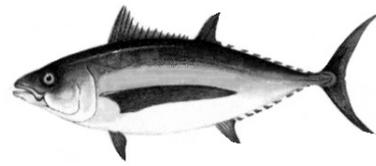


WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

May 1, 2014

The summer albacore season off the west coast is a couple months away. Boats are returning from the South Pacific and west coast vessels are preparing for this summer's catch. Over the winter and spring, a new assessment shows a stable stock of albacore, the U.S./Canada albacore treaty has a new three-year regime, WFOA and AAFA have merged MSC certifications into one, and as usual there are other new regulations and requirements to deal with. Details on these issues and more will follow within this newsletter and in the preseason newsletter around Mid-June.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Annual WFOA/AFRF Meeting 2014: WFOA held its annual meeting March 30 - April 1 in Newport, OR at the Hallmark Hotel & Resort. It proved to be a good location for such an event. We had a fair turnout for the reception and dinner of about 70 members and supporting members and thank the following for their sponsorship of that event.

Bellingham Cold Storage
Bornstein Seafoods Inc.
Bumble Bee Seafoods
Chicken of the Sea
Englund Marine Supply
Gallagher Transport
High Seas Tuna
Ilwaco Landing LLC
Jessies' Ilwaco Fish Company
Marine Chartering Co.
Pacific Seafood Group
Port of Astoria
Seafood Producers Coop
Star Kist Company
Trident Seafoods
Tri-Marine Fish Company
Willcox & Flegal Oil
Wild Planet Foods

WFOA also thanks all the seminar participants, members and non, and those supporting members that contributed raffle prizes to the event.

Public Outreach Raffle: WFOA conducted a raffle where

members received tickets at \$25 each with the proceeds are spent on public outreach and domestic albacore promotion as well as the three prizes. These are available when you pay dues or anytime by contacting WFOA. You do not have to be present to win the three prizes which this year included a \$500 gift certificate on Southwest Airlines, a large albacore painting/print, and binoculars. We now have 2015 tickets available for the next drawing in a year.

Elections: The WFOA Board of Directors elected Lewis Hill - President, Karl Johnson - VP, and Cory Halvorsen - Sec/Treasurer.

Bob Insinger Award: Norman Ringstad, F/V Misty R was given the Bob Insinger award for longtime service to WFOA from the Puget Sound district. Norm could not attend this event because of health reasons but that was the first time in a long time he missed a meeting.

2015 Annual Meeting: The board made no decision on the 2015 site. We have rotated to different venues over the past five years including, Astoria, Newport, Rocklin, and Reno trying to be convenient, fun, or central to the membership. They have all drawn about the same amount of members. For 2015 we may have to rethink the approach and try a way to get more participation on the district or regional level.

DIRECTORS '2014'

BRITISH COLUMBIA
DON BELLHAM

PUGET SOUND
KARL JOHNSON
(Vice - President)
NORMAN RINGSTAD
MIKE BROWN
ROD McVICKER
BRUCE SAMUELSON

ASTORIA / WESTPORT
LOUIE HILL
(President)
ED BITTNER
DOUG FRICKE
LIBIE CAIN
RON HARPER

COOS BAY / NEWPORT
HENRY deRONDEN
BARRY NELSON
SHAWN RYAN

EUREKA / FT. BRAGG
AARON NEWMAN

SF / OAKLAND
VACANT

MOSS LANDING
STEVE FOSMARK

MORRO BAY
WAYNE MOODY

SOCAL/HAWAII
JOHN LAGRANGE

NEW ZEALAND
PETER BALLANTYNE

CORY HALVORSEN
(Secretary / Treasurer)

2014 Dues: Some members have not yet paid 2014 dues. We encourage you to send them in as soon as possible. We recognize that some always pay just prior to the season. If you have not paid, you will receive a notice soon. We appreciate your commitment!

MARKET & PRICES:

North Pacific Season 2014: The regular brine markets are looking about like last year at this time and much depends on other catches worldwide and economics in the next three months. Albacore prices did rise \$50/mt in Samoa which is a positive. Right now at Star Kist albacore >10kg is \$2,700/mt USD, and \$2,535/mt <10kg. This is still far lower than it was three years ago and does not have too much bearing on west coast prices like in the distant past, but can indicate the trend going forward. For the NP much depends on early Japanese catches that tend to go to brine markets in Samoa, Thailand, and Europe, other new supplies from countries such as China, and the Spanish albacore fishery in July.

It appears now (see article in AFRF segment) that a new developing El Nino is on the way, mainly for later in 2014. We have had 4-5 years of La Nina conditions so no telling what this may do to the albacore catches. However, past strong El Ninos have produced good catches off the NW as well as offshore in the 150W region. It tends to reduce feed along the immediate coast for salmon and other commercial species which may shift some effort into albacore. A strong El Nino could produce much needed rain in California later this season which is good. Time will tell.

The WFOA board set up a committee to meet soon with some of the buyers and talk about solutions to improve and generate more domestic consumption of brine and blast albacore rather than exporting it. WFOA may be looking at some point for some committed vessels to work into some program coordination with willing buyers to achieve this. Any albacore that is sold domestically is a plus for local fishermen. No 30% - 35% of the catch is sold locally and rising.

South Pacific Season: Until the past few weeks, fishing in the South Pacific has been very slow for most of the 15 boats down there. Lately a few of the boats salvaged the season with some good catches. Fishing also was farther south than normal into the 46 degree S latitude. Some better catches have been reported late however. Fishing in the SP also seems to be starting later and ending later every year. All of these are blast boats selling into the blast

market which looks fairly stable despite some fish being sold from last season in the market at lower rates. A couple of SP boats with limited markets sold in Samoa.

MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL: After merging the certificates which apply to all U.S. pole and troll albacore under an HMS permit in the North and South Pacific both AAFA and WFOA have completed the annual surveillance audit for 2014. We are pleased to have accomplished this undertaking and look forward to working with other albacore certifications to address the conditions withstanding on the various certified fisheries in the US, New Zealand, Canada and elsewhere. WFOA will be listing MSC buyers for 2014 on our website page "MSC" along with vessels. Please see the enclosed press release from AAFA, WFOA and MSC on the merge.

WFOA and AAFA are encouraging MSC to do more to promote our fishery in markets overseas and domestically. They have a good public outreach structure for this and WFOA looks forward to working closer with them to achieve our goals.

MANAGEMENT & REGULATION:

U.S./Canada Treaty - Three Year Regime Established: Talks between the governments of the U.S. and Canada were held April 16-17, 2014 in Portland, OR. WFOA, AAFA, WTA, and Oregon Albacore Commission were present as well as processor reps and government agencies USCG, NOAA/NMFS and leading the delegation was Dave Hogan of the U.S. Dept. of State. Canadians were represented by similar representatives.

Given there was a DOS proposal already out which rolled over the 2013 regime through 2016. Talks were short and went about as expected and somewhat disappointing to the harvesters who hoped to see a step-downed phase out. The U.S. government acknowledged on more than one occasion that a majority of U.S. harvesters do not agree with the governments proposal.

A U.S. proposal was presented by Dave Hogan allowing 45 Canadian boats in U.S. waters with no changes from the 2013 regime. Dave made it clear that 45 boats was firm despite the Canadians requesting more for "good behavior" in 2013. He also said there would be no increase in the length of the season despite the Canadians wanting the same length as U.S.

The only change the U.S. proposed in the season was extending port privileges year around through the three-

year regime. Canada pushed back on that saying South Pacific boats etc. could go into Canadian ports for unloading, crew changes, and maintenance by filing the existing application and getting approved. The Canadians suggested it would be foolish for them to deny entry to legitimate requests at risk of the regime.

The government legal lawyers will work out the wording for the regime 2014-2016 soon and be in effect by June 15th.

In Summary:

- The fishing regime is for three years (2014 -2016) after which the regime will be suspended and only resurrected if U.S. harvesters request it and other conditions change, such as a harvest control rule like limited entry on U.S. boats that would end the regime.
- The fishing season for U.S. in Canada is June 15 - Oct 31, for Canada in the U.S. it is June 15 - Sept 15
- Port Privileges for U.S. in Canadian ports automatic June 15 - Dec 31, and by approval Jan 1 - June 14. However, the entry application has to be submitted in ALL cases.
- U.S. and Canada would strive for mutual cooperation on international issues especially the albacore effort increase by China.
- Check in Check out with Tofino the same and ALL U.S. boats intending to fish in Canada need to get on the NMFS list prior to the season.

✓ SEE INSERT TO-DO LIST FOR CONTACTS AND INFO:

Vessels Using Foreign Crew: WFOA is still pursuing a resolution of this issue where a U.S. vessel will be allowed to pick up and drop off to return home their foreign albacore crew. This would be under an existing visa or even back to the Customs and Border Patrol protocol three season back would be progress. Lately we have been in contact with agents in Washington, D.C. on the issue and pursuing the matter. At the U.S./Canada treaty talks the Dept. of State said they are willing to try to get the process moving. WFOA remains hopeful that this will get resolved soon.

NOAD Schema 3.4 -- 30-day Notice - Notices of Arrival and Departure: As part of ongoing efforts to enhance maritime domain awareness, we continue to improve

handling of essential data contained within Notices of Arrival and Departure (NOAD). On Tuesday, 22 April 2014, an updated NOAD schema, versioned 3.4, will be released that incorporates improvements in vessel response plan data reporting.

When NOAD Schema 3.4 is released on 22 April 2014, NOAD Schema 3.2 and older versions will no longer be supported. If you are an InfoPath or Excel workbook user and want to take advantage of the improved vessel response plan data reporting, you will need to download the latest versions of each, which will be available on the NVMC downloads page on 22 April 2014. You may send questions or comments to: techsupport@nvmc.uscg.gov NVMC Tech Support, 304-264-2502". If you have further questions not answered at www.nvmc.uscg.gov you may contact the NVMC at (800) 708-9823 or (304) 264-2502 or by sending an email with your specific question or inquiry to the sans@nvmc.uscg.gov address. You may send technical questions to the techsupport@nvmc.uscg.gov address.

Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC): The next meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council and its advisory bodies will be June 18-25, 2014; advisory bodies begin Wednesday, June 18; Council sessions begin Friday, June 20. It will be held at the following location:

Hyatt Regency Orange County
11999 Harbor Blvd.
Garden Grove, CA 92840
Phone: 714-750-1234

There will be no albacore related issues on the agenda for June 22. However, the HMSAS and HMSMT may consider some in their meetings' prior. There is an update on international activities Friday the 20th. The main council agenda does include:

E. HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

1. Update on Regulations and International Issues (Friday)
2. Drift Gillnet Transition Issues
3. EFP Process Confirmation
4. Initial Scoping of Biennial Specifications & Management Measures including Bluefin Tuna Bag Limits and VMS Enhancements

Notice of Availability - The Line, Volume 3, No. 1, May 2014, is a publication of the Pacific Fishery Management Council. The Line is a summary of West Coast fisheries news, for fishermen, published five times per year. This

issue highlights the decisions made at the March and April 2014 Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings.

You may view past issues of the Council's newsletter and The Line by visiting the Council's Newsletter Archives webpage. Please direct your comments and thoughts regarding The Line or other public relations matters to Jennifer.Gilden@noaa.gov, Information and Communications Specialist at 503-820-2418, or toll-free 1-866-806-7204, ext. 418.

HMSAS Subpanel Vacancy: Steve Foltz the Southern Processor Rep has not been able to serve on the HMSAS recently due to time constraints. The PFMC will advertise for someone to fill his seat. This could include any processor south of Cape Mendocino, CA.

MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (MSC): WFOA and AAFA have completed the process of merging our two certifications into one. The certification will cover ALL U.S. HMS permitted pole and troll albacore vessels in the North and South Pacific. See insert.

Public Outreach: WFOA over the past five seasons has been pursuing projects to promote local albacore to the domestic consumer. We have worked alongside others such as the Oregon Albacore Commission (OAC), retailers such as Whole Foods, New Seasons and others, as well as local processors, distributors, restaurants, and those with new innovative approaches to selling albacore tuna in all forms. In the past most albacore was canned by major canners and generally overseas. The domestic albacore consumption has shown a slow steady improvement with custom cans and value-added products that spotlight the local albacore enhanced flavor and texture. We still have along ways to go.

Public outreach to local consumers will be especially important in 2014 as the export markets fluctuate and show instability. The more fish that stays home and is consumed domestically helps the fishermen, processors, and consumer.

GRAPHICS NEEDED: WFOA is updating our graphics for our media outlets and information flyers we will be updating. We desperately need more high quality photos of fishermen, vessels, and actions shots. Please send them via email in jpg format to wfoa@charter.net.

For those that are used we will give credit to those in the photos.

WFOA continues to get out the word through our websites, social media such as facebook, twitter, blogs and constant contact news every month. If you have good stories please forward them to wfoa.

WFOA also expects to again work with OAC and others on food demos and events that showcase local albacore, local products and local fishermen and those in the industry in a positive light. We plan to do more to counter erroneous claims about items such as mercury and radiation. Most of those stories that lump in the local fisheries are tied to agendas that tend to be anti-fishing in nature and a way to raise funds.

WFOA also maintains a trademarked logo design both round and square and is free to any member that asks permission for its use.



FYI For DGN Swordfishermen:

There is California State legislation, AB-2019 that if passed would ban west coast swordfish fishing and only allow harpoon. It is mainly written by ENGO's Turtle Island Restoration Network and Oceana. Assembly member Paul Fong (D-San Jose) introduced Assembly Bill 2019. Assembly member Marc Levine (D – San Rafael) is a joint author of the legislation, and Assembly Mark Stone (D – Monterey Bay) is a principal co-author.

On April 29, 2014 it was heard in the ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE where it failed by a 7-6 vote.

Although this type of legislation does not affect albacore trollers, it does demonstrate how a fishery that the NMFS and U.S. considers sustainable can be derailed by emotional misinformation if large well funded groups want to eliminate it. No fishery is immune and issues like this seem to pop up in states more than at the federal level.

New Members:

Seawater Seafood Co. Bret Hamrick Newport, OR

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