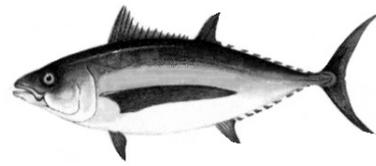


# WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

June 20, 2014

This is an abbreviated newsletter just prior to the 2014 season with information on buyers, management, research, and public outreach ongoing. We are expecting a good season and wish all member well and safe fishing for another season. The next newsletter in August will be heavy on management issues after the PFMC and IATTC meetings take place with issue affecting your fishery and future.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Vessel E-mail List for Info:** WFOA will send out a test message on June 25<sup>th</sup> to all units on the vessel at-sea information list. If you want on or want to remain on for 2014 send a quick email to [wfoa@charter.net](mailto:wfoa@charter.net) so we can update the list prior to July 1.

**General E-Mail List:** No action is required unless your email has changed, or you desire to be on or off the list let us know. Members not current on their dues for 2014 will be removed in early July.

**E-mail Delivery of this Newsletter:** WFOA has about 150 members receiving this newsletter by e-mail now. If you want to be on the email list let us know and you will not receive a hard copy. You can request both. For supporting members inserting flyers, we will send them along with the newsletter in PDF format. We will also post the regular newsletter on the website at [www.wfoa-tuna.org](http://www.wfoa-tuna.org) Click "newsletter" link with a 30 -60 delay.

**2014 Dues:** For those still behind on 2014 dues, we encourage you to send them in. We recognize that some always pay just prior to the season. If you have not paid, you received a notice. We appreciate your commitment!

## MARKET & PRICES:

**North Pacific Season 2014:** So far there has been a few albacore caught off California and Oregon. A few of the South Pacific boats returning reported a few fish caught 300 miles offshore and there has also been a few caught

two weeks ago west of the 128° W. It is still quite early but water temperatures are running 2° - 4° degrees warmer than 2013 along the NW coast. Recent heavy NW winds have cooled water back down but calmer conditions have appeared over the past week. The trend is for an earlier start than the past two years.

There are no set prices yet for albacore on the west coast. We do expect that to happen in the next two weeks or when fishing starts in earnest. WFOA will keep all informed through email to homes and vessels of developments as they occur.

Prices for albacore worldwide and the demand is better than a year ago. Buyers seem more interested at home and overseas. Prices worldwide for longline albacore may have bottomed out late 2013 and now have inched up \$100 or more in traditional buying ports. Because of inventory from 2013 blast/bled prices paid to SP vessels were in the \$3,100 range. The sales of the product have increased however and should be cleaned out in the near future.

The downside may turn out is that Japan is having a good start to its summer season fishing on albacore similar to the fish caught on the west coast as far as size and fat content. This has always been a factor in prices for brine markets especially being low fat, much of this early fish is exported to major canners and Spain. Skipjack prices have increased

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dramatically and quickly in the past months which could redirect some of the albacore effort in Japan toward that fishery. Also, in recent weeks albacore longline production around the globe has improved.

WFOA met recently with 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, and we will keep the communication ongoing as we can all benefit.

**Price of Beef, Chicken and Fish & Eggs Rocket to All-time Highs** - Article -(CNSNews.com) – The seasonally-adjusted price index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs hit an all-time high in May, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

In January 1967, when the BLS started tracking this measure, the index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs was 38.1. As of last May, it was 234.572. By this January, it hit 240.006. By April, it hit 249.362. And, in May, it climbed to a record 252.832. <http://cnsnews.com/node/805362>

On the flip side albacore tuna caught by west coast fishermen are influenced by foreign subsidized fisheries, world catch and other factors. Nevertheless prices paid to fishermen still range from \$1.00 to \$2.00/per pound in general which is not much different that they were 30 years ago. It has room to grow with more local domestic consumption and still remains a great bargain for the consumer compared to other sources of protein.

#### **MANAGEMENT & REGULATION:**

**U.S./Canada Treaty - Three Year Regime Established:** The only change the U.S. proposed in the season from 2013 was extending port privileges year around through the three-year regime. As of today we have not seen any language for the diplomatic notes to achieve this regime. We have been promised a look at the draft for comments. Unfortunately the season under the new negotiated regime began on June 15<sup>th</sup>. If there are any hangups we will notify the membership ASAP through email lists and other means.

#### **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.

**Pacific Fisheries Management Council / Inter- American Tropical Tuna Commission:** The PFMC is meeting this week in Garden Grove, CA. Despite not having albacore issues specifically on the agenda there has been a flurry of communication between our AFRF science advisor, legal council, board and others concerning the science and politics now in play in the PFMC and also the IATTC which meets in July in Lima, Peru. All of this centers on competing ideas on establishing international Biological Reference Points (BRP's). The ALBWG of the ISC has one plan, as does now the IATTC and PFMC, which also have proposals for Harvest Control Rules (HCR's). The coastal albacore fishery which is aging and not being replaced is becoming caught up in this geopolitical game where countries with enormous capacity, vessel numbers, and effort will gain while our fleet fades away. The U.S. Government with a few exceptions seems to be letting it happen.

The August Newsletter will have a detailed report from each.

See the segment in the AFRF newsletter enclosed by Dr. Vidar Wespestad on the subject.

#### **President Obama Proposes Vast Expansion of Pacific Marine Sanctuaries:**

*NOTE - This is a vast expansion by Executive order that will be very detrimental to the purse seine fleet. This was first put into effect by President Bush prior to leaving office that covers waters mainly in Hawaii, which put out of business a number of small family fishermen.*

WASHINGTON-- June 17, 2014 -- President Obama announced Tuesday his intent to make a broad swath of the

central Pacific Ocean off-limits to fishing, energy exploration and other activities.

The proposal, slated to go into effect later this year after a comment period, could create the world's largest marine sanctuary and double the area of ocean globally that is fully protected.

"I'm going to use my authority to protect some of our nation's most precious marine landscapes," Obama said in a video to participants at a State Department conference, adding that while the ocean is being degraded, "We cannot afford to let that happen. That's why the United States is leading the fight to protect our oceans."

The Washington Post further reported that the "oceans effort, led by Secretary of State John F. Kerry and White House counselor John D. Podesta, is likely to spark a new political battle with Republicans over the scope of Obama's executive powers."

And, in fact, shortly after the President's announcement, the House Natural Resources Committee majority referred to the action as an "overreaching Executive action to unilaterally lock-up huge portions of the Pacific Ocean."

For Full Story See: <http://tinyurl.com/mjlstl6>

#### **DRILL INSTRUCTOR TRAINING - 2014 Summer Schedule**

Garibaldi - June 25-26 - Mike/Curt 503-240-9373

Port Orford - July 31-August 1 - Mike/Curt 503-240-9373

Brookings - September 3-4 - Steve 541-756-9224

Astoria - September 11-12 - Mike/Curt 503-240-9373

Newport - September 17-18 - Michele (OSU Ext) 541-574-6534, Ext. 11

Drill Conductor Course is held over two days. Students will learn emergency procedures and the use of safety equipment aboard commercial fishing vessels. For more information please contact Mike or Curt Farrell at 503-240-9337 or 9373 or Steve Kee in North Bend at

**Vessel Marking Proposal for Comment:** The Federal Register Notice for OMB Control No. 0648-0361, Southwest Region Vessel Identification Requirements, published 5/20/2014. The comment period ends 7/21/2014.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden(including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c)ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

660.704 Vessel identification.

(a) Applicability. This section only applies to commercial fishing vessels that fish for HMS off, or land HMS in the States of California, Oregon, and Washington. This section does not apply to recreational charter vessels that fish for HMS off or land HMS in the States of California, Oregon, and Washington. Each fishing vessel must be marked for identification purposes, as follows:

(1) A vessel used to fish on the high seas within the Convention Area as defined in 300.211 of this title must be marked in accordance with the requirements at 300.14 and 300.217 of this title.

(2) A vessel not used to fish on the high seas within the Convention Area as defined in 300.211 of this title must be marked in accordance with either:

(i) Sections 300.14 and 300.217 of this title, or

(ii) The vessel's official number must be affixed to the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull, and on an appropriate weather deck so as to be visible from enforcement vessels and aircraft. The official number must be affixed to each vessel subject to this section in block Arabic numerals at least 10 inches (25.40 cm) in height for vessels more than 25 ft (7.62 m) but equal to or less than 65 ft (19.81 m) in length; and 18 inches (45.72 cm) in height for vessels longer than 65 ft (19.81 m) in length. Markings must be legible and of a color that contrasts with the background.

**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.

**There will be an article on the coastal albacore fishery in this July's 2014 edition of Sunset Magazine.**

#### **Wild Pacific Albacore Tuna: Web & Social Media Links**

##### **Websites:**

[www.wfoa-tuna.org](http://www.wfoa-tuna.org) Association Site  
[www.PacificAlbacore.com](http://www.PacificAlbacore.com) Consumer Site  
[www.afrf.org](http://www.afrf.org) Science Site

##### **Facebook:**

Wild Pacific Albacore:  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Wild-Pacific-Albacore](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wild-Pacific-Albacore)

**Twitter:** @PacificAlbacore

**Constant Contact E-Blast Monthly:** WFOA does monthly e-blast articles on Constant Contact, anyone wishing to be on the list let us know at: [wfoa@charter.net](mailto:wfoa@charter.net)

**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](mailto: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, instagram, blogs and constant contact news every month. If you have good stories please forward them to WFOA. WFOA also will work the Oregon Albacore Commission 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.

**Great Article on Mercury: 5 Reasons Why Concerns About Mercury in Fish Are Misguided** - by Chris Kresser

*In 2004 the EPA and FDA published new guidelines suggesting*

*that pregnant women (and those who might become pregnant) limit their consumption of fish to 12 ounces (340 g) per week due to concerns about mercury exposure.*

*These guidelines, which were only intended for pregnant women for the sake of their developing children, have quickly become an accepted fact among the mainstream media, the medical establishment, and the general public. They have also been indiscriminately extended to other populations, including men and women who are not pregnant. I frequently have patients that tell me they're limiting seafood consumption due to concerns about mercury, and it seems like there's a new study or media story on this topic every week.*

*But is it really true that eating fish increases the risk of harm from mercury—either for the developing children of pregnant women, or anyone else? Should pregnant women be limiting their consumption of fish for this reason? And is it possible that that pregnant women might actually be harmed by following the FDA/EPA guidelines?*

*Are you limiting fish intake due to concerns about mercury? Find out why you might be doing more harm than good. I answer these questions in detail below. This article will be longer than usual; it's an important topic and I want to give it the attention that it deserves. For the time challenged among you, here are the key points:*

- *There's no evidence that pregnant women or children (or anyone else) will be harmed by eating more than 12 ounces (340 g) of the most commonly consumed varieties of fish.*
- *In fact, there's a lot of evidence that eating less than 12 ounces a week of fish could cause significant harm to both pregnant women and young children.*
- *Most pregnant women need to eat more fish, rather than less.*

*That's the summary. Now let's look more specifically at 5 reasons why you shouldn't take conventional advice about mercury in fish at face value.*

For Full Article See: <http://tinyurl.com/mmsrbyj>

##### **New Members:**

F/V Blazer	DDR Fisheries LLC	Coos Bay/Newport
F/V Sea Pak	Eric Johnson	Coos Bay/Newport
F/V Trinket	Steve Sceeles	Puget Sound

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