA sent the last newsletter in June there were already albacore biting off Oregon. This was probably the earliest on record. Since then it has been a very strange year. With about two months left in the present season it will be interesting how it all ends up.

Besides fishing, there are also a number of changes and initiatives in regulation and laws which will affect all albacore fishermen soon. This may be especially true if catch decreases and issues arise in future stock assessments. More catch and effort controls may be in the offing. WFOA will do all we can to maintain access to the fishery for our members.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Members:** With all the new initiatives and regulations, closures, and management now coming to fruition, albacore fishermen become members of WFOA or similar organizations that contribute time and effort representing local fishermen's interests at all levels. Out of the 600-700 vessels that make albacore landings annually only about 35% belong to any albacore fishing organization. Please tell your friends and get them to sign up for the battles that are looming or already here. For the price of a few cartons of cigarettes or a couple weeks of steamed lattes one can be a member of WFOA. I have enclosed a vessel member form.

- **New Page on Website:** WFOA has a new page in our website which contains letters, news, and press releases related to the albacore tuna fishery that may affect access to the resource and availability of albacore tuna and other seafood to the U.S. consumer. See Link: <http://tinyurl.com/zqxq9e>

- **Vessel E-Mail:** A number of boats emails through their VMS systems are getting kicked back. A couple providers changed their addresses from .net to .com and visa versa. You need to set up for the new address. If you have not been getting informational messages

please send in your workable email. Those receiving email on vessels through gmail and other should not be affected.

- **U.S./Canada Member Treaty Poll:** Expect this in your mail by September 1, 2016. We will be asking members (U.S. vessel owners) their opinion on whether to extend the fishing regime under the treaty or let it expire after this season. Please take part!!! There will be a return stamped envelope.

- **NCFC Membership:** WFOA and AFRF have both joined the National Coalition for Fishing Communities (NCFC) who manage the Saving Seafood site out of Washington DC. They have been exposing mismanagement and regulatory excesses for some time mainly on the east coast. Recently they have been leaders in opposing offshore monuments and have incorporated many fishing organizations across the U.S. on the California Monuments, East Coast Monuments and the Expansion of the Monuments in Hawaii which all seem to have a track to conclusions by the end of President Obama's term with pressure from many ENGO's.

Any individual or business can also join, visit their website at: [www.http://fisheriescoalition.org/](http://www.fisheriescoalition.org/)

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## 2016 SEASON:

**Fishing:** Albacore fishing which began a month early in the first week of June with good catches has transgressed into a spotty scattered fishing over the past month and a half. Recently coastal upwelling has improved with more NW wind which could help. Fishing remains scattered from Southern Oregon to Canada from 50-120 miles offshore with no large concentration. Catches in spots off the Oregon coast have been around ½ to ¾ ton per day. Also, there were good catches in Canada early in July but have since become the spotty version as off Oregon. Some boats ventured offshore to scout around and went as far as 145W and found nothing.

As of August 10<sup>th</sup> about 2,000mt have been landed coastwise in U.S. ports. Over 1,400 tons were landed in Oregon. There have also been landings in Canadian ports of unknown quantities. For update U.S. port by port landings see: <http://tinyurl.com/jugprj3>

**Markets and Price:** Prices remain the same at most buyers for regular brine frozen at \$2,540st, and \$2,600st for brine /bled. A few brine frozen albacore were purchased for \$2,600/\$2,650 in Ilwaco. One company was paying \$3,000 ton for brine/bled unloaded in Charleston and good quality.

Iced prices are at plants \$1.25 - \$1.35 but could vary. Seafood Connection in Westport is paying \$2,500 ton for iced in Westport. Blast/bled has varied from about \$3,800st to \$4,400st in U.S. ports. The higher prices were paid earlier. Some Canadian fish were purchased in Canada for \$5,000 USD/ton. Given the lack of product locally and worldwide, fishermen should check with buyers prior to unloading as prices may change at any time especially as the season goes on.

Fishing in Europe is reported to be below average at this time and the Japanese summer albacore catch was down about 30%. The supply from various sources to canners especially in Thailand have reflected this drop and Chinese albacore landings have also fell even though they are more of a bycatch in other species fisheries.

Some believe the lack of fish may be a leftover affect of El Nino and its shakeup of the oceans conditions. This will be looked at by the scientists we are sure in the coming months. Ocean conditions have returned to more of a normal pattern now the August has arrived and a La Nina is predicted for this winter.

## MANAGEMENT & REGULATION:

**Alternate Compliance:** WFOA received a recent notice suspending this program that seemed to be working well and would lead to less costs and regulatory intrusion into your businesses. Unfortunately it appears like all who worked on developing a reasonable approach to marine safety regulatory issues have been dealt an unfortunate setback that will probably end up costing the fleet time and money in the future.

*Suspension of ASCP for fishing Vessels over 50' and Enhanced Oversight Program Everyone, for those of you who participated in recent meetings for the Alternative Safety Compliance Program (ASCP) for commercial fishing vessels over 50' and more than 25 years old, the effort is now in suspension; however, your input will be used for voluntary safety guidelines being developed. See the attached Marine Safety Information Bulletin for details.*

*Manny Ramirez - Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety  
USCG Sector San Francisco Prevention Department  
Phone: (415) 399-7310*

**90 Day Comment period Extension - Vessel Regulations:** Commercial Fishing Vessels- Implementation of 2010 and 2012 Legislation

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard is extending, for 90 days, the period for submitting public comments on the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM). The extension responds to a request made by the public.

**DATES:** The comment period for the NPRM published on June 21, 2016 (81FR 40437) is extended. Comments and related material must be submitted on or before December 18, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by docket number USCG-2012-0025 using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. See the "Public Participation and Request for Comments" portion of the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for further instructions on submitting comments.

**Collection of Information.** You must submit comments on the collection of information discussed in section VII.D of the NPRM both to the Coast Guard's docket and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in the White House Office of Management and Budget. OIRA submissions can use one of the listed methods.

- Email (preferred)—[oira\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:oira_submission@omb.eop.gov) (include the docket number and "Attention: Desk

Officer for Coast Guard, DHS” in the subject line of the email).

- Fax—202-395-6566.
- Mail—Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503, ATTN: Desk Officer, U.S. Coast Guard.

**Proposed Offshore Marine Monuments:** WFOA, AFRF, AAFA, and OAC have been working with other organizations in opposition to the implementation by executive order under the Antiquities Act a string of new offshore monuments off California.

There has been much push-back from almost all commercial, business, and recreational organizations in California, the west coast and some from the east coast. The National Coalition for Fishing Communities has been very helpful spreading the word and will be doing more in the coming weeks. Also, Diane Pleschner of the CA Wetfish Association has been doing much of the coordinating on this effort locally. We have to continue the opposition or it will hurt access and most likely spread.

WFOA and AFRF have signed onto a letter and press release we have posted at: <http://tinyurl.com/zqxq9e>

Also, a letter, from WFOA/AAFA on the proposed offshore monuments to Representative Jared Huffman (CA), and the Saving Seafood press release of July 7<sup>th</sup> are posted on the same page.

**U.S./CANADA ALBACORE TREATY 2016:** The U.S./Canada Albacore treaty’s “fishing regime” expires at the end of this season. WFOA’s understanding from the 2014 negotiations it would take a request by industry to extend or modify the regime. This may or may not be true depending on politics and government policies. Recently we were told by the U.S. dept of State that any “entity, individual, or group” could possibly request negotiations. WFOA’s position is still vital and at this time to not request any extension until we hear from our members.

The “Fishing Regime” under the present treaty controls fishing access by either side, number of vessels, check in and check out procedures, etc. It is described in the treaty annexes and can be modified by exchange of diplomatic notes between nations as opposed to modifying the actual treaty that would require Senate ratification in the U.S. Changing the regime does not require eliminating the entire treaty.

The main question an albacore fishermen must ask is if a continued access to Canadian waters is worth the extra pressure put on the U.S. fishermen in the U.S. zone by the extra number of vessels (45) and the extractions of albacore within the U.S. zone. Giving up area is never easy. Many ENGO’s are working on that, but competing with extra effort is also not easy for many. It Is Time to Decide.

**Treaty Poll:** WFOA will be polling members in the month of September thru October 31. Watch for your poll in the mail. All U.S. WFOA vessel owner members will get a poll card and a SASE to return it in.

**2016 Access to Canada:** For the remainder of 2016 U.S. vessels wishing to fish in Canadian waters pursuant to the treaty must register with NMFS at least 7 days prior to the first planned day in Canada by contacting NMFS at (562) 980-4024 or [albacore.fish@noaa.gov](mailto:albacore.fish@noaa.gov) as well as contacting now Prince Rupert CG (250) 627-3074

Number of Vessels: 45 Canadian Vessels in US EEZ, Historical Number U.S. Vessels in Canadian EEZ. Historic Levels.

Fishing Season: Canadians access to US waters from June 15 - September 15, U.S. vessels can fish in Canadian waters outside of 12nm June 15 - October 31.

Port Access Season: U.S. boats June 15 - Dec 31 under regime. Jan 1 - June 15 with approval and application.

**Marine Stewardship Council (MSC):** WFOA and AAFA completed the 3<sup>rd</sup> year surveillance audit recently on the MSC certifications for the North and South Pacific. This will now lead to a re-certification in 2017. We also have signed on to a letter to MSC with AAFA expressing deep concerns over Star Kist using imagery of local boats and plants in Garibaldi, OR to promote their Blue harbor brand MSC certified fish. The original article came out in Undercurrent News at: <http://tinyurl.com/goq7jpm>

**OTHER:**

**Jim Blum**, of Eureka, CA, F/V Tempest past away Tuesday morning (06-21-2016) in San Francisco. Per Jim’s wishes there was no memorial service or obituary. He just wanted us to let people know by word of mouth.

**Chuck Tracy Named New Executive Director of the Pacific Fishery Management Council - TACOMA, Wa.** - The Pacific Fishery Management Council today named Mr. Charles “Chuck” Tracy as the new Executive Director

for the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Dr. Don McIsaac, the former Executive Director, retired in April.

"We believe Chuck's experience serving as both Deputy and Acting Executive Director and his in-depth knowledge of the issues facing the Council will allow for a seamless transition as the Council deals with important ongoing issues," said Council Chair Dorothy Lowman. "We are convinced he will be able to motivate the Council staff to continue their high level of performance and enable the Council to successfully take on future challenges."

Mr. Tracy's appointment is effective immediately. He has been serving as the Acting Executive Director since Dr. McIsaac's retirement; before that he served as Deputy Director for four years.

Mr. Tracy has a degree in biological oceanography from Humboldt State University with additional graduate level work in estuarine ecology. He has been with the Council since 2001, following several years of service with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife focusing on interjurisdictional fisheries issues, including Columbia River sturgeon research and salmon management. Before becoming the Deputy Director, Mr. Tracy was the Staff Officer responsible for coordinating Council activity on salmon fishery management matters.

**WA State Licence Fee Increase:** By Al Thomas, Columbian Outdoors Reporter - August 11, 2016

A proposal to increase commercial fishing license fees — including a new crew member charge — has been unveiled by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

John Long, the agency's regional director in Southwest Washington, told a public meeting in Vancouver on Monday the proposal would generate about \$1 million from fee increases.

Another portion of the proposal calls for redirecting revenue from commercial fees and an existing fish landing tax into the state Wildlife Account. Currently, that money goes into the state General Fund.

Long said redirecting the money would generate an additional \$3.6 million for the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The proposals require approval of the state Legislature.

A salmon troll license would increase from \$585 to \$735. A salmon ocean delivery license would remain at \$585.

Salmon charter and sport-fishing guide licenses also are proposed to increase.

A salmon charter license would increase from \$620 to \$700. A food fish (salmon, sturgeon) license would increase from \$220 to \$480. A game fish (steelhead, walleye, trout) license would increase from \$250 to \$480.

A combination game and food fish guide license would increase from \$435 to \$800.

Washington charges non-resident commercial fishermen higher license fees than residents. The proposal would equalize those fees. See: <http://tinyurl.com/hwu7qde>

#### **New Members:**

F/V Karen Jeanne	Richard Ogg	Bodega Bay, CA
F/V Southern Horizon	John Gibbs	San Diego, CA

**Great Albacore Tuna Challenge:** (This has already occurred but its still a great story) On Saturday, Aug. 13, the Great Albacore Tuna Challenge will return to the Port of Newport for its fifth year, bringing in 16 culinary teams from all over the Northwest to compete for \$3,000 in prize money.

The popular cookoff will run from 11 am to 3 pm at 2000 SE Marine Science Drive, across from the Hatfield Marine Science Center.

The competition will feature professional and amateur teams from Portland, Eugene and Vancouver as well as the Oregon Coast. See: [www.tunabbq.com](http://www.tunabbq.com)

**VESSEL FOR SALE:** F/V Ventura II, Built and Designed by Gilbert & Son Length: 79.7' Beam: 23.1' Draft: 11.5', Main Engines : 2 Cummins QSM11 (350HP) Reduction Gears: Twin Disc 6:1, Generator(s): 2 John Deere 105 KW. Main fish hold: 60 tons Blast Hung Fish/ 50,000Lbs Iced Fish, LP Super Spool and Hyd. package/ All Long Line Gear Turn Key Operation/ Too many extras to list \$750,000. Karen 818-343-9927 Bill 805-236-4253 cell 1-863-833-3326

Good Fishing and Stay Safe!

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