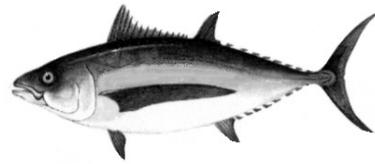


# WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

As we begin a new year and approach the 2019 albacore season, WFOA wishes all a prosperous and safe season. There have been two years of catches below average on the west coast but after seeing an upturn in the South Pacific troll fishery in 2019 we remain encouraged for the North.

This newsletter is short as it has been a quiet winter but management activities are about to pick up internationally. The April newsletter will have details. Also, there is no American Fishermen's Research Foundation (AFRF) newsletter attached, but AFRF research activities are important activities on the board agenda and a full report will be in the AFRF April newsletter.

There is a section below under "Management" that gives a brief description on the ongoing Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) that COULD bring on international albacore quotas in the North Pacific or effort controls of some design. This process was supposed to be a vehicle for fishermen to have a voice in management design, but it has become an "eyeball-glaze-over" technical process that could bite us.

## NOTICES:

**Annual Meeting:** After skipping an annual meeting in 2018 WFOA will hold a scaled down meeting at the end of March 2019 in Astoria, OR. See attachment and an RSVP is required by March 20<sup>th</sup> to attend the lunch.

**RSVP:** If you plan to attend the lunch on Monday, March 25 from Noon until 2:00 PM let us know ASAP. Please email, call, txt, name and number of attendees. See attached informational sheet.

**Newsletter Flyers:** Supporting members wishing to insert flyers in the next two newsletters have a deadline of April 25<sup>th</sup> and June 10<sup>th</sup> to send WFOA flyers and electronic (PDF) flyers.

February 28, 2019

**Dues:** Member dues invoice reminders for 2019 were recently mailed out. We encourage all to pay as soon as you can. Also, if you sold your boat please send WFOA 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. The board will be discussing restructuring the WFOA board makeup at the March meeting.

### DIRECTORS

#### 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)

**MARKET and CATCH:**

**South Pacific 2019:** Boats have come and gone in the South Pacific for January-March albacore troll fishery. There were just nine U.S.-BASED boats fishing in the region in 2019. Fishing was surprisingly good early on with the vessels averaging maybe two tons per day. The albacore was either transported back to the west coast and Canada or transhipped out of New Zealand at a high cost. Some of the boats completed multiple trips until the weather and fishing became worse a week or two ago.

Star Kist did offer to buy U.S. troll albacore in American Samoa if boats needed a fast turn around but since all boats in the south are blast/bled it probably worked out to deal with the one load given timing. Star Kist could pay \$2,750/st in Pago which was based on regular longline minus deductions for recovery on smaller size <20 pound. WFOA does appreciate that they were willing to help out, despite the fact they could not compete with blast/bled prices.

The New Zealand albacore fishery also was improved over last year with larger sized fish being caught in a number of areas.

**North Pacific 2018:** There have been no changes to the landing data for the U.S. 2018 albacore season since the last newsletter. 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>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,518 st</b>

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. U.S. vessels landed approximately 500 tons in Canadian ports in 2018.

**North Pacific 2019:** Given the large numbers of small albacore reported along the west coast last season the best hope is that they added a year in growth and will be 12-15 pounds and available. The increase in number and size in the South Pacific gives us hope for

such a turn around but also when the South was really good in past years the north Pacific did not produce.

There is some speculation that there could be a 30-year or more hemispherical shift of albacore. That sounds sort of far fetched and time will tell. Given the lack of tagging AFRF could not do in the heavy El Nino years in the north may have shown some interesting results.

The weather patterns have been very wet and cold in the NE Pacific region this winter and a budding El Nino never formed. Thus, the best guess on conditions would probably lean toward normal July - October patterns.

Pricing and markets will as always depend on catch in Japan in May and June and Spanish catch in the Bay of Biscay which was exceptional in 2018 for the first time in a number of years. The Spanish and European countries do fish on a quota and the season was closed on August 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2018. Left over inventory is also a factor and we have mixed messages on the amount in storage at this time.

**MANAGEMENT:**

**MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION (MSE) Process for North Pacific Albacore:**

**What Is It?**

As noted above, the technical name is Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE). Basically, it is an attempt to create a computer model that will evaluate different ways to internationally manage the North Pacific albacore (NPA) stock. The computer model is written with criteria on different levels of total harvest (including U.S. and all international fisheries), and tests how these criteria achieve goals of maintaining a sustainable NPA biomass, maintaining a reasonable variability around historic depletion of total biomass, maintaining catches by fisheries above historical catches, and maintaining fishing at a target level with reasonable variability. This effort is being pushed by the U.S. and Canada delegations to the Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs).

Right now, the NPA stock is considered healthy

and is not overfished or is overfishing occurring. The U.S. international managers do not anticipate that the MSE process will affect our harvest opportunity in the near term. However, if there is an abnormal depletion in the NPA stock due to nature, ghost fleet, transfer from South Pacific, etc., there will likely be some type of harvest control at the international level that will affect either effort or catch on the U.S. fleet may be required. The MSE would inform which of such harvest control criteria may work best given the stated goals above.

Below is a summary of the MSE status by our science consultant David Itano. David would be glad to provide more detail information for anyone that wants more technical information beyond what he describes below. Also, Dr. Steve Teo and Dr. Girard DiNardo will be at our March 25th annual meeting luncheon and AFRF meeting on the 26th to give further explanations and answer questions.

In the MSE model, levels of total fishing intensity depend on the management strategies being tested and the estimated spawning stock biomass. The model refers to the estimated size of the biomass of the adult North Pacific albacore females in the Pacific (Spawning Stock Biomass). The MSE tested a management strategy with a fishing intensity comparable to historical as well as two others with higher fishing levels. At the request of industry, the model also examines the potential impact of increased exploitation of NP Albacore due to a movement of effort from other regions and fisheries.

The process can produce estimates of fleet-specific fishing mortality, estimates of Total Allowable Catch (TACs) or effort (TAE) and the overall TAC/TAE. The overall TAC/TAE is split among all the international fleets based on average historical (1999-2015) allocation. The MSE is therefore a modeling tool to examine how potential management strategies impact and maintain the stock. Allocation and restrictive management is subsequently handled at the RFMO level should it be deemed necessary.

A Workshop at Yokohama, Japan in early March will roll out the MSE model and results to managers, stakeholders, NGOs and other scientists for the first time in a mixed, international forum. In preparation for the meeting, NOAA hosted a one day webinar for US stakeholders to present and discuss the MSE model results. The general fallout from that webinar was that the presentation of results was too technical and detailed to allow stakeholders a level of

understanding to allow them to critically discuss the model at an international meeting and that it is likely that representatives from other nations would have similar issues. In response, NOAA staff prepared a simplified document explaining the MSE process, engaged in email exchanges and hosted another group call with US stakeholders to prepare for the Yokohama workshop, 5-7 March 2019.

**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](mailto:john.childers@noaa.gov).

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

**WCPFC Northern Committee:** The next Northern Committee of the WCPFC meeting will be held in Portland, Oregon in September 2019. This will be the first time it will be held outside of Japan. This is a very important meeting in regards to MSE, stock status, access to the area west of 150W and future management and regulation of North Pacific Albacore.

**U.S. Canada Treaty:** 2019 is the last year of the present 3-year regime under the U.S./Canada albacore treaty. The U.S. government's position going forward will depend on the stakeholders. As we all know there are opinions across the board on this and it is difficult to find consensus.

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. This will be on the board agenda at the end of March. Negotiations look to begin in the fall for a regime or no-regime in 2020 and beyond.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

Feb 26 - Mar 4 Albacore Working Group MSE, Stock Assessment, Model Development, Shimizu, Japan

March 5-7 4th ISC MSE Workshop, Yokohama, Japan

March 8-12 PFMC in Vancouver, WA will have HMS issues on the agenda and report on MSE.

Lake Arrowhead Tuna Conference, May 20-23, 2019

**OTHER:**

**WCPFC VMS collection-of-information approval:**

From Pacific Islands Regional Office NOAA Fisheries - As you may know, when NOAA collects information from the public, it needs approval to do so under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). We have had such a collection-of-information approval for the WCPFC VMS regulations at 50 CFR 300.219 (OMB control no. 0648-0596).

This message is simply to let the members of WFOA know that those VMS collection-of-information requirements are now covered under a different PRA approval, which is primarily for requirements under the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act (OMB control no. 0648-0304). Consequently, the WCPFC VMS-specific approval is being discontinued.

This change does not affect the VMS requirements in any way, it's simply a shift in the PRA approval.

**Suzy Howzer:** Woodley Island Marina, Eureka, CA Dockmaster of the past 31 years, Suzy Howser is retiring from her job as of February 28<sup>th</sup>. WFOA wishes her the best and recognizes the great job she has done for the 31 years.

**PCFFA Fisheries Forum:** The PCFFA Fisheries Forum Seafood Reception will be held on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM on the eve of the 46<sup>th</sup> Legislative Forum in Sacramento. Location is the St. Johns Lutheran church in Oehler Hall at 1701 L Street, Sacramento, CA. RSVP by March 7<sup>th</sup> to: [Annelise@ifrfish.org](mailto:Annelise@ifrfish.org)

**U.S. climate and oceans agency (NOAA) hit by leadership shake-up** - February 26, 2019

Former industry scientist Neil Jacobs takes over as acting chief of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in a sudden switch.

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which has been without a permanent leader since President Donald Trump took office in January 2017, is in the midst of a leadership shake-up.

Timothy Gallaudet, the oceanographer and retired US Navy rear admiral who has served as the agency's

acting head since October 2017, will be replaced by former industry scientist Neil Jacobs, according to an internal memo circulated on 25 February.

Gallaudet will remain at NOAA in his Senate-confirmed post as the assistant secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere. But Jacobs, the agency's assistant secretary for environmental observation and prediction since February 2018, will take over the job of running NOAA. For Full Article See: <http://tinyurl.com/yyp44uan>

Chicken of the Sea expands tuna cup line nationwide - By Christine Blank - February 21, 2019

After a limited launch last August, Chicken of the Sea is rolling out its Infusions tuna cups nationwide in the United States.

Designed for a light meal or snack on-the-go, Infusions is a resealable, single-serve recyclable cup of wild-caught tuna with a built-in fork. It is geared towards busy millennials who aspire to healthier habits, Chicken of the Sea said in a press release. For Full Story See: <http://tinyurl.com/y2ssc6d8>

**Plant-based tuna aims to be the future of fish - without the smell:** This tuna has a catch - it's not fish. - Vegan food company Good Catch has created a version of albacore tuna said to look and taste just like the real thing without using any fish. It's the latest alternative food product to take a bite out of the \$13.7 billion plant-based industry following the growing popularity of lab-grown "meat" brands like Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods. <http://tinyurl.com/y3wsphytz>

**New Members Since January 1, 2019:**

F/V Akvavit	Lars Holmdahl	Puget Sound
F/V Shenanegan	Harry J Allen	Coos Bay/Newport
Wickland Pacific Insurance Agency		West Linn, OR

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