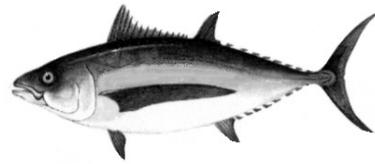


WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

October 20, 2018

The 2018 albacore season on the west coast came to a hasty end late in September. The fish disappeared overnight according to many. The season has been disappointing as far as catches and availability of marketable sized albacore. The positive aspect is that there seems to be a very good young age class of albacore in the ocean which hopefully means good catches in the future.

their membership. WFOA knows that most fishermen want to get high prices for albacore and we understand that. However, the albacore market especially the blast markets can be quite volatile as they were this season after three seasons of gains. WFOA places emphasis on stable prices and that occurs most of the time. However in addition access to the resource is a major issue. There still remains international and federal management bodies and others that may not support your access to the resource. If there were not organized fishing associations making our presence known at considerable expense this could become a reality quickly.

NOTICES:

Membership Meetings: WFOA will again be holding an informational meeting at Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle on Monday, November 19th 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We encourage those members and directors in the area to drop in or encourage non-members to also show up and join.

Agenda:

- Season Update
- Catch/Market
- Management/Regulation
- International / Fed Effort/Catch Controls?
- Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
- Marine Stewardship Council Recertification (MSC)
- American Fishermen's Research Foundation Projects
- Other

For more information on the Pacific Marine Expo please see: <http://tinyurl.com/y8o4yjap>

Annual Meeting: After skipping an annual meeting in 2018 WFOA is considering at this time an annual meeting most likely in Oregon for the end of March 2019. It may only be a WFOA and AFRF board meeting with a segment for general membership followed by a dinner or lunch. Whatever we decide WFOA will be soliciting support from supporting members and have something set by the end of this year.

Dues: Member dues invoices for 2019 were mailed out about a three weeks ago. We encourage all to pay as soon as you can. Also, if you sold your boat please send us the new owners contact so WFOA can solicit

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.

DIRECTORS 2018

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)

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.

Oregon Albacore Commission will hold a regular meeting on Monday, October 29, 2018 at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston, OR.

Oregon Albacore Commission - Public Meeting
Monday, October 29, 2018
Oregon Institute of Marine Biology
63466 Boat Basin Road, Charleston, Oregon 97420
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Call Nancy to RSVP Lunch or request the agenda.

Nancy Fitzpatrick, Executive Director
Oregon Albacore Commission
541-994-2647 Ph/Fax
541-921-8309 Cell
nancy@oregonsalmon.org

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.

A number of vessels have not returned albacore logbooks from 2017 and 2016. If you are one of these you will not be issued a new HMS permit when you try to renew it.

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

Downloadable Electronic Logbooks:

See <http://tinyurl.com/mvj45xh>

MARKET and CATCH:

Catch: The total U.S. 2018 catch from recent Pac Fin data in U.S. west coast ports is about 6,000mt landed in the U.S. However the data looks to be incomplete at this time and we expect that number to rise to levels of last season or possibly higher. Catches by the bait fleet was noticeably off from the past years maybe do to the vast numbers of small albacore in all areas and ocean conditions.

Smaller than average albacore were seen in almost all areas off the west coast in 2018. As most smaller albacore are not marketable WFOA has always discouraged the harvest and most boats do try to avoid areas of those age class fish. The numbers of small albacore under 9 pounds has not only been on the west coast but also in the Japanese coastal fishery late, and last winter in the new Zealand troll fishery. This certainly seems to bode well for the next few years if these fish grow up and are not intercepted by IUU vessels or run into major changes in ocean and feed conditions.

Prices: Blast/Bled prices started to inch back in a positive direction in September from a low of \$3,200 to \$3,600 and higher. Last years catch still in the system dropped prices across the board in July as well as 2018 local Canadian fish added to the inventory in July. As good as the blast prices have been over the past few seasons we are finding out that the market may be more limited than originally thought. It is growing but when tonnage of blast exceeds certain levels the market becomes saturated at least regionally. When quality issues are added to the mix there are problems. I think some of the buyers figured this out but when the season ends some try to buy anything to cover their shortfall and some is not meant for the blast market.

Cheap imported loins also have been showing up in the market. Some were having an effect on South Pacific boat prices in April and continues to be a factor. Given the South Pacific longline catch was up 30% we assume the fish had to end up somewhere and for cheap prices.

Brine/brine-bled prices started out early in July at \$2,900 st/ \$3,050/st but after a couple weeks of fishing it became apparent that the blast/ bled market was not what it was perceived to be in the spring. As the blast markets faded some of that was sold into the brine markets causing a ripple effect. Thus, brine and brine/bled prices corrected in mid-July to \$2,700/st and \$2,760/st in order to access other market where prices also fell. Some brine/bled has been purchased this season for up to \$3,500 but all those markets were small and generally at the beginning.

A major negative factor in 2018 is very good fishing for albacore in the Bay of Biscay by the Spanish that has flooded brine European

markets. Much of that albacore is now MSC certified. This good fishing was despite very high water temps in the 20c-24c range except off Ireland. As of August 10th 75% of the Spanish albacore quota has been caught or about 12,000 mt out of 15,000 mt quota prompting shut down of the catch two months earlier than normal. However, on August 17 the closure was extended until August 23.

This catch was made in about seven weeks and is double what they have been producing. Prices also did not add up for our west coast buyers to go to Spain with west coast fish at this time thus the drop in prices made it easier to sell in Europe and Asia.

Iced fish were all over the board during the season from \$1.25 and higher depending on the day, buyer, and use.

MANAGEMENT:

Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC):

At the November 1-8, 2018 PFMC meeting in San Diego, CA the albacore discussion will focus on whether, and to what years the “current” fishing level will be attributed for purposes of IATTC negotiations. There is discussion in international management meetings at the IATTC and the WCPFC as well as in the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) processes to determine above dates to establish current effort. Both the IATTC and the WCPFC passed resolutions back in 2005 establishing not expanding the albacore effort beyond “Current Levels”. Since 2005 this has never been established and some countries have just ignored it despite being signors on the resolution. Most of the discussion now centers on dates to use as a guide and the 2002-2004 seems to be favored date. WFOA believes this date range would be problematic and has opted for a longer period of 10 years or more. Like it or not this discussion is well under way in all the scientific and management bodies and may lead to quotas, catch limits, capacity controls or other. This is why we send representatives to these long expensive meetings. WFOA has to protect the best we can our aging small boat fleet that catches less than 15% of the North Pacific catch.

WCPFC Northern Committee: Peter Flournoy attended the Northern Committee of the WCPFC in Japan the first week of September. There was not much on albacore except relaying information on

the next Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) workshop to be held in March 2019 in Yokohama, Japan.

The other more troubling issue was the Chinese plan to expand their longline fleet by 10 boats into the North Pacific, north of Hawaii in 2019. The U.S. delegation at the Northern Committee meeting of the WCPFC in September in Japan plans to make it a point as well as at the WCPFC regular session in Honolulu in December 2018.

China’s absence at the N Comm meeting was again noted. The U.S. said that while China continuously reports Additional 10 vessels fishing for North Pacific Albacore, there is some information indicating shifting of efforts of Chinese vessels from south to north Pacific Ocean, which would be in contravention of the effort limitation in the NPALB CMM. The concern was shared by some other CCMs

Subpanel Vacancies: The Pacific Fishery Management Council is seeking qualified candidates to serve on advisory subpanels and committees regarding West Coast marine fishing and habitat issues for the 2019-2021 term. To ensure consideration, nominations should be received at the Council office no later than 5 p.m., Pacific Time, Tuesday, October 23, 2018.

The three-year terms of all advisory subpanel members, eight at-large members of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), and five non-agency members and the tribal members of the Habitat Committee expire on December 31, 2018.

Please visit the Council’s webpage “Nominations for 2019-2021 Advisory Body Terms” to download the necessary nomination forms and the full detailed announcement. See: <http://tinyurl.com/yah8t2j6>

Brian Corrigan-USCG Announcement October 11, 2018 - *“Good Morning All, It’s bittersweet for me to let you all know I’ll be departing the USCG after 30+ years on the payroll (including 20 years in my current position at D13) and joining the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) team, as the West Coast Division’s Investigative Support Program Manager at Sandpoint*

in Seattle. My last day with the USCG will be 12 October and I'll start with NOAA on the 15th. It wasn't an easy decision for me to leave the USCG, but I'm very excited for the new opportunity with NOAA, and the transition will be made easier knowing my new position with OLE will allow me to continue to work with many of you into the future. For those with whom I may not have the privilege of working in my new role, I appreciate your valuable contributions to my USCG career and my personal life over the decades.

Thank you for the camaraderie and support from each and every one of you, as well as countless others who've moved beyond my email reach or those I may have unfortunately failed to include - so please feel free to pass the word if you'd like. I wish you all fair winds, following seas, and fun!

For those needing assistance after 12 October with USCG D13 fisheries related matters, please contact LCDR Scott McGrew; scott.h.mcgreg@uscg.mil; 206-220-7305"

Sincerely and Respectfully, Brian

Cell will remain 425-245-3313
NOAA email brian.corrigan@noaa.gov

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC):The AAFA and WFOA North Pacific Albacore fishery is now re-certified for 5 years.

The final certification for the South Pacific is expected to be finalized soon. Since assessments were quite favorable this time around and given the fact that the U.S. albacore fleet catches less than 1% of the total SP catch we should not have any issues. Thus to finalize the SP MSC we have to submit this plan in the overall report. The action plan for the NP was included in a previous newsletter.

WFOA and AAFA will continue to advocate for harvest control rules and scientifically based Target Reference Points with other countries that have troll fisheries for South Pacific albacore through a revised and strengthened WCPFC CMM.

Even though ongoing discussions have not come to fruition over the past few years, WFOA and AAFA have advocated with the United States Government to have stronger enforcement and better reporting under the existing CMMs which the two organizations were instrumental in getting passed in the first place and which they have continued to support.

In order to demonstrate that the WCPFC decision-making processes have responded to the albacore long line catch

rate issue by putting in place a scientifically based harvest control strategy or some other suitable scientifically based management system, the client will:

Year 1 (Dec 2018)

Engage with the United States delegation to WCPFC meetings and sub-commission meetings to ensure that delegations to meetings of the Commission:

- *Deliver the message that development by the Commission of a scientifically based harvest strategy for SP albacore, after first setting a scientifically based target reference point, and as contemplated by CMM 2014-06, should incorporate agreed biological, ecological, economic and/or social objectives.*

Year 2 (Dec 2019)

Work with the United States Departments of State and Commerce to ensure that delegations:

Work in concert with other delegations to encourage the WCPFC to agree on and adopt a scientifically based harvest strategy for the SP albacore stock that includes agreed economic objectives.

Year 3 (Dec 2020)

Work with the United States Departments of State and Commerce to ensure that delegations to meetings: Work in concert with other WCPFC delegates from other major countries using the longline method of fishing the stock, in advance of the annual WCPFC meeting, to seek support for the adoption of a scientifically based harvest strategy for SP albacore as contemplated by CMM 2014-06.

Year 4 (Dec 2021)

Provide evidence that WCPFC decision-making processes have responded to the longline albacore catch rate issue by putting in place a harvest strategy or some other suitable means for scientifically managing the resource.

OTHER:

Kirby C. Young- Published on September 11, 2018 - Chinook Observer - LONG BEACH - Naselle resident Kirby C. Young, 80, died in Long Beach on Sept. 9, 2018. He was a retired commercial fisherman and a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard. No service at this time. His guestbook is available at www.penttilaschapel.com.

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