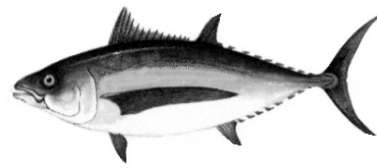


WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



P.O. Box 992723
Redding, CA 96099

Ph. (530) 229-1097
Fax (530) 232-0107

wfoa@charter.net
<http://www.wfoa-tuna.org>

Members:

June 20, 2018

As we approach another summer albacore season we all are hoping for a turn around from the 2017 slow catches. Ocean conditions appear more normal this year from the inshore regions all the way to the dateline. There will be effort in all areas. Some boats have left and are searching at this time.

not involved you cannot be expected to be represented. We do appreciate all those that do stay involved.

NOTICES:

Foreign and IUU Vessel Reports: We have included in this newsletter a Foreign vessel incident report form. If you have any interaction with a foreign vessel, spot an IUU vessel, or other activities that may be illegal use this to report the incident.

Some issues addressed in the April Board call were:

2018 Dues: There are still some members who have not paid 2018 dues. WFOA sent new reminders last week. Please pay as soon as you can. THE DEADLINE IS June 30th at which time we will cut off email and other communication. If you plan to pay after that date please advise.

Recreational Membership: The board established a separate "Recreational" category under WFOA supporting membership of \$200 annual dues. That is for charter and recreational boats that fish albacore under the PFMC FMP and international regulations.

WFOA Board Meeting: WFOA held an online board meeting on April 26th. This approach worked fairly well but cannot substitute for a regular sit down meeting. Not having a regular meeting did save considerable funds. However, if catches are better this season WFOA and AFRF will probably have a regular meeting at some convenient location next spring. Last season and 2018 have had very few regulatory issues and market issues compared to past seasons thus to hold an online meeting was doable.

W A C o m m o d i t i e s Commission: WFOA will begin looking into the establishment of an albacore commodities commission in Washington State similar to that exists in Oregon. This can be a multi species commission or specific to albacore. We will be soliciting ideas and thoughts as we move ahead.

However, with Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) on track to produce, for better or worse Harvest Control Rules (HCR) and new biological reference points for North Pacific Albacore there will be more need for you to become involved as regular members. As a WFOA member you will be updated on the issues as they occur and WFOA will support paid up members if there are new directives to reduce, limit, or further regulate the albacore fleet. If you are

Discussion on AFRF Fees: The board voted to recommend to the American Fishermen's Research Foundation (AFRF) board that the AFRF fees which have been \$20/st since at least 1984 be raised to pay for rising operating costs. The AFRF board on their June meeting call did act to raise the fee to

DIRECTORS 2018

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TERESA REEVES
(Secretary / Treasurer)

\$30/st. The fee is paid above dock prices by the buyers.

Election of Officers 2018: WFOA President - (Louie Hill), V-President - (Karl Johnson), Secretary - (Teresa Reeves)

MARKET and CATCH:

South Pacific: In April fishing wrapped up in the South Pacific for the few boats that were there from the U.S. Most of the albacore were caught earlier in the year and late December and most were caught west of 160°W as far south as 44°S. Except for a few boats fishing could be considered average to poor in the region. The New Zealand coastal troll fishery was good early with warmer than normal sea conditions. However, the albacore caught by the troll fleet were very small in size.

Blast/bled prices for boats in the South Pacific were generally around \$3.00/pound depending on quality and other factors. Most was returned and landed in the U.S. or Canada. At that time there were some cheaper imports on the market at the time which may have affected the market.

North Pacific: Ocean conditions are just beginning to shape up along the Oregon coast. We expect a steady improvement over the next few weeks off the coast and also offshore. Ocean conditions look closer to normal than in the past few years. We expect boats to be fishing in all areas. There have been a few boats out searching already but no reports of catch in the coastal areas.

IUU Vessels?: There is the group of about 50 vessels showing up again on AIS around the 40N x 174W region. WFOA has notified the USCG to be aware of the activity. Sea surface temperatures in the area are slightly cold for albacore, and checking on globalfishing.com where one can id the boats, the fleet in this area seem about half Chinese and half Japanese. Given that IUU vessels would probably not have tracking devices the vessels are probably targeting squid. The albacore boats fishing far to the west may also be able to identify the type of fleet if they are close by.

There is also was a report of possible IUU activity east of the dateline in the Emperor Seamount region a couple weeks ago. There was also reports in that area of loose floats and other debris.

We need positions, descriptions, and pics and video if anyone encounters IUU fishing of any type, but stay safe in doing so.

2018 Effort: With restricted salmon fisheries in 2018 we are expecting more effort from the salmon fleet into albacore if fish are available within range and weather is reasonable. Markets for iced fish remain strong and in demand from numerous buyers.

WFOA encourages salmon fishermen and others who decide to fish albacore to join WFOA. By joining we have more say in management and regulatory issues and it applies as much to small boats as large and in cases of restricted future effort maybe more. If WFOA members have friends in their groups that are not members tell them to request an application or just forward their name and we can send one out.

MEMBER COMMUNICATION: WFOA maintains a general email list to send out weekly messages during the season, we also maintain a vessel list of about 30 boats. Many of the email address change over the off-season so members need to let WFOA know if changes occur. WFOA maintains fish reports on the website. However, we strive to keep information very vanilla and general in nature. There may be a need to discontinue this as even a small general report seems to cause crowding at times – or at least I have been told!

Websites: WFOA maintains wfoa-tuna.org for member information and PacificAlbacore.com for consumer information. American Fishermen's Research Foundation (AFRF) website is AFRF.org.

Facebook: WFOA has a consumer informational page at Wild Pacific Albacore on Facebook. We also started a Face book page for paid up members to post their thoughts but have had little interest so far. It can be found on Facebook at: Western Fishboat Owners Association Members.

Weekly E-Mail Reports: WFOA has been producing these for a number of seasons and includes generally price and unloading information. Again WFOA will strive to keep fishing information quite generic and fair as we can especially disseminating buyer price

information. WFOA encourages vessels to report basic information, especially areas devoid of albacore and weather and ocean temperatures.

MANAGEMENT: See the AFRF segment of this newsletter for reports on the 69th Tuna Conference at Lake Arrowhead, CA as well as the International Scientific Committee (ISC) meeting in LaJolla, CA with updates on the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process that may have consequences for the albacore fishery soon. Both of these were attended by AFRF representatives.

US/Canada Treaty: 2018 will be the second year of the 3-year regime allowing 45 Canadian access in the U.S. EEZ and historical levels of U.S. access into Canada. The Canadian access was from June 15 -Sept 15.

*** PLEASE NOTE BELOW - IMPORTANT ***

Canadian Permits Now Required by U.S. Boats:
U.S. industry was just informed of this change a couple weeks ago!

Starting in 2018, all U.S. North Pacific Albacore Tuna fishing vessels will need an EEZ Albacore Tuna Fishing Licence for U.S. Vessels (EEZ tuna fishing licence), before entering Canada's EEZ to fish.

DFO has developed an approach that builds on the existing EEZ Port Access (EEZ port access licence) licensing application process. Agents/harvesters only need to check an additional box to apply for the EEZ tuna fishing licence.

The requirement applies to **ALL** U.S. vessels fishing North Pacific albacore tuna in Canada's EEZ under the Canada-U.S. Albacore Tuna Treaty.

The licence will allow U.S. North Pacific albacore tuna vessels to enter and fish in Canada's EEZ in accordance with Canadian law.

The EEZ tuna fishing licence will need to be applied for on an annual basis.

The same application form is used to apply for both port access and fishing licences. No new forms are required.

There are no fees for either licence for U.S. harvesters accessing Canada's EEZ, either to fish or to access port.

A harvesters could potentially have two licences: one for port access and one for tuna fishing.

If you have previously applied for an EEZ port access licence, only an additional box (box #7) needs to be checked to apply for a fishing licence.

Licence application forms can be found here:

<http://tinyurl.com/y75ww26f>
<http://tinyurl.com/mvy4pvg>

Canadian Marine Protected Areas - No Fishing:

(a) Fishing for tuna is not permitted in the Endeavour Hydrothermal Vents Marine Protected Area, as set out in the Endeavour Hydrothermal Vents Marine Protected Area Regulations.

See: <http://tinyurl.com/y8t5meps>

The area 47°54 N, 129°02 W, from there west to a point at 47°54 N, 129°08 W, from there north to a point at 48°01 N, 129°08 W, from there east to a point at 48°01 N, 129°02 W

(b) Fishing for tuna is not permitted in the SGaan Kinghlas-Bowie Seamount Marine Protected Area, as set out in the Bowie Seamount Marine Protected Area.

See: <http://tinyurl.com/y73a4x29>

The area 53°03'07.6 N, 135°50'25.9 W, to a point 53°16'20.9 N, 134°59'55.4 W, then to a point 53°39'49.2 N, 135°17'04.9 W, then to a point 53°39'18.0 N, 135°53'46.5 W, then to a point 53°52'16.7 N, 136°30'23.1 W, then to a point 53°49'19.6 N, 136°47'33.1 W, then to a point 53°40'02.5 N, 136°57'03.5 W, then to a point 53°13'59.2 N, 136°10'00.0 W

There will be an industry call with U.S. Government agencies on Monday June 18th to try to sort out some of the questions we have about these issues which came up at a very late hour. If there are any new issues or solutions WFOA will pass them along via e-mail and other means ASAP.

The U.S.-Canada albacore treaty Data Working Group to perform the annual data exchange for the 2017 season. The meeting will be on June 29, 2018. Catch data has taken nearly a year for the governments to compile.

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC): MRAG Americas announces that the AAFA and WFOA North Pacific Albacore fishery did not receive an objection following posting of the Final Report and Determination. Therefore, MRAG Americas has decided that the AAFA and WFOA North Pacific Albacore fishery may be re-certified as sustainable against the MSC standard. The AAFA and WFOA North Pacific Albacore fishery is now re-certified for 5 years, subject to successful completion of annual surveillance audits. MRAG Americas has produced a Public Certification Report, available on the MSC website at: <http://tinyurl.com/yeh8rgkf>

The re-certification covers pole & line and troll/jig for Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the North Pacific Ocean. Vessels and companies authorized to use the MSC logo for sales of Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) into the MSC supply chain are listed in the Public Certification Report and on the certificate.

MRAG Americas acknowledges with thanks the participation of all stakeholders during this assessment. - MRAG Americas, Inc.

OTHER:

Fishing Vessel Drill Conductor Training

June 26 & 27, 2018
7:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Woodley Island Marina
601 Startare Drive
Eureka, CA 95501

FREE to commercial fishermen, thanks to support from the U.S. Coast Guard, NIOSH. \$195 for all others. This workshop meets the U.S. Coast Guard training requirements for drill conductors on commercial fishing vessels. Register online at www.amsea.org or call (907) 747-3287.

Alaska Marine Safety Education Association - 2924 Hali but Point Road - Sitka, Alaska 99835

Boat Wanted: Looking for smaller boat. Contact Norman at 818-917-9950 (no txt) best time to call is late afternoon. Searching for 30-40 foot boat in reasonable condition. Wood or Fiberglass.

NOAA Report on Status of U.S. Fisheries:

See: <http://tinyurl.com/yc7ufkal>

The Port of Newport, OR is very interested in supporting the needs of the Albacore Tuna fleet as best we can. We understand that Albacore boats need a place to offload this summer where they can count on the use of hoists and expedient offloading services. This comes at a time when the Port of Newport is expanding the use of our entire facility to help commercial fishermen and fish buyers link up and get products to their customers.

In the last year we've doubled the amount of activity across our hoist dock with local independent buyers. In some cases, we added additional shifts of workers to ease dock congestion, and we're willing to work harder to continue to provide fishermen with a more competitive pricing environment. Between the Hoist Dock in the Commercial Marina and the swing hoist at the Newport International Terminal, the Port of Newport has one of the best public facilities for offloading catch on the west coast.

Please consider us as you make plans to follow the tuna this summer. If you have questions about local amenities including location of showers, laundry, and marina accommodations, or have suggestions about how the Port of Newport can best serve you please contact our Director of Operations, Aaron Bretz at 541-265-7758 or email abretz@portofnewport.com. Best wishes for a safe and successful tuna season!

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Thanks - Good luck and Stay Safe