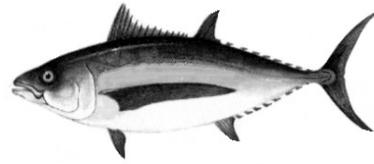


WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

June 15, 2017

The 2017 albacore season is rapidly approaching. If 2016 was an indication, it may have already started. However, 2017 looks more normal as far as ocean conditions go. Market conditions are looking favorable this season and effort should be the same or slightly higher than in the past two seasons. As always WFOA will update information on markets and rules and regulations as they occur throughout the season to members via all communication means.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

North Pacific Albacore Archival Tagging Project:

AFRF in cooperation with SWFSC - NOAA hopes to do an early tagging trip in August and possibly a later one in September in 2017. AFRF is looking to maintain a small list of qualified vessels that can do in-season tagging of albacore. The requirements above may not be totally necessary especially if the vessel and owner have experience and are dedicated. If you think you qualify and want to be considered let us know. This can be both commercial and recreational depending on the time of the year and/or area where the tags are to be deployed. AFRF/SWFSC has 80 tags for 2017 that could be all placed in one trip or two if necessary, from August through October.

Reimbursement is about \$3,600 day plus fuel. Trips take from 3-7 days on average until tags are deployed. Contact AFRF/WFOA at 530-229-1097, or email at wfoa@charter.net. See Insert.

Dues: There are still a few vessel owners and supporting members that have not paid 2017 member dues. We have sent reminders out. If you do not pay by June 30th you will be removed from our info lists. WFOA encourages vessel owners to join our association especially those in the highly restricted salmon fishery. New members will receive regulatory requirements that do apply to small coastal vessels and avoid being listed as an IUU vessel in the eye of the international management bodies.

Raffle: Prize raffle tickets are now available for 2017, with the drawing at the 2018 AGM meeting next spring. Prize values are up to \$500. In the past these were \$25/each, now they are \$20/each. You can order them anytime from WFOA or pay with your dues.

Member and At-Sea Information Lists:

WFOA would like to update our vessel e-mails of those members wishing to receive short informational messages' at-sea. Many vessels change servers or providers and do not let WFOA the new vessel address. If you want on this list in 2017 please email wfoa@charter.net with VESSEL EMAIL in the subject line plus the name of the boat and we will add you to the list.

The other information list is the general email onshore list for members. Members will receive more detailed information as conditions or issues arise.

WFOA does depend on those persons onshore to relay this information to the vessels. Many on boats now have gmail accounts of similar which are used on both lists. But as with the boat email address, PLEASE UPDATE CHANGES!

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Note on Information Dissemination to Fleet:

WFOA tries to be fair to all designated albacore buyers on how we disseminate information during the season especially on prices or other matters specific to that buyer or unloader. We generally send weekly updates with as much information as practical via fleet and general email lists. WFOA depends on further distribution to vessels at sea through code groups and from those onshore relaying information to the vessels.

WFOA will try to constantly send out price information by 4:00 PM on Fridays. We will message buyers Friday morning with a reminder so they can update any changes they need distributed. If there are changes on other days we will distribute to the vessel list first and a couple hours later to general lists.

It is difficult to please all who may want to get a jump on competitors but we do it in the fairest way possible. As a buyer if you get WFOA the information it will go out to WFOA members quickly. However, WFOA reserves the option of discretion. WFOA will always encourage boats to keep in contact with buyers for specifics.

MARKET and CATCH:

2017 Season: At this time there are no set prices for albacore yet. When fishing begins with marketable catch amounts, prices will be announced. From information gathered, it appears prices for albacore this season should be good. Demand is high and inventory low. Blast frozen troll caught albacore from the South Pacific was sold anywhere from \$ 5,000/st up to \$6,000/st ex-vessel. A very positive development in 2016 is that most of the blast/bled albacore now is consumed in North America markets in various forms.

We also expect brine and brine/bled markets to be good but the markets there are set by other forces and affected by different issues. For instance the Japanese coastal catch that began somewhat later than normal produced has lately good fishing. This albacore is low in fat and is generally sold to cannery markets and Europe and canned domestically in Japan to some degree. The Spanish albacore fishery will also begin soon and always has some affect on export prices for canned markets. U.S. west coast fish is not quite as hindered by these catches as it once was but it is a fair indication in the overall brine market pricing.

Given that there will be severe restrictions on salmon trolling along the west coast this season, we expect more effort from coastal salmon boats if albacore show within range. We welcome any salmon boats into the WFOA organization so they can keep up on regulatory and market issues throughout the season. Please encourage vessel owners to join or let the office know of potential members we can send an info packet to and make contact. 600-700 boats land albacore per season on the west coast and less than half belong to either WFOA or AAFA.

Any increase in effort in 2017 would probably come from smaller coastal boats and not contribute that much to an overall increase in capacity or final tonnage.

South Pacific: Thirteen albacore trollers from the west coast fished in the South Pacific this past season. Early in the season, from the end of December through February fishing was very good for some but slowed dramatically late. About 500 tons was the total catch. Boats fished from outside the New Zealand EEZ to the east and south as far as 46 S. High quality blast frozen albacore was either shipped from New Zealand or brought directly back to the west coast at the end of the season.

North Pacific 2016 Final: In 2016 the U.S. albacore fleet landed 11,755 st of which 97% was caught in the U.S. EEZ, 1.4% in the Canadian EEZ, and 0.7% on the High Seas. Canadians landed 3,126 st of which 54.8 % was caught in the Canadian EEZ, 44.4% in the U.S. EEZ, and 0.8% on the High Seas.

43 Canadian vessels fished in the U.S. EEZ, while 43 U.S. vessels fished in the Canadian EEZ which included 13 that landed albacore in Canadian ports.

MANAGEMENT & REGULATION:

Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) The PFMC met last week in Spokane, WA to address some HMS issues. There was nothing specific to albacore on the agenda at this meeting except a request by the HMS advisory panel to have the Council support the need for more funding directed to albacore and bluefin research which has lagged in favor of non-commercial species. The next council meeting will be in Boise, ID in September.

A Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) meeting will be held this October in Vancouver, BC or another west coast city. This is based on Northern Albacore and will

determine future paths of albacore management schemes at the international level. Industry participation is encouraged. WFOA will announce details as dates are set.

U.S./Canada Albacore Treaty: The regime under the treaty has been rolled over for another three years. Although it seems to be set WFOA submitted a letter to the State Dept. requesting clarification on their exchange of letters with Canada concerning catch attribution and the discrepancies on reporting data, along with port access. We are rather disappointed in the language on catch attribution and believe it would be too weak if national allocations came down.

There was a conference call among all participants on June 6, 2017 with more discussion on easing port access for U.S. boats as compared with the relative ease Canadian boats have entering U.S. ports, and tightening the language on catch attribution.

NEW REG - Canadian "Carrier Code?" A few WFOA boats entering Canadian ports were told they will need a "Carrier Code" by the Canadian Border Service. This would be in addition to all of the already required paperwork and applications U.S. vessels need to do.

Fortunately a few boats began the process of obtaining the code but then received a statement (below) that apparently exempts commercial fishing vessels from obtaining the code number. WFOA is assuming that this was a bureaucratic snafu that turned out for the best.

Statement from Canadian Border Service:

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for your Marine carrier code application and/or supporting documents which you have submitted to the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). We have reviewed your submission and unfortunately, your file cannot be processed as received for the following reason(s):

Fishing vessels are exempt from reporting Advance Commercial Information (ACI) based on Memorandum D3-5-1. You do not require a carrier code.

Please note that licensed foreign fishing vessels landing fish and fish products in Canada must file a paper form

A6A, Freight/Cargo Manifest with the CBSA, with the generic marine code, 9ITN.

Important: Upon rejection, please note that no documents are retained by the CBSA; therefore, when reapplying, all required supporting documents must be resubmitted.

We hope that these explanations will prove to be satisfactory and should you have further questions, please feel to contact the Commercial Registration Unit (CRU) for assistance. You can access the CRU line free of charge throughout North America by calling 1-866-749-6623 EST or by e-mail at: carrier-cargo@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca. For inquiries outside North America, please dial 1-613-960-1702 EST.

Regards,

Commercial Registration / Operations Branch
Canada Border Services Agency / Government of Canada
carrier-cargo@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca / Tel: 866-749-6623 (North America) / 613-960-1702 (Overseas)

Logbook Reminder: The US logbook compliance rate for 2016 was only around 80% while Canadian compliance was 100%. Submission of the albacore logbook is mandatory for fishermen targeting albacore with troll or pole-and-line gear. The information collected in the logbook is used in international assessments of the two Pacific stocks (north Pacific albacore and south Pacific albacore) as well as in negotiations of the USA-Canada albacore treaty. While use of an electronic log is not yet mandatory, it streamlines data processing and helps prevent data entry errors allowing for more accurate and timely summarization of the fishery information.

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) - Re-certification:

The North and South Pacific Albacore MSC certifications shared by WFOA and AAFA will be up for re-certification beginning in August. 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. We do have certain conditions to meet as far as moving ahead on fair biological reference points and other reasonable harvest control guidelines through the RFMO's internationally. It is recognized however we are small players in the scheme of things with a healthy fishery and an environmentally friendly fishing method. We can only do so much but will do what we can without imposing unilateral restrictions on our fishermen. The MSE process is a good method to approach this in the North Pacific. While in the South Pacific our troll fishery is very small and hundreds of miles away from Western Pacific tropical longline issues and problems. Troll

albacore was nearly caught up in those but now may end up being exempted from some of the management that addresses the vast longline albacore fishery which would help our members who fish in the south.

American Fishermen's Research Foundation (AFRF) Updates - See AFRF section for more information.

Archival Tag Rewards: Fishermen, unloaders, buyers, and processors need to be aware of potential tags in the albacore. A \$500 reward will be paid for each recovered fish. Check out www.afrf.org under the menu item "Tagging" for more information and graphics. More than 1,000 albacore have been tagged since 2001 with at least 200 tagged in the past two seasons. The reward is \$500/fish. Retain whole fish even if you suspect it's a tag. For Information from NOAA/NMFS See: <http://tinyurl.com/myho44q>

Bio-Sampling: Unfortunately only a few fish were collected in 2016 for bio-sampling. This has seen good results in past years and only requires fishermen to save at random 4-5 fish per trip and mark them with informational tags from SWFSC. Then the fish need to be offloaded and saved at participating companies until SWFSC picks them up. Boats are compensated for the albacore at \$5/fish more than dock prices. AFRF will do more organizing drop off points with buyers in 2017.

OTHER:

Government of Canada Identifies Large Ocean Area off the Coast of British Columbia for Protection:

On May 24, 2017, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced a portion of the Offshore Pacific Bioregion (OPB) as an Area of Interest (AOI) for consideration as a Marine Protected Area (MPA) under Canada's Oceans Act. The Offshore Pacific AOI is located in the southern portion of the OPB extending from the continental shelf break, west of Vancouver Island, to the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundary with an area of approximately 140,000 km². At its closest point, the AOI is approximately 80 km from the west coast of Vancouver Island, but on average is 100-150 km off the coast and extends south to the Canada-United States border.

<http://tinyurl.com/yddu322w>

<http://tinyurl.com/y8dv5yod>

Article - Boat owners fooled by website charging high prices for vessel documentation

By Emily Files, KHNS - Haines - May 15, 2017

Haines fisherman Norm Hughes received two letters telling him to renew his Coast Guard documentation. The one on the left is from the Coast Guard. The one on the right is from a third-party company that charges three times as much. (Emily Files)

This is the time of year when Alaska fishermen make sure they have their paperwork in order so they're ready to hit the water. But recently, some of those boat owners were targeted by a third-party service that charges much higher rates for Coast Guard certification.

"I want to go fishing, I want to be done with all this paperwork," Haines commercial fisherman Norm Hughes said.

Earlier this month, Hughes received a letter in the mail telling him to renew his Coast Guard documentation. It directed him to a website: uscgdocumentation.us. Hughes went to the website right away and paid \$150 for a two-year renewal. see <http://tinyurl.com/ldft3om>

ATTENTION - COMMERCIAL TUNA FISHERMEN IN OREGON & WASHINGTON!!! A major TV network is now looking for hard-working commercial crews in Oregon and Washington to appear in a new documentary TV series during the 2017 tuna season. This exciting, new TV series will spotlight the dedicated work of the men and women in the Pacific Northwest's albacore fishery, and YOU can be a part of it.

If you plan to tie up anywhere between Newport and Westport this season, CONTACT US TODAY!

This is a PAID opportunity!
TunaCrewCasting@gmail.com
Email Your Name, Phone Number, a Recent Photo the Name of Your Boat and Why You Are Right For This Show.

For more info, visit www.pilgrimstudios.com/casting

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