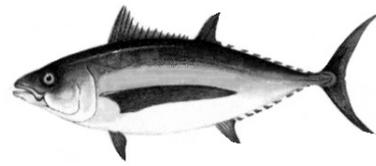


# WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

February 20, 2016

As we start into the new year there is a strong El Nino affecting weather and ocean conditions across the Pacific. Although we do not know any affects this may have on the upcoming season it certainly will be interesting to see if it abates in the coming months. WFOA is as always following the annual barrage of new regulations and requirements imposed on your vessels and people operating them. We are updating our communication methods somewhat to disseminate information more efficiently in 2016.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

✓ **2016 Annual Meeting:** WFOA will hold its 2016 annual meeting from Sunday, March 20th through Wednesday, March 23rd, 2016 at the Hallmark Resort in Newport, Oregon. See attachment for info and contacts.

✓ **2016 Dues:** Invoices were sent out in October and at the beginning of 2016. WFOA really appreciates members who made early payments. ALL 2016 DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE! Feel free to contribute to the public outreach and management support fund and be entered in the 2016 raffle at the annual meeting. Tickets are \$25/each. See enclosed flyer for prize information.

✓ **Member E-Mail Lists** - WFOA is wading through a number of old email lists we use for information distribution throughout the season and year. There is a number of dead emails and a few with wrong or expired addresses. Enclosed is a list of non-functioning e-mails. WFOA will also be trying a new format for member informational messages on Constant Contact once the lists are corrected. If you receive these and want to opt out there is a link at the bottom to "unsubscribe". The normal vessel email list will also be sorted and tested prior to the season.

✓ **Website Updates:** Both the WFOA and AFRF websites are undergoing updates. These should be finalized within a month.

**Albacore Catch 2015:** The recently revised 2015 albacore landings in U.S. ports were; Washington - 8,596 st, Oregon - 3,777 st, California - 28 st, Total - 12,401 st. that amount is an average year since 1995. There is no catch data yet from the Canadian fishery, but the U.S. may have landed as much as 1,000 st of albacore in Canadian ports during 2015.

See attached landing and market value data by port from the PacFin and PFMC. Note this does not mesh with the posted Pac Fin database numbers above and also does not account for a number of fish sold through various small personal markets.

**South Pacific:** Ten boats are fishing in the South Pacific this season, which is a small increase over last season. Fishing is better than last season especially in early January and weather has been generally good. Demand for blast albacore is up with a number of buyers in the market. How that translates into prices when the boats travel back in March and April will be interesting.

Taiwanese South Pacific albacore catches have been moderate with daily catch rates about 1-2 mt/day except in the North Pacific where catching is reported slow.

**MARKET & PRICES:** Compared to a year ago at least in the U.S. and Canada there is little inventory of albacore now. Demand is up for both blast and brine. However it

### DIRECTORS '2015 - 2016'

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#### CORI HALVORSEN

(Secretary / Treasurer)

would be way too early to speculate on the market and prices this summer given the volatility of the world economy and strength of the U.S. dollar affecting export markets. Catches by New Zealand, South Africa, and late spring fisheries in Japan can affect the market. But with that said we are starting in a better position all around in 2016 than the past two seasons.

Low fuel prices have also helped out with prices per gallon of diesel at the lowest in probably 15 years. This could last as economies slow. It also helps other suppliers such as Asian longliners that found high fuel prices a problems a few years ago and tied up many of their vessels.

Albacore ex-vessel prices at the following ports remain unchanged since October 2015

Cape Town/Port Louis	\$ 2,500/ mt
Levuka (BB/FCF)	\$ 2,550 / mt
Samoa (SK)	\$ 2,600 / mt

Albacore prices in Bangkok is reported to be around \$2,850-2,900/mt.

**Marine Stewardship Council (MSC):** WFOA and AAFA who share the North and South Pacific Albacore Pole and Line/Troll Albacore certification under MSC put out for bid a request to a number of certifiers for the 2016-2017 Annual Audit and potential re-certification in 2017. We have accepted the services of MRAG Americas going forward.

Originally this certification was with Moody's Marine who became Intertek who then transferred the certifications over to Acoura Certification when they were decertified. WFOA and AAFA felt it was time to see what was out there and narrowed it down to the MRAG certification body. We are still finalizing the details and clarifying some questions we do have of there certification. Depending on circumstances we do leave open the option of not pursuing re-certification in 2017 if the conditions the industry has to meet are unattainable or are not the same ones applied across the spectrum of all albacore surface fisheries.

NOTE: MSC representatives will be speaking at our annual dinner on March 22, 2016 in Newport, OR. We have asked for a more focused presentation on what MSC can and has been doing for the U.S. west coast certified fisheries, what industry can do more of to promote the product with MSC, and what our industry being certified can do to meet MSC conditions without

penalizing our small fleet when others do not abide by management and regulation.

WFOA does appreciate all the coastal buyers that use the MSC certification and contribute to it. They are the ones ultimately that will decide its fate.

#### **MANAGEMENT & REGULATION:**

**Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC):** The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet March 8-14, 2016 in Sacramento, California to address issues related to salmon, groundfish, Pacific halibut, highly migratory species, ecosystem-based management, and habitat matters. The meeting of the Council and its advisory entities will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Sacramento, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA 95815; telephone, 916-929-8855.

Key agenda items for the meeting include Council considerations to:

- Adopt a range of alternatives for the 2016 ocean salmon fisheries for public review.
- Consider the California current ecosystem and issues relevant to the Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative.
- Consider highly migratory species deep-set buoy gear and international management activities.
- Adopt final regulations for gear change provisions in groundfish fisheries.
- Adopt final regulations for mid-water sport fishery in Oregon.
- Adopt final sablefish fishery incidental halibut landing regulations.

Copies of briefing materials prepared for the meeting can be found on our website [www.pcouncil.org](http://www.pcouncil.org). To access the meeting online please use the following:

<http://www.gotomeeting.com/online/webinar/join-webinar> and enter the March Webinar ID, 112-257-227 and your email address.

**PFMC Executive Director Resigns:** Dr. Don McLissac will resign from his current position as the Executive Director of the Pacific Fishery Management Council effective April 1, 2016, which he has held for 16 years.

Don will continue to work for the Pacific Council half-time under a contract in an Executive Director Emeritus role after April 1 for the balance of 2016.

During that time, he will focus on three matters that minimize transitional impacts to Council meetings and processes: the recruitment and hiring process for a new Executive Director, working to help achieve the funding needs of the Pacific Council, and mentoring the Council staff and new Executive Director in a successional context.

Pacific Council Chair Dorothy Lowman will appoint a small Executive Director Selection Committee and the formal recruitment process for a new permanent Executive Director will begin with Council review and approval of process specifics at the March 2016 Council meeting. She has also approved of the assignment of Deputy Director Chuck Tracy as the Acting Executive Director beginning April 1, 2016.

**Fishing Vessel Classification: House Sends Bipartisan Coast Guard Re-authorization to President's Desk - H.R. 4188:** Language secured by Congressman Don Young (AK) will create an alternative vessel classification compliance program for the construction of new fishing vessels and fishing tenders from 50 to 79 feet in length.

Since coming into effect, new classification rules have caused uncertainty in classification costs, which has had negatively impacted the construction of newer, safer fishing vessels. Through alternative compliance, safety can be achieved without arbitrarily expensive requirements. See: <http://tinyurl.com/gpo4f4t>

**U.S. /Canada Treaty:** The third and final year of the three-year reciprocal fishing regime is 2016. We were told that out of the 45 Canadian vessels eligible to fish in the U.S. EEZ, 44 did so last season. A fair number of U.S. boats also fished in Canadian waters as fish were pushed northward right at the end of June and fair fishing was scattered through Canadian waters all season.

According to the U.S. government there will be no regime in 2017 and beyond unless the fishing industry requests a continuation. The treaty itself will not expire, thus possible port access and other issues could be addressed aside from a suspended fishing regime. However, given past history that scenario may be unlikely or difficult. Therefore your WFOA directors need to start gathering member input on any future regime. If they hear little then we should assume fishermen prefer the status quo and the expiration of the regime.

The suspension of the fishing regime indefinitely is as WFOA interprets it- the default position. Any changes, extensions, or other issues would have to be instigated by the U.S. albacore industry probably by the end of this year.

The treaty is on the agenda item at the March PFMC meeting :

*Council Action: Item F.4 To be heard March 12 - 0800: Consider Reports on International Activities and 2015 U.S.-Canada Albacore Fishery and Recommendations for the 90th Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Meeting and any Fishing Regime for 2017 and Beyond*

WFOA believes it's far too early for the PFMC to weigh in on the matter except to push for better and more timely data reporting out of the Canadians.

WFOA may send out a member poll soon on this issue to begin gathering thoughts and give all members an opportunity to express their thoughts. WFOA will also try to set up port meetings prior to the 2016 season for this issue and others.

**Public Outreach:** AFRF and AFRF have been do updates on all websites and communications lists prior to the start of the next season. We plan to do more consumer education and outreach featuring the local fishing community in action through our outreach on websites, facebook, twitter, and weekly informational e-blasts.

Getting out more information to the public and consumer on where albacore is available off vessels or markets or restaurants will be a priority. In return WFOA needs the information sent to us so we can send it out. We encourage boats selling off the dock to contact WFOA with information on where, when and how much? Also if any retailers or restaurants want information out on any new products or promos please send it to WFOA.

As always we will be working with the Oregon Albacore Commission where we can be helpful as they do a wonderful job in Oregon. WFOA also plans to do more wit groups such as Slow Foods and Chef Collaborative and maybe the Aquariums.

**Bumble Bee Foods has launched a marketing campaign to promote the difference between albacore and chunk light tuna.** February 16, 2016, Tom Seaman - Undercurrent news

The San Diego, California-based supplier is seeking to put right a lack of consumer awareness on the difference,

David Melbourne, senior vice president of consumer marketing and corporate social responsibility, told Undercurrent News.

Bumble Bee, the largest shelf stable seafood brand in the US and the number one in albacore, completed a research project about a year ago that analyzed consumer behavior and sales trends in the US shelf-stable tuna category, he said.

“The research validated a number of key elements that we found in previous studies which included the belief that the category was somewhat outdated, lacked relevance and it simply wasn’t top of mind when planning meals,” said Melbourne.

Bumble Bee also learned something new, only 5% of US consumers could accurately define the difference between chunk light and solid albacore, Melbourne told Undercurrent.

For Full Story See: <http://tinyurl.com/ztdyn8p>

**Senators Wyden, Merkley Keep Lifesaving Coast Guard Facilities Open in Oregon:** From Feb 3, 2016 Press Release - Edited: Working together to prevent the closure of lifesaving air facilities in Newport, Oregon and in Charleston, South Carolina, U.S. Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Tim Scott (R-SC) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) today applauded inclusion of language in the final Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 that now heads to the President for signature.

The bill, which passed the Senate in December and the House earlier this month, ensures neither region loses current search-and-rescue capability for at least the next two years, and puts severe restrictions on closing the facilities after that.

**Forced / Slave Law Bill:** U.S. bill would ban fish, imports produced with forced labor - Undercurrent News - <http://tinyurl.com/z5wor38>

US President Barack Obama may soon consider a bill that would more easily ban the importation of products linked to forced labor, which could include Thai seafood, the Associated Press reported.

Existing U.S. law, the U.S. Tariff Act of 1930, already gives customs officials the authority to reject and block further imports of products suspected to be produced with slave labor. However, the law contains a provision that allows goods made by children, prisoners or slaves

to be imported if consumer demand cannot be met without them, the AP said.

The pending bill would cancel that exemption.

That would open nearly 350 goods produced by child or forced labor — cotton from Kazakhstan, wheat from Pakistan, lobsters from Honduras — up to scrutiny from federal officials.

**Ilwaco port approved for channel maintenance:** Chinook Observer - Feb 16, 2016

ILWACO — The Port of Ilwaco will receive a new year of vital maintenance work on the channel that links it with the mouth of the Columbia River, port officials learned last week. An expenditure of \$1.4 million for channel maintenance in Ilwaco was approved for 2016.

Routine dredging of the port’s access channel is needed to keep it deep enough to accommodate commercial fishing vessels and the U.S. Coast Guard local motor lifeboats.

Spending was not approved for the coming year to study replacing pile dikes that keep sediment out of the Ilwaco and Chinook port channels. Requests were made for \$700,000 for Ilwaco and \$800,000 for Chinook. For Full Story See: <http://tinyurl.com/hpnkny8>

#### **OTHER:**

**Mike Shedore** - OBIT From Chinook Observer

VANCOUVER, WA — Heaven has called one of his bravest commercial fishermen home in the passing of Mike Shedore, 63 of Ilwaco, Wash., on Nov. 24, 2015. An outspoken and high-spirited advocate for commercial fishing for the past 37 years, Mike fought a battle with ALS for the past four years.

He proceeded in death by his parents, Robert and Catherine Shedore. He is survived by his wife, Bea; children, Mikey, Lily and Forrest of Ilwaco and a sister, Jeanne Emerson of Kansas City, Missouri.

A celebration of his life will be held on Memorial Day 2016 at the Fishermen’s Wall in Astoria, Ore., for family and friends where family will spread his ashes into the ocean which he loved so very much.

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