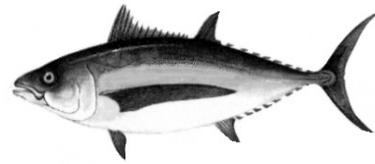


# WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

The North Pacific albacore season has been winding down as waters have cooled and winter-like weather has arrived in the NW coastal waters. This season started late with unusual ocean conditions again. The fishing ended in a more normal manner and 2020 should be interesting given ocean conditions and small albacore in the region for the past two years. WFOA wishes all good luck in their winter endeavors and to stay safe.

## NOTICES:

**Treaty Poll:** WFOA sent out poll cards on the treaty on October 1st and has already received 61 returns. Thanks to those that sent them in quickly. The cards were sent to all WFOA vessel owners. The poll is open until November 15<sup>th</sup> and results will be announced.

**Expo Membership Meeting:** This is scheduled at the Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle as follows:

Thursday, November 21, 2019 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
Century Link Field Events Center - Ground Floor  
Under Stadium- Media Room 1D47 Enter Through  
Expo Main Floor. There is a flyer enclosed and a member application on the back of the flyer if you know of any boat owners that should join please give them an application.

**2020 Annual Meeting:** WFOA/AFRF will most likely hold a general meeting at the end of March 2020 in Newport, Oregon. Details are being worked out at this time and we should have final schedules by the end of the year. We anticipate a scaled back meeting similar to last year in Astoria but more likely with a dinner than a lunch as the lunch break makes a two-day meeting problematic. Whether we will have usual seminars will depend on interest and contributions.

October 25, 2019

## MARKET and CATCH:

Albacore catches over the past month have slowed down and almost disappeared as water temperatures have fallen and weather systems have started to arrive on the coast. Overall the 2019 season was good for some but like in the past three seasons fishing was very spotty and feed and bait conditions abnormal.

As of October 20<sup>th</sup> about 7,100 st of albacore have been landed in WA, OR, and CA. This amount is again about 60% of the 20-year average. We expect this number is not final and final tonnage is usually available in December.

Some of the decline in catch can be attributed to less effort over the past three years. Prior to 2017 the number of boats landing albacore on the west coast was about 25% higher than the past years dating back to 2000.

Recreational catches this season were very good.

We do not have exact figures but it may be in the 1,000 ton or more range due to the close-in

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nature of the 2019 fishery. This could throw an extra element into future catch distribution and controls but it is too early to tell.

Vessel prices since July remained the same for brine/brn bled \$3,200/ \$3,300 at most buyers. Blast frozen albacore lagged all summer but finished at \$4,000 or higher. Some of the smaller <9 pound albacore despite the fleets efforts to avoid them by boats were purchased in the range of \$ 2,000-\$2,500st. Iced/fresh has stayed around \$1.30/ pound for most of the season, and off-vessel sales went for \$2.50 - \$3.50 a pound.

Fishing for albacore in Europe went well again, but the North Pacific catch by Japan, U.S. and Canada will be down from average for all, however Canadian catches by Canadian boats in their waters probably will show improvement over 2018.

**Westport Seafoods Announcement 2020 Albacore Buying:** “Westport Seafood Inc. and Bornstein Seafoods will be partnering in 2020 to accommodate buying of all grades of albacore tuna, brine, bled and blast. We will have buying stations in Brookings, Newport, Astoria and Westport.

We are currently recruiting vessels to deliver to these ports for the 2020 Albacore season. Pricing will always be competitive, efficient scheduling and full payment within 14 days. If you have questions please reach out to either of us and we will gladly take your call”

Michael Cornman  
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[mike@westportseafoodinc.com](mailto:mike@westportseafoodinc.com)

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Bornstein Seafoods  
Cell: (360)739-0378  
[andrew@bornstein.com](mailto:andrew@bornstein.com)

**Recreational Fishery:** See the attached article below, but between Oregon and Washington the sports did very well this season. The close-in nature of the fishery was a big factor.

**2019 albacore catch blows old record out of the water**

Recreational anglers have pulled in 6.6 fish per trip this season on average

OREGON COAST (KOIN) — The Northwest is seeing a big comeback after two lackluster years of albacore tuna fishing. According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the 2019 season has the “highest overall recreational landings ever observed in Oregon.”

The total albacore catch through Sept. 15 is estimated at more than 100,000 fish. Compare that to 2012 (the next best year) when 63,167 recreational albacore were landed...

See: <https://tinyurl.com/y4botvgz>

**Logbooks and Permit Compliance:** Apparently NMFS is directing more of its funding to enforcement. They on boardings are checking for HMS and High Seas permits and logbooks. If logbooks are not sent in a timely manner the fine could be \$100/day.

**Article on USCG Patrol:** September 30<sup>th</sup>, Port Angeles, WA - Coast Guard Cutter Active has returned to its home port in Port Angeles after a 52-day patrol off the Washington and Oregon coast.

Active’s crew, which returned Friday, executed the fast-paced patrol enforcing federal fisheries regulations along the coasts. The patrol was part of Operation Pacific Fortune, which aims to maintain a level playing field among Pacific Northwest fishers and safeguard the commercial and recreational fishing industries, the Coast Guard said...

See: <https://tinyurl.com/yxhj48ot>

**U.S. Canada Treaty:** WFOA is polling its’ members now through November 15th. Polls were sent October 1 in the mail with two questions whether to continue the regime or not. The U.S. Department of State has indicated that a near-consensus of industry probably will be needed to not proceed with new negotiations of extending and/or modifying the regime. Give it some consideration either way and we will appreciate your response when we

send out the poll cards.

If and when negotiations begin, and there has to be a new regime in place by next summer otherwise it will be in a state of suspension as it was in 2012.

WFOA in the interim will be asking the Canadian industry for help easing strict EEZ/Port licence requirements that can result in forfeiture of the vessels entire load if paperwork is not carried out right and on-time. We also will ask more help investigating potential imports of mislabeled albacore from Canada to the U.S. and it's original source.

Article - Importing illegal seafood from Candna to the U.S. See: <https://tinyurl.com/y4febq5q>

### **DRILL INSTRUCTOR TRAINING 2019 FALL SCHEDULE:**

#### OREGON:

Newport #1- Englund Marine Oct 24-25 Celia 541-574-6534, Ext. 57410

Garibaldi - Fire Dept Oct 29-30 Curt 503-240-9373

Astoria - The Armory Oct 31-Nov 1 Amanda 503-325-8573

Gold Beach—Curry County Fairgrounds Forestry Bldg Nov 5-6 Steve Kee 541-756-9224

Charleston—Coast Guard Station Coos Bay Nov 7-8 Steve Kee 541-756-9224

Newport #2—Englund Marine Nov 13-14 Celia 541-574-6534, Ext. 57410

For more information please contact Mike or Curt at 503-240-9337 or 9373 or Steve Kee in North Bend at 541-756-9224 or email [FVSPortland@uscg.dhs.gov](mailto:FVSPortland@uscg.dhs.gov). Please register early, seats often fill quickly. Online info at [www.amsea.org](http://www.amsea.org).

#### CALIFORNIA:

Bodega Bay - Oct. 31 & Nov. 1, 2019  
7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Bodega Bay Grange Hall  
1370 Bodega Avenue  
Bodega Bay, CA 94923

Eureka - October 28 & 29, 2019  
7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Woodley Island Marina  
601 Startare Dr.  
Eureka, CA 95501

Crescent City - October 21 & 22, 2019  
7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, U.S.C.G. Auxilliary  
Fishermen's Wives Hall  
150 Marine Way  
Crescent City, CA 95531

Only \$95 to commercial fishermen, thanks to support from NIOSH, the U.S. Coast Guard, and AMSEA members. \$195 for all others. Meets the U.S. Coast Guard training requirements for drill conductors on commercial fishing vessels, 46 CFR 28.270©. Space is limited! Register online at [www.amsea.org](http://www.amsea.org) or call (907) 747-3287.

**The Pacific Fishery Management Council** (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet November 14-20, 2019 in Costa Mesa, California, to address issues related to groundfish, salmon, Pacific halibut, highly migratory species, coastal pelagic species, habitat, and administrative matters. The meeting of the Council and its advisory entities will be held at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa Hotel, 3050 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626; telephone, 714-540-7000.

Please see the November 14-20, 2019 Council Meeting notice on the Council's website for meeting detail, schedule of advisory body meetings, our new E-Portal for submitting public comments, and public comment deadlines

For further information: Please contact Pacific Fishery Management Council staff at 503-820-2280; toll-free 1-866-806-7204.

Tim Frawley is a postdoc working on an albacore fishery project at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in Monterey. He may present this at the HMSAS meeting at the PFMC. As a brief summary, he has been using trip tickets, fishermen interviews, HMS logbooks, and USCG vessel registration information to look at how different segments of the troll fishing fleet have been impacted by recent

economic and ecological trends. Our preliminary findings suggest that as the distribution of albacore troll effort and landings has shifted, and as fishing effort across other fisheries has become more and more restricted, albacore has become an increasingly important component of the harvesting portfolios for small boat fishermen in OR and WA. While our work to date has been more of a historical retrospective, over the next month or so I will be talking with fishermen and scientists to see how this information can be used to contextualize decreases in commercial landings observed since 2015.

**Representative Jared Huffman MSA Listening sessions:** I attended the first of Congressman Huffman's listening session in Eureka Saturday, October 5th as a panelist. This was the first of a number to be held on the coast and around the country.

There were about 50 people in audience of a few fishermen, crabbers, sport representatives and other interested parties

Marc Gorelnik from the PFMC council started the talk and concentrated on the MSA and council procedure and hung toward recreational, also did some on climate change and central valley water issues

I spoke second and generally just gave an overview of the albacore fishery and how it is managed through RFMO's and then federal level. I talked about ocean conditions last few years and data collection and logbooks or lack of e-logs. I did most on China's expansion in the PIN's and probable market issues affecting U.S. and Canadian markets. I mentioned the overfishing vs depleted suggestions given more can affect stocks than fishing. Most also brought that subject up. My 5 minutes went quickly and had to give up the mic. I had a few more opportunities in Q & A to talk about data and science, labeling and research funding. Afterwards Congressman Huffman told me he was not much aware of the albacore fishery especially how its managed. He seemed open to input and was asking the right questions.

The others talked about Coastal Port and infrastructure issues esp a project Humboldt State

is doing on port economics, and much on Salmon from 3 of the panelists.

Apparently these sessions will be held across the country and this one was the first one

**Assembly Bill-5: California:** AB 5 - Governor Gavin Newsom signed this bill that would have potentially turned fishing vessel crew into employees. That would have been very problematic for the fishing industry. The definition of a commercial fishermen at least in California is as below. However we are still concerned that fisheries inside territorial and state waters 12nm may not be exempt. We encourage crab, salmon and squid reps especially to take note and ask questions.

**Marine Stewardship Council (MSC):** After last years re-certification, WFOA and AAFA are finishing the annual audit phase for 2019. Given there is no complete stock assessment and it will not occur now until 2020 with new guidelines, as well as having the MSE process conclude in the north Pacific there should be no areas of concern at this time. MSC will begin doing some public outreach for local fish we have been told and are ready to take part in the effort.

WFOA buyers taking part in the MSC program on an annual basis can be found at [www.wfoa-tuna.org/msc](http://www.wfoa-tuna.org/msc).

#### **OTHER:**

**Lillian Martins:** WFOA express its condolences to the family of Lillian Martins who passed away on August 26, 2019. We all remember her and her husband Frank as icons of the west coast fisheries, as well as the whole family.

**Pro-seafood scientists push to knock mercury warnings from U.S. Dietary Guidelines.**

See: <https://tinyurl.com/y2gsmg6b>

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