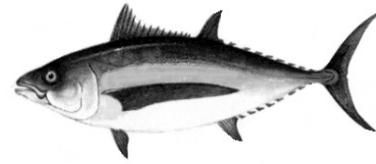


WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

October 15, 2016

The 2016 west coast albacore season has come to an end. This was probably the most unusual season in many years. Good catches were made very early in June leading to speculation that albacore may have been present along the coast even as early as May. Ocean conditions were confused as El Nino and the Blob dwindled until late spring. After the initial good catches the season went into a slow steady rate of catch. Fleet effort was most likely down some as some of the other coastal fisheries saw improvements. We anticipate 2017 may return to a more normal pattern but anything can happen and probably will.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Members: With all the new regulations, closures, and management now coming to fruition, albacore fishermen need to become members of WFOA or similar organizations that contribute time and effort representing local fishermen's interests at all levels. Out of the 600-700 vessels that make albacore landings annually only about 35% belong to any albacore fishing organization. Please tell your friends and get them to sign up for the battles that are looming or already here. For the price of a few cartons of cigarettes or a couple weeks of steamed lattes one can be a member of WFOA. I have enclosed a vessel membership form and info sheet to pass around. And if you sell your boat to another albacore fishermen ask them to join.

Member Meeting at Fish Expo: WFOA will hold and informational meeting at Fish Expo in Seattle on Thursday, November 17th from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM to gather input in an informal setting. WFOA members and non-members are invited. To Register and Attend: <http://tinyurl.com/zv3ftn4>

2017 WFOA Annual Meeting: This will be held March 26th - 29th 2017 in Astoria, Oregon at the Holiday Inn Express. More details in later issues!

2016 SEASON:

Fishing: It has been disappointing for many as catches have been about 70% of the last 20 years average. The drop-off is not unique to the U.S. west coast fishery as many temperate zones worldwide experienced similar falloff in catches. This presents issues for those needing supply this fall and winter. Most believe that this is not a resource issue. All recent stock assessments have been positive with a new one now ongoing for the North Pacific stocks.

Fishermen in 2016 have reported scattered albacore from southern Oregon to Northern British Columbia with many age classes, but with no concentrations of feed and upwelling to hold fish in tighter zones. Ocean conditions have normalized somewhat and hopefully will yield good catches in 2017. Until then we do have about 10 vessels that fish in the South Pacific from January - March and generally market their albacore back on the west coast for those buyers needing fish to fill markets.

As of October 10th about 8,000st have been landed coastwise in U.S. ports. Washington had the most landings at 4,570st, Oregon at 3,366 st, and California at 7 st.

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There have also been U.S. landings in Canadian ports of unknown quantities but probably about 500 tons, as well as off-vessel sales unaccounted for. We anticipate the final tonnage may be around 9,000st. For updated U.S. port by port landings see: <http://tinyurl.com/jugprj3>

As far as official landings in Canadian ports by U.S. and Canadian boats, these numbers are not usually available until April or May.

Markets and Price: Vessel prices in 2016 started for most buyers buying regular brine frozen albacore at \$2,540st, and \$2,600st for brine /bled. These prices increased during the season to around \$2,800 - \$3,000 and in some cases higher. Brine/Bled that had a small differential at the beginning gained strength later in the season.

Blast/bled albacore prices which barely exceeded those of brine in 2015 began the 2016 season at \$3,700 - \$4,000 st and increased to over \$5,000st by seasons end. All inventory was gone by the start of the season and many did not get what they needed in 2016.

Iced/fresh prices are were \$1.25 - \$1.35 most of the season but much higher is specialty markets as well as direct to the public.

MANAGEMENT & REGULATION:

Pacific Fishery Management Council to Hold Meeting in November 2016 to Adopt Management Measures for Ocean Fisheries:

Note: The US/Canada albacore treaty will be on the agenda as an action item. If you cannot make the meeting in Garden Grove send your thoughts directly to the PFMC if you so desire.

Notice of Availability: November 13-21, 2016 Council Meeting Notice and Agenda The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet starting Sunday, November 13, 2016 in Garden Grove, California. Advisory bodies will start Sunday, November 13. The Council session will start on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 to address issues related to salmon, groundfish, highly migratory species, coastal pelagic species, Pacific halibut, and habitat matters.

Please visit the November 2016 Council Meeting webpage for meeting and agenda details. See: <http://tinyurl.com/746lten>

Questions? Please contact Council staff at 503-820-2280 or toll free 866-806-7204.

FIRST AID at SEA: Washington Sea Grant, The Washington Dungeness Crab Fishermen's Association and The Quinault Tribe are co-sponsoring a COAST GUARD APPROVED First Aid at Sea Workshop in Westport on Thursday, November 3, 2016.

Topics covered include CPR, patient assessment, hypothermia, cold water near drowning, shock, trauma, burns, fractures, immobilization, First Aid Kits and more.

When:
Thursday, November 3, 2016
9am -5pm

Where:
Chateau Westport
710 Hancock St
Westport, WA

FEE: \$100 (\$50 for commercial fishermen)

To register or for more information, contact Sarah Fischen, Washington Sea Grant, 206-543-1225 (sfischen@UW.edu) or Libie Cain, 360-581-5948 (cell), 260-267-6040 (office)

Fishing Vessel Drill Instructor Training: Information for regulatory required Drill Instructor training offerings in October and November. This is one of the requirements for getting the mandatory Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Decal for documented vessels that operate more than 3NM from shore.

The following workshops meet U.S. Coast Guard training requirements for commercial fishing vessels. Cost for commercial fishermen is only \$50 thanks to support from NIOSH and \$195 for all others. Space is limited! Register online at www.amsea.org or call (907) 747-3287.

October 20 & 21, 2016
7:30 AM - 5:30 PM
Fishermen's Wives Hall
150 Marine Way
Crescent City, CA

October 24 & 24, 2016
7:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Woodley Island Marina
601 Startare Drive
Eureka, CA

October 27 & 28, 2016
7:30 AM to 5:30 PM
Salmon Trollers
Marketing Association
19292 South Harbor Drive
Fort Bragg, CA

Oct. 31 & Nov. 1, 2016
7:30 AM to 5:30 PM
Bay Grange Hall
1370 Bodega Avenue
Bodega Bay, CA

November 3 & 4, 2016
7:30 AM - 5:30 PM
Heritage Harbor
Conference Room
99 Pacific Street, Suite 100-A
Monterey, CA

November 7 & 8, 2016
7:30 AM to 5:30 PM
The Crab Hall
2907 Jones St.
San Francisco, CA

U.S./Canada Albacore Treaty: The U.S./Canada Albacore treaty's "Fishing Regime" expired at the end of this season. The "Fishing Regime" under the present treaty controls fishing access by either side, number of vessels, check in and check out procedures, etc. It is described in the treaty annexes and can be modified by exchange of diplomatic notes between nations as opposed to modifying the actual treaty that would require Senate ratification in the U.S. Changing the regime does not require eliminating the entire treaty.

U.S./Canada Member Treaty Poll: This was mailed out to U.S. WFOA vessel owner members at the first of September. WFOA extended the response deadline to October 15th so please send them in the SASE provided. However, since no action has occurred yet from the government we will accept ballots after the deadline. So far we have about a 60% return rate. WFOA will announce the results soon after a review by the board.

We anticipate the PFMC to weigh in on this issue as well as numerous stakeholders and Canadians. If the treaty goes forward there are numerous fixes that can be made as far as port access and credit for fish caught in each others zone. WFOA has been quite disappointed in the lack of producing the diplomatic notes and other issues from the 2014 negotiations. At

this point no new negotiations have been set and we do not anticipate anything until after the elections.

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC): WFOA and AAFA completed the 3rd year surveillance audit recently on the MSC certifications for the North and South Pacific. This will now lead to a re-certification in 2017. We have discussed the promotion of west coast albacore in coordination with MSC but since there is not much supply for the winter this will have to be delayed at least for any aggressive public promotion approach. Regardless, WFOA keeps the public informed of the fishery and activities through its numerous social media outlets.

Proposed Offshore Marine Monuments: Pacific Fisheries Management Council outlines offshore monument concerns in letter to White House

WASHINGTON (Saving Seafood) -- September 7, 2016-- The Pacific Fishery Management Council sent a letter to President Barack Obama expressing concern over the impact of proposed offshore marine monument designations on sustainable West Coast fisheries.

In the letter, Pacific Council executive director Charles A. Tracy emphasized the transparent and public fisheries management process already in place under the Pacific Council, one of the eight regional management councils established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

Through the Pacific Council's essential fish habitat (EFH) process, nine of the eleven areas proposed for monument designation are already closed to bottom trawl fishing, Mr. Tracy wrote. In total, over 130,000 square miles of seafloor off the U.S. West Coast are closed to groundfish bottom trawling due to EFH provisions. Additionally, the two other areas proposed for monument designation are within the Cowcod Conservation Area West, and are therefore closed to all groundfish fishing in areas deeper than 20 fathoms.

"The fishing industry has sacrificed much to achieve [fish stock] rebuilding goals, to minimize impacts with protected or non-target species, and to ensure sustainable fisheries," Mr. Tracy noted.

The Council also pointed out the potential unintended consequences of closing U.S. fisheries, including loss of American jobs and greater dependence on seafood imported from countries with illegal fishing.

“Displacing domestic fisheries costs U.S. jobs and increases reliance on foreign fisheries, which in many cases are less sustainably managed than U.S. fisheries, and many of which contribute to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, a point of emphasis for your Administration,” Mr. Tracy wrote.

Attached to the Pacific Council’s letter was a letter from the Council Coordination Committee, comprised of senior leaders from all eight regional fishery management councils, voicing concern over the use of the Antiquities Act to designate marine monuments.

“We are concerned that authorities such as the Antiquities Act of 1906 do not explicitly require a robust public process or science-based environmental analyses,” the Councils wrote. “We believe fisheries management decisions should be made using the robust process established by the MSA and successfully used for over forty years.”

Hawaii Monument Expanded: WASHINGTON -- August 26, 2016 -- The following was released by the White House: On Friday, President Obama will expand the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument off the coast of Hawaii, creating the world’s largest marine protected area. Building on the United States’ global leadership in marine conservation, today’s designation will more than quadruple the size of the existing marine monument, permanently protecting pristine coral reefs, deep sea marine habitats, and important ecological resources in the waters of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. . .

RAY HILBORN: Obama's new ocean preserves are bad for the environment and for people: October 5, 2016 -- The following is an excerpt from a Fox News op-ed published today, written by Dr. Ray Hilborn. Dr. Hilborn is a Professor of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle, and leader on several global research projects on the health of various fish stocks.

Right now, world leaders seem to want to see who can declare the biggest marine protected areas, or MPAs, in their territory. MPAs are kinds of national parks for sea life that extends from ocean surface to ocean floor. Commercial fishing and other undersea ventures are banned in them.

In fact, the MPA movement has become a religion with accepted articles of faith that more and bigger are

better. This current obsession is bad for the oceans, bad for the global environment, and bad for people.

Consider what the imposition of an MPA can do to the economy and livelihood of local fishers, who are unable to easily pick up and move elsewhere. Some fishermen in New England are warning that they could go out of business as a result of the new Atlantic marine preserve.

Read the full op-ed: <http://tinyurl.com/h2jxvvn>

OTHER:

New Members:

Da Yang Seafoods Astoria, OR

Tri Marine announces indefinite production suspension at their American Samoa tuna canning plant - Thu, 10/13/2016

By Barry Markowitz - Tri Marine, owner of American Samoa based, Samoa Tuna Processors (STP), has announced today that canning operations will be indefinitely suspended effective December 11, 2016.

Renato Curto, CEO of the entire Tri Marine Group said, “This is an incredibly difficult decision and one we make with a great deal of reluctance. Our hearts go out to STP’s employees, suppliers, service providers, and everyone else who depends on STP’s operations.”

An official Tri Marine press release today says, “The challenging economics of canning tuna in American Samoa combined with external factors facing STP make Tri Marine’s private-label focused business model for operating the plant economically unsustainable in today’s market. Tri Marine is currently evaluating alternatives for the facility including outright sale, preferably to a strategic buyer.”

Read at: <http://tinyurl.com/gsf4q7r>

Good Fishing and Stay Safe!

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