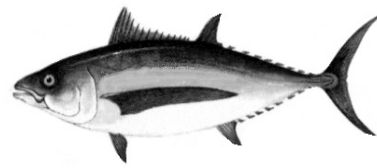


WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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<http://www.wfoa-tuna.org>

Members:

Welcome to 2018! We are hoping that the slow fishing year in 2017 was an outlier, and fishing for all will improve in 2018 with ocean conditions fairly normal. Time will tell. There will be a number of changes to the WFOA schedules this spring outlined below.

NOTICES:

Annual Meeting: The WFOA board due to budgetary concerns attributed to the low catch in 2017 did not budget for a formal annual meeting in 2018. We certainly appreciate patience from members on this issue and most likely will schedule one for 2019.

District Meetings: There will be some issues setting up district meetings or getting member input over the next few months. Since we have no AGM this year, WFOA is trying to get input from members in their districts by a few means. Some directors may have a regular sit down meeting, or WFOA could do an online meeting. Fortunately, there are not many controversial issues at this time so it will make it easier. WFOA will send out some talking points to the directors in March and maybe to the entire membership in April.

Below is a list of WFOA directors whose term are up in 2018. I have also enclosed a list of present directors that members can contact. If you desire to be a director in one of the districts below or want to nominate someone please contact the director in your district. We can do a mail-in ballot in any contested election.

Directors Terms Who Are Up:

BC	Don Bellham
Puget Sound	John McKinnon, Karl Johnson, Rod McVicker
Ast/Westport	Ed Bittner, Doug Fricke
SF/Bodega	Vacant
Moss Landing	Tom Hart
Morro Bay	Wayne Moody

February 20, 2018

Raffle: The WFOA \$20/ticket raffle which we usually draw prizes at the AGM is still on. Sale of the tickets has been good and we will again have top prizes up to \$500 for the winners. The drawing will occur around April 15, 2018 and be done in a way to be determined.

Anyone can purchase these tickets by contacting WFOA or sending extra fees with your dues.

1st Prize - \$ 500 Gift Certificate - Alaska Airlines

2nd Prize - Live Bait Gift Certificate from Westport Seafood - 100 Scoops Live Anchovies (Tradeable)

3rd Prize - \$ 300 Gift Certificate from Englund Marine donated by DaYang Seafoods in Astoria

4th Prize - Large Seafood Gift Box from Westport Seafood

5rd Prize - \$ 100 Gift Certificate donated by Englund Marine

If you need a ticket send request to WFOA by mail and include check payable to "WFOA 2018 Raffle"

WFOA, POB 992723, Redding, CA 96099 or;
E-mail request to wfoa@charter.net we do take credit cards.

DIRECTORS 2017

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
BARRY NELSON
SHAWN RYAN

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)

MARKET and CATCH:

South Pacific: About 12-14 boats are now fishing in the South Pacific. First reports have been slow fishing but maybe it will improve. Markets should remain good.

So far New Zealand local troll season has been much improved on recent seasons with some good catches of up to 1,000 fish per day. However in recent days and weeks the catch rates have fallen way off to about 1,000/ pounds per day. The down side is that the fish are smaller than the usual average at 6-8 pounds, but the size is now said to be improving. Weather has been favorable with water temperatures about 4 to 5 degs C above those at the same time last year.

South Pacific albacore is a hot issue with the management bodies internationally. WFOA has been represented at these RFMO meetings trying to keep our very small far offshore fishery separated from the longline albacore fishery which has had some recent issues and expansion by nations such as China into the region. As a source of information the following is a brief history of this fishery we presented a few years back and why we cannot lose access.

MANAGEMENT:

Magnuson Stevens Re-Authorization: 24 Groups Express Support for HR 200

Note on Letter Below: WFOA signed onto this letter as we agreed with most of the content. However, we do have some additional comments we are going to formally submit especially on the issue of requiring a referendum within industry if IFQ's are proposed. In HR 200 this applies to all other jurisdictions but not that under the PFMC management area at this time. To impose IFQ's on the U.S. albacore fleet or other fleets under the PFMC without them having a say is problematic at the least.

=====

February 12, 2018 -- The following was released by the National Coalition for Fishing Communities:

Twenty-four members of Saving Seafood's National Coalition for Fishing Communities (NCFC) are calling on Congress to enact broad reforms to the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), including allowing for greater flexibility in how stocks are rebuilt and

changes to how new management programs are implemented.

The proposals, delivered in a letter to Alaska Senator Dan Sullivan, would, according to the signers, lead to a reauthorization that "allows for both sustainable fisheries management, and the long-term preservation of our nation's fishing communities."

The primary proposal is the elimination of the strict requirement that all fish stocks be rebuilt within 10 years, a time line that the letter notes "has long been considered arbitrary." Instead, the letter calls for allowing stocks to be rebuilt according to a "biologically-based time frame," an option that it notes has broad scientific support.

"The National Academy of Science in their 2013 report titled 'Evaluating the Effectiveness of Fish Stock Rebuilding Plans in the U.S.' concluded that ten years is indeed arbitrary given the vast differences in habitat, life history, and environmental conditions for fish stocks around the nation," the letter states. "It is therefore time to replace this requirement with a more scientifically valid life-history based metric."

Other proposed reforms to increase flexibility include regular reviews of rebuilding targets, allowing for consideration of alternative rebuilding strategies, and allowing the Regional Fishery Management Councils to consider changes in ecosystems when setting Annual Catch Limits.

The letter also calls for changes in how catch share programs are introduced to fisheries across the country, with the letter "supporting the requirement for a transparent referendum process before any new catch share program can be implemented."

The signers of the letter note that the nation's fishermen are invested in the long-term success and sustainability of its marine resources, and that these proposals will lead to a more effective fishery management system.

"There is no group that depends on the future of our living marine resources more than those who make their livelihoods from the ocean," the letter concludes. "Our recommendations to the already

effective MSA framework will allow us to better protect the people and communities that rely upon healthy and abundant fisheries.”

See Letter: <http://tinyurl.com/ycromogq>

Limited Entry: Also given the push for international Harvest Control Rules (HCR's) there may come a time soon that national quotas are set in which case it would be up to NMFS and/or the councils to figure how to restrict the US fleet (despite the fact it is on decline by attrition). If there is a limited catch such as a TAC or limited effort (Limited Entry) into the fishery it would take a couple years or more to implement through the PFMC. Any HCR could and probably would end the albacore treaty with Canada as it is written. This is not in motion at this time but another poor year could change the game!

Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is requesting nominations of qualified candidates to fill the vacant Processor North of Cape Mendocino seat on its Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) for the remainder of the 2016-2018 advisory body term.

The HMSAS is charged with advising the Council on issues associated with its Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

On the above request WFOA has endorsed the nominees the HMSAS be Don Alber of Jessies' Seafood or Jonathan Gonzales of Pacific Seafood. Either would do a fine job.

There will also be some openings on the PFMC council itself. So far WFOA has endorsed Mr. Mike Conroy for one of the CA open seats. We will be considering others as they become formal.

WCPFC Registration: We keep repeating this message as there may be more participation west of the 150W line this coming season and fines for not registering can be very severe. 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)

MSC: The North and South Pacific Albacore MSC re-certifications shared by WFOA and AAFA is almost finished. MRAG is the certification body doing the work starting with site and constituent visits in August. We expect the process to last until early 2018. The last certificate was set to expire December 20, 2017 but has been extended both for North and South Pacific albacore to June 20, 2018, however the new certificate will be in place by then.

There again are conditions that we do more to establish control rules and reference points in a set time frame. We have been able to work around this so far given our limited influence. We continue to be pushed to promote fair and equitable biological reference points and harvest control rules for the North and South Pacific. Again, we have little influence on the politics of international tuna management but we do what we can at the same time protecting our members from undue and irrational management both internationally and federally.

The re-certification will again be for 4 years with action plans for each year we can adhere too. Beyond this certification we do not know if MSC will be a factor for WFOA in the future. There is a discussion within buyers who have supported the MSC certificate on its effectiveness any longer. I am sure this discussion will be of interest to all and we will keep you informed.

OTHER:

Albert Pierre Marchand Jr. known to the world as Pierre, born Jan. 13, 1949 in Astoria, Oregon, died on Jan. 8, 2018, in Reno, Nevada, surrounded by the love of his family. Pierre was the eldest child of Al and Jessie Marchand.

Pierre along with his sister, Denise, her husband Doug, and brother Phil bought the family seafood

business from their parents in 1979. Together they ran the family seafood business, Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Co with Pierre as president until they sold it in 2013. Pierre was known throughout the West Coast seafood industry as a colorful, knowledgeable, innovative businessman who was an advocate for his trade.

Pierre received numerous awards for outstanding service to the seafood industry. Pierre grew up in the seafood industry working alongside his parents beginning with Seaside Clam Company, which operated in Seaside and Warrenton, Oregon.

Al and Jessie bought Ilwaco Fish Company in 1962 which they later renamed, Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Company. Pierre loved running the business and followed this passion all of his life. He also loved to travel and ventured all over the globe for both business and leisure. He especially liked to go on cruises, many accompanied by his close friends, Nolan and Linda Giddings, and Dan Hess.

Pierre married the love of his life, Colleen Grant, in October 2016, on a covered bridge in New Hampshire surrounded by friends and family. The last two years with Colleen were some of the happiest days of his life, which was apparent to all that knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Colleen; her daughters, Elizabeth and Avery; his sister, Denise and her husband, Doug Ross, who was also Pierre's business partner, and their two children, Heather Josh, Stef, and Collin (Madeline) Ross; his brother Phil, also his business partner, and his wife Elena, and his great niece and nephew Sienna and River. Pierre's humor and generosity will be missed by all.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Pierre on April 14, 2018, at the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum 115 Lake St. SE, in Ilwaco, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Memorial donations in the memory of Pierre Marchand can be made to: Western Fishboat Owners Association, P.O. Box 992723, Redding, CA 96099 or the organization of your choice. See: <http://tinyurl.com/y8cpqxd3>

Roger Thomas: As most of you have already learned, Roger Thomas, our friend and longtime leader in west coast fisheries, passed away last month.

Here is a local news story about Roger:
<http://tinyurl.com/y8s85ez6>

2018 Salmon Information Meeting: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Annual Salmon Information Meeting will be held on March 1, 2018 in Santa Rosa, California. The meeting will provide the latest information on California salmon stocks and the outlook for ocean and river salmon fisheries during the upcoming 2018 season. A panel comprised of fishery managers, scientists and industry representatives will be assembled to address questions and gather public comments that will be used to develop a range of season alternatives for California sport and commercial ocean salmon fisheries at the March 8-14, 2018 Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) meeting in Rohnert Park. The public is encouraged to attend and provide direct input to their California representatives who will participate in the upcoming PFMC season setting process.

Where: Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa, California 95403
Date: Thursday March 1, 2018
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information on the meeting, please contact California Department of Fish and Wildlife Environmental Scientist Kandice Morgenstern at (707) 576-2879 or visit the Department's Ocean web page at www.wildlife.ca.gov/oceansalmon.

Next Newsletter: The next newsletter will be around April 20th. Any supporting member wishing to insert flyers or info sheets should contact WFOA at least a week prior. We may also do a special supporting member only mailer in mid May.

Work Wanted on Boat: I'm looking for work anywhere on a boat now and my son and I would like to crew out for the 2018 season to get my 90 days and get my son trained too.

Thanks, Dale Pierce-<dpierce.absp@gmail.com>
707 540 5952

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Thanks - Stay Safe