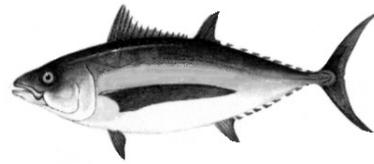


WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

WFOA wishes all a Happy New Year 2019 and hope all had a good holiday season. We are hoping that the 2019 albacore season is a more productive one. Unfortunately international management initiatives are picking up speed and where it goes for us depends on a strong membership.

WFOA thanks all of those that have remained members and not jumped off for single issues. We all want good markets and continued access to the resource and if there are any downturns in albacore stocks nations should share the management and control equally and fairly!

NOTICES:

Annual Meeting: After skipping an annual meeting in 2018 WFOA a scaled down annual meeting at the end of March 2019. Below is the tentative schedule with details in the next newsletter.

WFOA/AFRF 2019 SPRING MEETING
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS - ASTORIA, OREGON

SUNDAY MARCH 24, 2019
Directors Check In
WFOA BOD meeting 1500 – 1800

MONDAY MARCH 25, 2019
Continental B-Fast – Hotel Lobby
WFOA BOD 0800 – 1100 (General Members Invited)
Catered Lunch in Hotel 1200 – 0200 (RSVP)
WFOA BOD 1500 – 1800

TUESDAY MARCH 26, 2019 -
Continental B-Fast – Hotel Lobby
AFRF BOD 0800 – 1500, Working Lunch 1200 – 1300

If you plan to attend the Lunch on Monday, March 25 from Noon until 2PM let us know ASAP. Please email, call, txt, name and number of attendees. We will send more details in the next newsletter but will take any names anytime!

December 30, 2018

Dues: Member dues invoices for 2019 were recently mailed out. We encourage all to pay as soon as you can. Also, if you sold your boat please send us the new owners contact so WFOA can solicit their membership.

Member Contacts: WFOA has been producing email updates for a number of seasons and includes generally regulation, price, and unloading information. Many members have changed emails on their vessels or at home and may not be receiving the messages. WFOA will start this list from scratch beginning now. Members please indicate your regular email and vessels email on your dues receipt or send it to wfoa@charter.net.

Board Vacancies: Both the Coos Bay / Newport District and SF/Bodega Bay District have director vacancies. If interested let the office or your directors know and we can poll the district members.

MARKET and CATCH:

South Pacific 2019: Boats are just arriving in the South Pacific for January-March albacore troll fishery. There are about 10 boats fishing in the

DIRECTORS 2018

BRITISH COLUMBIA
DON BELLHAM

PUGET SOUND
KARL JOHNSON
(Vice - President)
JOHN McKINNON
MIKE BROWN
ROD McVICKER
BRUCE SAMUELSON

ASTORIA / WESTPORT

LOUIE HILL
(President)
ED BITTNER
DOUG FRICKE
LIBIE CAIN
RON HARPER

COOS BAY /
NEWPORT
HENRY deRONDEN
SHAWN RYAN
1- VACANT

EUREKA / FT. BRAGG
AARON NEWMAN

SF / OAKLAND
VACANT

MOSS LANDING
TOM HART

MORRO BAY
WAYNE MOODY

SOCAL/HAWAII
JOHN LAGRANGE

NEW ZEALAND
PETER BALLANTYNE

TERESA REEVES
(Secretary / Treasurer)

region in 2019. There have been no fishing reports yet. Management and effort/catch control is an ongoing discussion for the South Pacific Albacore and more is in the AFRF Newsletter about this and how U.S. access to even the far away troll grounds maybe be in jeopardy despite the fishery being about 1% to 3% of the total South Pacific catch.

North Pacific 2018: The 2018 albacore season on the west coast came to a hasty end late in September. The fish disappeared overnight according to many. The season has been disappointing as far as catches and availability of marketable sized albacore. The positive aspect is that there seems to be a very good young age class of albacore in the ocean which hopefully means good catches in the future.

North Pacific Albacore landings 2018 as of December 14, 2018 PacFin data shows the following landings in U.S. west coast ports.

California -	45 st
Oregon -	2,900 st
<u>California -</u>	<u>4,473 st</u>
TOTAL	7,518 st

This number of tons landed in U.S. west coast ports is down about 500 tons from 2017, and which is about 60% of the last 20-year average. Canadian landings and catches will not be reported for some time in the Canadian EEZ and U.S. EEZ. There may have also been more fish sold direct to the public or retailers in 2018 than 2017 that will have to be factored in.

MANAGEMENT:

Logbooks: All U.S. vessels fishing HMS are required to fill out logbooks and return them to John Childers, SWFSC, 8604 LaJolla Shores Dr., LaJolla, CA 92037-1508 within 30 days if landed in the U.S. Logbooks are available as are e-log options. For Information call 858.546.7192 or john.childers@noaa.gov.

A number of vessels have not returned albacore logbooks from 2017 and 2016. If you are one of these you will not be issued a new HMS permit when you try to renew it.

To Request an Albacore Logbook contact Shannon Penna at 562-980-4238, albacore.fish@noaa.gov, (direct email) or, wcr-permits@noaa.gov

Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC): At the November 1-8, 2018 PFMC meeting in San Diego, CA the albacore discussion will focus on whether, and to what years the “current” fishing level will be attributed for purposes of IATTC negotiations. There is discussion in international management meetings at the IATTC and the WCPFC as well as in the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) processes to determine above dates to establish current effort. Both the IATTC and the WCPFC passed resolutions back in 2005 establishing not expanding the albacore effort beyond “Current Levels”. Since 2005 this has never been established and some countries have just ignored it despite being signors on the resolution. Most of the discussion now centers on dates to use as a guide and the 2002-2004 seems to be a favored date. WFOA believes this date range would be problematic and has opted for a longer period of 10 years or more.

Also, at the PFMC advisory panel meeting, there was discussion of the increasing number of small high-speed recreational albacore fishing vessels that are converting to a commercial status so they can legally sell their catch. WFOA has asked the States of WA, OR, and CA to review the increase in small boat commercial albacore landing licenses. This increase in small vessel licenses may become an issue in how we approach defining effort from the U.S. perspective.

Like it or not this discussion is well under way in all the scientific and management bodies and may lead to quotas, catch limits, capacity controls or other. This is why we send representatives to these long expensive meetings. WFOA has to protect the best we can our aging small boat fleet that catches less than 15% of the North Pacific catch.

WCPFC Northern Committee: Peter Flournoy attended the Northern Committee of the WCPFC in Japan the first week of September. There was not much on albacore except relaying information on the next Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) workshop to be held in March 2019 in Yokohama, Japan.

The other more troubling issue was the Chinese plan to expand their longline fleet by 10 boats into the North Pacific, north of Hawaii in 2019. The U.S. delegation at the Northern Committee meeting of the WCPFC in September in Japan planned to make it a point as well as at the WCPFC regular session in Honolulu in December 2018.

China's absence at the Northern Committee meeting was again noted. The U.S. said that while China continuously reports Additional 10 vessels fishing for North Pacific Albacore, there is some information indicating shifting of efforts of Chinese vessels from south to North Pacific Ocean, which would be in contravention of the effort limitation in the NPALB CMM. The concern was shared by some other CCMs

The next Northern Committee meeting will be held in Portland, Oregon in September 2019. This will be the first time it will be held outside of Japan.

U.S. Canada Treaty: Dave Hogan of the U.S. Department of State attended the PFMC meeting in San Diego this past November to catch up on sentiments toward the treaty and how to proceed forward. This year 2019 is the last year of the present 3-year regime and will expire this fall. The bottom line from the U.S. government is the direction taken will depend on the stakeholders.

WFOA has not taken a poll of the membership on this issue but most likely will either prior to the 2019 season or right after. Negotiations look to begin in the fall for a regime or no-regime in 2020 and beyond.

Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA)-On December 4, 2018, President Trump signed into law the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA): Title IX of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2018. VIDA establishes a new framework for the regulation of vessel incidental discharges, adding a new Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 312(p): Uniform National Standards for Discharges Incidental to Normal Operation of Vessels. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) are still assessing the implications of this new law but several important points are provided below.

Vessel General Permit (VGP) - The VGP will not be reissued but the existing 2013 VGP requirements remain in force and effect beyond the current expiration date of that permit until such time that new regulations are finalized and enforceable. Specifically, the provisions of the 2013 VGP, as currently written, apply until EPA publishes National Standards of Performance (NSPs) and the USCG develops implementing regulations for those NSPs (~ 4 years).

Small Vessel General Permit (sVGP) - The sVGP is repealed effective immediately. Specifically, discharges incidental to the normal operation, except for ballast water, from small vessels (i.e., less than 79 feet in length) and commercial fishing vessels of all sizes no longer require National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit coverage. Thus, permit coverage for any vessel covered under the sVGP is automatically terminated. No further action on the part of vessel operators is required to complete this termination.

Any small vessel or commercial fishing vessel covered under the sVGP that will discharge ballast water into waters of the U.S. must obtain permit coverage under the VGP for those ballast water discharges.

Look for further updates in the coming months on the implications of this new CWA Section 312(p): Uniform National Standards for Discharges Incidental to Normal Operation of Vessels.

For additional updates, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/vessels> or contact us about vessel discharges via email at vgp@epa.gov.

WFOA Membership: WFOA continues to represent the industry the best we can with limited resources and time at all levels where regulation and management threatens our future, especially when it is done politically without good science. Your dues contributions go along ways in at least giving U.S. fishermen a seat at the table in these issues. Unfortunately 2017 saw albacore scattered over a very wide swath of the Pacific with little concentrations. This affects our

revenues which depend on dues and partial tonnage admin fees from AFRF which buyers pay and the AFRF board raised by \$10/st for 2018. On the positive side sustainable troll and pole caught albacore demand remains strong.

Nevertheless, our purpose is to promote the interests of the hook and line albacore fishery and other small boat pelagic fisheries. Some of our priorities include:

- + Pursuing best albacore dock prices in existing and new markets and keeping fleet informed on in-season prices and market changes or additions.
- + Opposing unilateral management by the U.S. on albacore trollers, especially domestic limited entry or ITQ's on albacore trollers. Continuing to raise the issue of IUU (illegal, undocumented, unregistered) drift gillnet vessels.
- + Representing members at the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission(IATTC), Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), International Science Committee Albacore Working Group(ISC-ALBWG), and the federal councils involved (PFMC-WPFMC).
- + Representing U.S. trollers in negotiations of the U.S./Canada albacore treaty. In 2018 we are monitoring the NEW Canadian licences required of U.S. vessels
- + Maintaining the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) North and South Pacific certifications shared with American Albacore Fishing Association. Re-certification was just complete and be good for four more seasons.
- + Monitoring the unnecessary development of Marine Protected Areas, especially regarding access to offshore sea-mounts designated as Marine Monuments under the Antiquities Act. There are now NEW MPA's in the Canadian EEZ which we will monitor.
- + Maintaining association and consumer websites, social media such as facebook and twitter, and membership information through e-mail, mailers, vessel-email and other means.
- + Managing the American Fishermen's Research Foundation (AFRF), involved in archival tagging, representing all U.S. troll albacore fishermen at management forums, and other public education issues.
- + AFRF has processed past archival tagging to be able to use 17 years of data from the tags in stock assessments issues. This has to go beyond this stage however and we will be working with NOAA on a more comprehensive Pacific wide research programs for all tunas.

- + AFRF hires David Itano from Hawaii to oversee the ISC-ALBWG North Pacific Albacore Stock Assessment and Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) now underway.

Although WFOA's primary focus is on troll-caught albacore, we recognize the need for a healthy and strong U.S. commercial fishing industry. WFOA strives for broad support from all gear types on common issues affecting commercial fishermen.

OTHER:

New Blob Article: The Blob could be back. Or, maybe it's the Son of Blob. Either way, the warm water phenomenon first discovered in the North Pacific five years ago is slowly reemerging in the Gulf of Alaska. Although it doesn't appear to be as strong as the original, it could still affect weather and fisheries in Southeast Alaska. Nick Bond is the Washington state climatologist who coined the name "the Blob" when he discovered the original patch of warm water emerging in late 2013.

For Full Article See:

<http://tinyurl.com/yb3e2vbp>

Market Article: The Trouble With Tuna: 'A Lot of Millennials Don't Even Own Can Openers'

StarKist, Bumble Bee and Chicken of the Sea deal with slumping market amid competition from fresher options. Canned tuna, a lunchbox staple from the 20th century, is fighting to keep its spot in American cupboards. Century-old tuna companies like StarKist Co., Bumble Bee Foods LLC and Chicken of the Sea International are trying to reboot demand for tuna fish—selling it in cans, pouches and kits with trendy flavors or as a healthy snack—as they seek to hold on to their dominance in a shrinking market. For Full Article See:

<http://tinyurl.com/yb9tmjmb>

New Members Since October 2018:

F/V Fortuna	Astoria/Westport District
F/V Four Sisters	SoCal District
F/V Molly Jane	Socal District
F/V Natalia Victoria	SoCal District

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