

# WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

March 1, 2017

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Western Fishboat Owners Association 1967 - 2017

Western Fishboat Owners' Association (WFOA), a nonprofit association with vessel owner and supporting businesses from California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, as well as a few in British Columbia and New Zealand is pleased to announce that 2017 is our 50<sup>th</sup> year as an organization. WFOA was founded by albacore fishermen back in 1967 to stabilize market prices for troll and baitboat caught albacore tuna and has evolved over the years into a group representing fishermen in markets, pricing, management and regulation from the state levels to the international level.

Our core membership has remained stable throughout the years with an occasional hill and valley. It has reflected albacore catch and landings which have shown a remarkable 50 years of stability with only a handful of seasons out of the norm.

In 50 years WFOA has had only five managers beginning with Bob Insinger, Jack Boland, Lew Wright, Bill Perkins, and Wayne Heikkila.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Members Dues:** WFOA wishes to thank all who have paid 2017 membership dues thus far. The formal date for billing members was January 1<sup>st</sup>. WFOA will be sending out new invoices in a few days to those who have not yet paid for 2017 and regular reminders throughout spring.

**2017 WFOA Annual Meeting:** The WFOA/AFRF AGM will be held March 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> 2017 in Astoria, Oregon at the Holiday Inn Express. The prime day for the general membership will be Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> for seminars and dinner plus the raffle. **See attached schedule.**

Annual Meeting Hotel Room Deal: If you need a room in Astoria at the AGM venue please call the Holiday Inn Express at 503.325.6222 and ask for the WFOA rate. This is spring break so rooms go fast!

**South Pacific:** Thirteen albacore trollers from the west coast are fishing in the South Pacific this season. Early in the season, at the end of December through February fishing was good. Catch has fallen off now for most boats. Some fish are being unloaded and shipped out of New Zealand and we expect most of the catch to find its way to the U.S. and Canada west coast buyers. Prices for the albacore at this time looks very good given the lack of inventory. Some high quality blast frozen albacore may go for \$5,000 - \$ 6,000 st.

**North Pacific:** It is way too early to predict this year's catch or timing. The 2016 season saw a month early start and 2015 was later. Given that the La Nina pattern was in full effect this past winter with much rain, snow and wind on the west coast it might be easy to assume a more normal July - October pattern will develop. However, all could be different. Also we expect markets to be good as no inventory exists except from

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(Secretary / Treasurer)

the South Pacific. But that can change also. The strong USD is also a factor affecting exports to Europe and Asia.

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

**Permit and Logbook Compliance Letter:** NMFS has recently undertaken an outreach event to remind vessel operators of permit and logbook requirements to fish for HMS in accordance with the HMS Fishery Management Plan. This effort is done to promote compliance with current permit and logbook regulations. A Pacific HMS permit is required to fish for and/or land HMS into U.S. West Coast ports (50 C.F.R. 660.707). Additionally, logbooks are required on fishing trips for tuna and tuna-like species (50 C.F.R. 660.708, 50 C.F.R. 300.22). Failure to comply with these requirements may result in referral to the NMFS Office of Law Enforcement and in sanctions, including, but not limited to, monetary penalties or the modification, denial, or suspension of federal fishing permits (15 C.F.R. Part 904 Subpart D). For more information on permits and logbooks, including how to obtain a permit and the appropriate logbook, visit the NMFS WCR permits website and the NMFS WCR logbook website, or contact the NMFS WCR Permits Coordinator, Shannon Penna, at 562-980-4238 or [wcr.permits@noaa.gov](mailto:wcr.permits@noaa.gov).

**WCPFC Fishing Zone:** A reminder to members if you're planning on fishing west of 150W in the WCPFC zone. We have encountered some issues in the South Pacific where a seemingly minor paperwork issue and a photo of the vessels not showing the Radio Call Sign have been relayed to the NOAA/NMFS PIRO office for potential prosecution and potential large and getting listed forever as an IUU vessel. This is serious and shows sort of how international management can work and potentially put fishermen out of business in an instant. If you are planning on fishing in the WCPFC zone this season make sure you have the Offshore Permit and the WCPFC Endorsement and all the paperwork involved up to date including a picture of the vessel with Radio Call Sign (Doc numbers no longer work)

**WCPFC Area Endorsements:** Information for All Vessels Fishing West of 150°W, and west of 130°W south of 4°S WCPFC.

See: <http://tinyurl.com/lywnp6m>

**High Seas Fisheries Compliance Act Permit:** (OUTSIDE of 200 nm - EEZ) See: [tinyurl.com/mpnj35y](http://tinyurl.com/mpnj35y)

FOR INFORMATION CALL - NOAA/NMFS - 562 980 4238

Both applications can be obtained and sent to: Permits Office, NOAA NMFS , 501 W Ocean Blvd #4200, Long Beach, CA 90802

NOTE: Boats of all sizes possessing the High Seas Permit are now required to carry a VMS. If you do not plan to fish beyond 200nm of the U.S., you can surrender the permit by calling the above #.

WFOA will be updating all the new regulations North Pacific prior t the season in the April or May newsletter. WFOA will also send out the information to vessels!

**Pacific Fishery Management Council:** March PFMC 2017 Briefing Book Posted Online ( Not much related to albacore but a buffet of HMS issues for other fisheries and stakeholders)

<http://www.pcouncil.org/resources/archives/briefing-books/march-2017-briefing-book/>

**US/Canada Treaty:** It appears like things have straightened out at the State Dept with the appointment of the new Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, and authority to negotiate a new regime was given to Dave Hogan. WFOA was concerned that little would get discussed until late spring and we would not get necessary requested changes in place to give us confidence to support a new three-year regime. WFOA had suggested a one-year term if negotiations could not happen and issues like catch attribution language, port access, and other issues could be discussed after the 2017 season when there are no time limits. The State Dept seems to believe they will be able to move ahead on some clean up and changes in order to do a 3-year regime. All agree 45 Canadian vessels is the top number to move ahead and many would like to see less. We will have more on this soon.

**Washington State License Fees:** New proposed rates which have to be passed by the WA legislature call at this time for an additional \$50 license fee resident to land albacore which would raise the present fee from \$250 to \$300. Also, an additional out of state surcharge would be added at \$75 per vessel. A new crew license is also proposed a\$35/each crew licenses per boat up to three,

after which a \$10/each admin fee. Family members would be exempt from crew licenses.

Washington Legislative Committee Report: SHB 1597 did not pass the House Appropriations committee before the Friday, Feb 24 fiscal committee cutoff, however that does not mean the bill is dead. If the revenue in a bill gets referenced in either the House, Senate or more importantly, final budget, the bill is "NTIB", that is, necessary to implement the budget, and therefore not subject to cutoff deadlines. This bill, along with HB 1647 the Hunting and Sport Fishing fee bill, is an end game issue and will most likely not be decided until budgets get closer to completion, which could be April or even June.

**California Fee Increases:** California is also facing a shortfall where CADFW claims a \$20 million gap between landing fees and what it costs to manage the fisheries. Governor Jerry Brown is proposing taking \$10 million out of an existing recreational fishing fund and raising landing fees substantially to cover the other \$10 million. No one has asked what entails "fish management" yet.

California Legislative Analyst's Office Assessment: Current Commercial Landing Fees Insufficient to Support Associated Department Workload. An analysis the department conducted in 2007 estimated that its expenditures on behalf of the commercial fishing industry totaled around \$22 million. While it has not conducted a similarly detailed analysis since that time, the department estimates that associated costs have increased over the past decade due to inflationary costs and additional regulatory mandates. However, combined revenues deposited into the FGPF nondedicated account from commercial licenses, permits, and landing fees totaled only around \$5 million in 2015-16. Other revenue sources? particularly from recreational hunting and fishing licences? have, therefore, been subsidizing the department's commercial fishing-related work. Moreover, the state has not increased commercial landing fees for 25 years, so current fee levels have not kept pace with inflationary increases

**Proportion of tuna from healthy stocks stabilizes:**

Article From F.I.S. Friday, February 24, 2017

About 76 per cent of the total tuna catch recorded in 2015 came from populations at "healthy" levels, a

decline of 1 percent from 2014, according to a report by the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF).

Among the key findings of the report are:

**Total catch:** In 2015, the total major commercial tuna catch was 4.8 million tonnes, a 4 per cent decrease from 2014. Fifty-eight percent was skipjack tuna, followed by yellowfin (28 per cent), bigeye (8 per cent) and albacore (4 per cent). Bluefin tunas accounted for only 1 per cent of the global catch. These percentages changed only slightly from the Nov. 2016 reporting period.

**Abundance or "spawning biomass" levels:** Globally, 52 per cent of the stocks are at a healthy level of abundance, 31 per cent are overfished, and 17 per cent are at an intermediate level.

Stocks receiving orange scores, indicating overfishing or overfished status, include Mediterranean albacore, Western Pacific bigeye, Atlantic Ocean bigeye, Pacific Ocean bluefin, Western Atlantic Ocean bluefin, Southern Hemisphere Southern bluefin, and Indian Ocean yellowfin.

**Fishing mortality levels:** 57 per cent of the stocks are experiencing a low fishing mortality rate, 17 per cent are experiencing overfishing, and 26 per cent have a high fishing mortality that is being managed adequately. Stocks receiving orange scores, indicating overfishing or overfished status, include Western Pacific Ocean bigeye, Atlantic Ocean bigeye, Pacific Ocean bluefin, and Indian Ocean yellowfin. See: <http://tinyurl.com/hfzgd26>

**Marine Stewardship Council (MSC): North Pacific Re-Certification:** There now will be a re-certification in 2017. Given the ongoing stock assessments for North Pacific albacore and the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for Northern Albacore we are anticipating an uneventful re-certification at this time. The MSE processes which will lay the groundwork for future management structure will be completed in about two years. The ISC stock assessment will be finalized around mid-July 2017. The ISC albacore stock assessments occur every three years.

**South Pacific MSC:** WFOA has considered dropping out of the South Pacific MSC certification because of the issues involved plus time and expenses, but it does affect some of our members and developing markets they have. So we will be working with MSC and the certifiers to find

a remedy within our certification. We did find we cannot share in the New Zealand certification as its only for NZ vessels harvesting within the 200nm EEZ of New Zealand.

**New Zealand Troll:** New Zealand's albacore tuna troll fishery has been re-certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) as being sustainably managed. The certification is valid for a period of 5 years and requires annual audits to ensure the fishery maintains its high level of performance.

Doug Saunders-Loder, of the Tuna Management Association (TMA) says the fishery was first certified in 2011. "It is great news that, once again, this fishery has been awarded the gold standard in sustainability.

"A fleet of around 140 vessels troll unbaited lures to capture the predominantly young albacore during a migration down New Zealand's west coast during the summer months," said Saunders-Loder.

The annual catch of around 2,500 tonnes is only a small fraction of the overall annual catch from the South Pacific albacore stock of around 85,000 tonnes, which is taken mainly by international longliners.

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

**Seafood Watch program forges new partnership with tuna nonprofit:** By Madelyn Kearns, Editor - Published on Wednesday, January 25, 2017

The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF) has teamed up with the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch program to spread the message of seafood sustainability through a Conservation Partnership agreement.

IPNLF, which is committed to developing and supporting responsible one-by-one tuna fisheries and supply chains, joins the already extensive network of Seafood Watch Conservation Partners stretching across North America, Europe and Asia. Within the partnership, the nonprofit will work to promote sustainable seafood messaging by way of the Seafood Watch program, a thrilling venture according to Karin Stratton, Seafood Watch partnership program manager. For Full Story

See: <http://tinyurl.com/zs7a3d8>

## **OTHER:**

### **WFOA members obligation to AFRF Contributions:**

Under WFOA's bylaws you are required as a member to submit AFRF fees for any albacore landed to buyers others than those listed at the bottom of the AFRF Newsletter. If you unloaded all or a segment of your catch to those AFRF buyers you need not submit to that portion. Payments of USD \$20/ton can be made to:

American Fishermen's Research Foundation  
P.O. Box 992723  
Redding, CA 96099

### **New Members:**

William Rehmke	F/V Judy S Astoria/Westport
David Richards	F/V Kelli J Coos/Newport
Westport Seafood	Michael Cornman

### **Boats For Sale:**

F/V Ventura II: Year: 1971, Length: 79.7, Builder: Gilbert & Son Location: California. 79.7'x23.1'x11.5' Steel combination Longline/Tuna vessel built by Gilbert & Son in Rockport Texas. Two Cummins M18QTA Main Engs. (350 Hp), Reduction Gears: Twin Disc 6:1, Two John Deer 105KW Generators, Air Blast at -30 in main hold, Two Carrier 5F60 Comp. for main hold, 3 Ton Howe ice machine with Carrier 5F40 Comp., Bait hold freezer with Copeland Comp., 60-65 Tons frozen Tuna capacity, 60,000lbs Iced fish, 3,000 gallon fresh water, Two ISL-700 Water makers, Longline Gear: LP Super Spool 3, LP Line Shooter, LP Hydraulic Package, LP Hook and Buoy Timer, 6 LP Hook Boxes, 8 Radio Beacons. Electronics include, Two ComNav Auto Pilots, Four GPS, Two Radars, One Sonar, Three Plotters, One ADF, Two PC computers, Three Sat. phones, Sailor 150, Faria VMS, Vespermarine AIS, and more. Excellent High Seas Longline and Albacore boat, Proven as one of the Top Producers. Call 818-343-9927 or 805-236-4253. Asking \$750,000

VESSEL FOR SALE: F/V Quashala, 61 ft LOL, 16. 2 ft Beam, 8 ft Draft. Rebuilt, New Deck, Beams, Bulwarks. Wood Hull, Aluminum House. Fish hold divided into 4 tanks for tendering. Refrigerated 25 ton capacity for albacore. Reconditioned Detroit Mail Series 60 with 600 hours. 4 cyl John Deere 75kw aux. Cessna hydraulic system. 120-240v Hydro-watt Generator. Fuel 4,700 US gallons. Many other extras. Asking \$130,000 USD. call Don at 604-594-2056. (Posted 02/19/2016)

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