

WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

June 15, 2016

With only days or weeks until quantities of albacore may be showing on the west coast, (there are some unverified reports of a few caught off Coos Bay) this newsletter does contain information on regulations, buyers/unloaders/ and flyers from supporting members. All of this should help to get the season underway.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dues: There are still a few vessel owners and supporting members that have not paid 2016 member dues. We have sent reminders out. If you do not pay by June 30th we will remove you from our info lists etc. We also encourage new member especially those smaller coastal vessels.

Vessel E-Mail: WFOA maintains an informational e-mail list to the boats in the summer months. We usually send short messages on price and markets or regulations as they occur. Some vessels receive regular email through Sat-Phones but many get messages through their VMS systems or other means. We are updating these lists so please let WFOA of any changes in email addresses, contacts, or if you desire to be off or on the lists.

In Season Fish Reports: WFOA will also post very general catch into on the wfoa-tuna.org website under "Fish Reports" as the season progresses.

WFOA welcomes at-sea reports e-mailed in anytime and will post confidentially but will not post any detailed locations of catches. We also welcome good photos or videos of fishing and related items for posting on social media and websites.

MARKET & PRICES: Albacore dock prices for 2016 should be finalized soon. There is interest in the product this season and I foresee a fairly stable market through the 2016 season. WFOA has been contacted by albacore buyers we haven't heard from for awhile inquiring about available fish this season. Vessels returning from the South Pacific were paid prices as high as \$4,800/st by Canadian buyers for blast/bled. However, the tonnage from the SP

was not that great, probably around 400 tons. As always unforeseen conditions, world economics, and supply both locally and worldwide have bearing on the prices. We will update information in the emails between now and July and throughout the season any new information of potential markets, prices, and buyers.

Also, WFOA will be updating any information on ocean conditions and buyers updates as they develop. Since markets for albacore this season look better than the past two seasons in both brine and blast, effort may be up from vessels from other fisheries such as salmon, crab, and shrimp.

Catch: As of this edition there has been no verified reports of any albacore catches off the west coast. That does not mean it has not occurred as water temperatures look favorable for mid-June running around 60 F in usual areas. Over the past 10 years fishing has started early than in years prior by as much as three weeks.

List of Buyers: WFOA has included a list of buyers in this newsletter. Some have included flyers also. PLEASE READ THE FLYERS FROM BUYERS. WFOA takes no favorable position on any particular buyer as it is up to the individual fishermen to choose. WFOA will announce buyers who change prices

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and terms of buying throughout the season as quickly as possible. We highly encourage fishermen to support those buyers that give best service and pricing!!!

Unloaders and Insurance 2016: Many WFOA members received notices from insurance pools and carriers that using unloaders at buying stations without proper insurance could result in enormous liability to the boat owners. Most buyers caught in the middle last season did not provide unloaders. Vessels could secure them on their own. This year Interocean Seafoods stepped up first announcing they will pay the unloader insurance and supply unloaders. Since then we found out others may have been doing it or will do it this year. Vessels should ask their buyer prior to unloading if they supply this service otherwise you will be the responsible party.

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC): WFOA and AAFA will be doing a 3rd year surveillance audit soon on our MSC certifications for the North and South Pacific. This will lead to a re-certification in 2017. WFOA sent out the annual MSC contracts to buyers last month. We only sent to those that have signed up in the previous seasons so if you are a fish buyers/processor that are planning on buying MSC albacore contact WFOA for a contract. Designated buyers, vessels, and information is listed on www.wfoa-tuna.org under the "MSC" menu item.

On another note that may affect some west coast buyers markets, North Atlantic albacore artisanal fishery was certified as sustainable in June 2016.

Most of the live bait fleet catches are from two main areas of offshore Atlantic waters during July and August and from the Bay of Biscay area during September and October. The troll fleet work mainly in the offshore waters of the North eastern Atlantic from June to September. Only partially in September and during October the activity of this fleet took place in the Bay of Biscay area.

The landings from the Basque Country from 2011 and 2012 were of 4,408 t and 6,344 t respectively. In the last two decades albacore tuna landings from the Basque Country represents the 54.5% of the total Spanish landings and 31% of international albacore captures.

The total catches from both Units of certification during the 2013 was approximately of 4.300 tons.

MANAGEMENT & REGULATION:

Note: Besides usual meeting of the PFMC, IATTC, WCPFC, and other bodies over the next six months there

are new regulations vessels need to comply with, and old ones that need to be addressed. A few important ones are listed below but please go to the WFOA website at www.wfoa-tuna.org and click on the Permits/Regs menu items for updates and the downloadable TO DO LIST for more details on requirements. The list was also included in the April 2016 Newsletter as a four page insert. If you need one let WFOA know and we can mail or email you a copy.

U.S. / CANADA ALBACORE TREATY 2016:

For general info: <http://tinyurl.com/lopjffb> U.S. Vessels wishing to fish in Canadian waters pursuant to the treaty must register with NMFS at least 7 days prior to the first planned day in Canada by contacting NMFS at (562) 980-4024 or email albacore.fish@noaa.gov, as well as contacting now Prince Rupert CG (250) 627-3074

U.S. /Canada Treaty Talks: There was a US/Canada Data working group meeting held last month as well as a treaty bilateral phone-in meeting on May 29th between governments attended by stakeholders.

On the calls last years landings were discussed with some of the figures a little off but would be resolved. Off the Canadian albacore fleet 2015 - 43 fished in US waters, 161 in Canadian waters. Canadians landed 3,812 tons (154 vessels) in Canadian ports and 244 tons (11 vessels) in US ports. From the US fleet 39 checked in to fish in Canada, while 587 US vessels fished in US waters. US vessels landed 11,049 tons (562 vessels) in US ports and 756 (19 vessels) in Canadian ports. There was some but small effort from both nations on the high seas. Both sides from Law Enforcement reported little or no issues on the grounds.

WFOA wrote prior to the call this message to the US State Dept concerning our views on the treaty and regime as it stands at this time.

Dear Mr. Hogan: (US Dept of State)

Western Fishboat Owners Association (WFOA) plans to make no policy position statements on the US/Canada albacore treaty until after the 2016 summer albacore season. We plan to educate the members on historical patterns in the catch, areas of the catch, and landings by both sides prior to a 30 day poll we will conduct during September 2016 of our membership. At this time WFOA recognizes the default position of no regime after 2016 and plans to remain with that position unless we hear otherwise from the fishermen.

In the meantime we remain very concerned about port access issues and the ease thereof for our vessels. Compared to the US port access for Canadians we believe the Canadian system could be vastly modified as it remains very subjective to individual agents and discretionary as managed by the Canadian Coast Guard, DFO, and customs. Many of our vessels calling into Canadian ports receive very mixed signals about procedure and some actually get cited or

arrested. This needs to be corrected if there is any thought of a regime extension.

We are also very concerned about the credit for catch given to the US for Canadian fish caught in US waters and applied to any future national allocation. This issue has never been clarified satisfactory and must be definitely resolved before any new regime can be negotiated, since this was supposed to be resolved in negotiations over three years ago.

Also, US industry requested Canadian landing data from within the Canadian territorial sea for an informational data request. It could be compared to US catch inside the US territorial sea. The numbers may be striking, for Canadian catch in those waters may be as high as 50% of the available annual catch, compared to the US territorial sea where it is a very small number. This is very important as the US does not have access to this fish and should be factored into any future regime balance. If the numbers are not that high and good logbook data will show this, it will still be good information to know for both data collection and possible scientific data reflecting ocean structure in the region.

WFOA would like this data to be compiled for the 2014 and 2015 seasons as well as the upcoming 2016 season. It should be readily available from Canadian logbook data as would any US catches that occurred inside the US territorial sea. The data mentioned above needs to be made available to stakeholders prior to our polling of our membership. - WFOA

At the very end of the call the DOS was asked - "What would signal the resumption of talks to establish a new regime?" The answer was "Action could be generated by one side or another." When asked what "side" meant he said "that this could be an individual or group of individuals exercising a natural interest"...Thus all members can interpret as you see fit.

Right now WFOA supports the suspension of the fishing regime indefinitely as 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

We will be polling members in the month of Sept for 30 days so watch for your poll in the mail later this season.

Vessel Captains Dolphin Free Training and Statement: New Dolphin Safe Captains Course and Statement 2016 -It appears most albacore fishermen received a letter from NMFS saying you are required to complete a Dolphin Safe course and have a certificate to present after each trip.

In response to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) new rules on "dolphin safe" labeling of tuna imports, Earth Island Institute — a non-profit which owns Dolphin Safe — said this brings

the US into compliance with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules

The NOAA Website has links to the so called "Course" which appears all you have to do is read the downloadable PDF file, and then there are links at acceptable one page templates you can carry with you. Link: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/dolphinsafe/dsctc.htm>

Public Outreach: WFOA and AFRF have been doing updates on all websites and communications lists. 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.

Interesting Article on Canned Tuna Industry in the Pacific: <http://tinyurl.com/h8zs3z7>

OTHER:

CA F&G Commission new Executive Director: The California Fish and Game Commission has hired Valerie Termini, a policy adviser at the California Ocean Protection Council, to serve as executive director.

The Fish and Game Commission advises the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on conservation practices and helps develop policies, including setting hunting and fishing regulations. Officials at the Department of Fish and Wildlife praised Termini as an informed conservation leader who is well positioned to move the agency and California's wildland and ocean management forward.

See: <http://tinyurl.com/hee82mm>

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 dived 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 1-604-594-2056.

Hand Smoke Distress Signal: The Coast Guard has withdrawn the Certificate of Approval (160.037/23/0) for NAMMO LIAB AB Orange Hand Smoke Distress Signal, and the approval status of this certificate is now marked as "Former- Do Not Use." This action was taken because the chemical makeup of the signal was changed in October 2013 without Coast Guard approval and the signal that was manufactured is at risk of spontaneous combustion when dropped.

These smoke signals may be labeled and marketed as "Polar MK 4" by NAMMO LIAB AB or as "IKAROS" by Hansson Pyrotech. "IKAROS" Hansson Pyrotech is the more current manufacturing name. Datrex Inc., of Kinder, LA, is the only distributor for these products in the United States. There are approximately 2,790 signals with the potentially defect in the US market.

Any signal manufactured after October 2013 must be properly disposed of and replaced with a product that satisfies the vessel's carriage requirements. For questions or concerns, contact Datrex at 337-738-4511 or via email at datrex@datrex.com.

Any questions, comments, or incidences of accidental ignition involving these signals under this Certificate of Approval should be sent to sent to sent to: HQS-PF-fldr-CG-INV@uscg.mil

Interesting Article on Japan Fishing Trends: Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has submitted its annual White Paper on Fisheries to the legislature for approval. Although the English version has yet to be released, the Japanese version is available and gives an eye-opening summary of the trends affecting the fishery in 2015 and provides a glimpse into what Japan's policy for 2016 and beyond will look like. The report reviews the rapid post-war growth of Japan's fishing industry due to adoption of motorized vessels and new technologies. However, since the 1970s, the rising cost of oil and the imposition of 200-mile exclusive economic zones (EEZs), as well declining prices for marine products, have generally put the Japanese distant water fleet fishing industry into decline, with resulting fleet reductions and tougher times for the country's many fishing villages.

Japan is also coping with a decline in domestic seafood consumption, following a peak in 2001. In response, the

Fisheries Agency is targeting one of the most positive aspects of the report: the rise of gourmet, or "foodie," tourism. The report noted a sharp increase in tourism following the easing of visa requirements for visitors from many Asian countries, including China. Subsequently, the number of tourists visiting Japan has doubled from 2012 to 2015, reaching around 2 million total visitors last year. In a survey, 26 percent of tourists said the part of their visit they were most looking forward to was eating Japanese food, with 34 percent specifying sushi and fish dishes. To respond to that demand, the agency is encouraging regional branding of local specialties, including a three-year-old promotional program called "Pridefish," which highlights one seafood specialty from each prefecture each season.

The program also provides information on seasonal fish that is lacking since small fish shops have largely been replaced by supermarkets. The report also notes changes in the role and financial capacity of local fishery cooperatives. A new government initiative is promoting private fishing, trading and aquaculture companies, but they are required by law to forge capital tie-ups with the cooperatives. This is a contentious issue in coastal villages, as it is sometimes seen as a precursor to privatizing and handing over local access rights to large corporations. On the other hand, it will infuse needed capital into local ventures and create jobs.

Also noted in the white paper is the greater emphasis Japan is putting into conservation efforts within its own EEZ. The total allowable catch (TAC) system began in Japan in 1998 for six target species: saury, Alaska pollock, sardines, mackerel, Southern mackerel, horse mackerel, squid and snow crab. That's a small amount, but in place of TACs, Japan mostly employs total allowable effort, which restricts the number of boats and men allowed to fish for a certain species. The country is experimenting with an individual quota system for purse seine mackerel in North Pacific Ocean through a pilot project.

The white paper also noted the graying population of Japan's fishermen, with their average age now above 60 years old. The paper said that while younger fishers are joining the industry, by and large, they are most interested in aquaculture because it is a growing sector, it's considered safer and they don't have to cope with long family separations. The report also notes the growing role of women in the fishing industry, as labor-saving mechanization of the set-net fishery is allowing them to do jobs previously prohibitive to them due to their physical difficulty. See More At - <http://tinyurl.com/hopnlky>

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