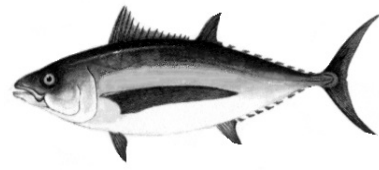


WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

September 1, 2014

This season is about two thirds of the way finished and is proving to be one of the stranger ones on record as far as albacore marketing. Fortunately, fishing has been very good. On the other hand markets for sashimi grade albacore are totally flat for the first time since 2006, while the brine-canned markets have expanded dramatically into domestic markets for the first time. Prices for brine/frozen albacore are up over last season but still below levels of 2011-2012 but could be far worse if these domestic outlets did not develop when they did. It has been a good year for jig and pole albacore fishermen worldwide and the upside is these markets are adjusting and probably maintaining positive movement over the long haul.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Drill Instructor Training: Training opportunities for commercial fishermen will be held soon in Eureka, Crescent City, and Half Moon Bay. This training meets current requirements for documented commercial fishing vessels operating beyond the boundary line, and when new regulations come into effect for all commercial fishing vessels that operate more than 3nm from shore. AMSEA instructor, Beverly Noll, will conduct a Drill Conductor Workshop in Eureka, CA on October 6 & 7, 2014 at Woodley Island Marina, 601 Startare Drive, Eureka, CA, Crescent City, CA on October 2 & 3, Fishermen's Wives Hall, 150 Marine Way, Crescent City, CA, Half Moon Bay, CA on October 17 & 18, Half Moon Bay Yacht Club, 214 Princeton Ave, Half Moon Bay, CA

This workshop meets U.S. Coast Guard requirements for fishing vessels. The cost \$195. All boaters are welcome! Space is limited! To register call 907-747-3287 or visit www.amsea.org

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.

MARKET & PRICES:

North Pacific Season 2014: Recent reports show albacore catches which have been very good over the past eight weeks falling off in many areas to more of a spotty fall fishery. Jig/Troll catches' average around 1/2 to 1 ton per day, but there are more areas of slow or no catch now. Baitboat catches have picked up as fish begin to school up as they tend to do in the latter stages of the season. The catches in July and August off Oregon and Washington were very good in many places with a mixed grade of sizes and age classes. Also, fishing off Canada has been good all season but no recent reports, and very little reported in Central and Northern in California.

Markets: Markets for blast frozen albacore remains challenging with some interested buyers looking but not purchasing. Some blast fish has been sold at brine and brine/bled prices which has not happened since 2006 when blast dipped lower than brine at one point. Early season blast /frozen prices were around \$3,200/st but as fish was landed the prices went down. Some companies had no markets especially in Canada where the large Sockeye Salmon season took a lot effort out of buying albacore.

Wildplanet Foods is continued to buy brine steadily all season. The problem there was WP had only a few docks to unload and created backups. Recently there has been some

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new orders with other buyers. Unfortunately, some of the buyers in Spain and elsewhere have reacted to rumors of price drops generated locally and backed out of some of those orders. Unfortunately for them the price remains stable and fish are being sold with not many weeks remaining.

The unstable market is partially the result of some regional oversupply of albacore. This is restricting the U.S. vessels ability to unload in a timely manner in some cases. Good landings in Canada and earlier in Japan have restricted the markets for the higher end blast frozen at sea albacore, and good catches by the Spanish and Irish in Europe have choked the market in Spain that generally absorbs 30% of the U.S. catch.

Prices for Brine/Unbled began at \$2,300/st, and \$2,380/st for Brine/Bled. On August 5th the price was adjusted at \$2,200/st and \$2,250 - \$2,280st. The brine-bled market which has been showing promise in the past few seasons was nonexistent this season. Iced/Fresh prices started above \$1.50 pound but now are in the \$1.10/pound range depending on location and demand.

Overall 2014 appears to be a very good season for tonnage landed and with the new domestic markets and expansion of other new markets the future should be positive. Salmon, Shrimp and Albacore catches have been very good in 2014 for domestic fishermen and processors.

Blast/Bled Issues: WFOA and Oregon Albacore Commission recognizing the issue with the blast/bled markets and the continued prices fluctuations will be discussing ways to get more albacore sold locally through the winter while there is supply and may be pursuing some forums and other gatherings to try to find a way to promote and make this market what it should be.

With new markets domestically for brine frozen and iced albacore suddenly increasing, more emphasis can be directed toward the blast/bled market. We need to get some heads together over the winter to better address this issue as more boats expand into the blast /bled fishery. It seems little attention gets paid to the blast/bled albacore market when it has been good but if we look at history this segment has had large up and down movement in prices in short times periods.

WFOA will be soliciting and welcomes any input and participation on this from fishermen, processors, consumers, and others so we can try to do more.

WFOA over history has not involved itself as much with blast frozen as fishermen tended to establish their own market and niches. But we certainly can help expand the local market in a number of ways and try to get a better grasp on the market and ways to find stability.

MANAGEMENT & REGULATION:

Seafood Tariff in Astoria: From Christa M. Svensson (Bornstein Seafoods) - *Last Tuesday, the Port of Astoria commission made a radical move to initialize tariffs on seafood, related services and the handling of goods landed at any Port of Astoria property. The proposed tariffs will adversely affect the cost of operations to all fishermen who land at the Port of Astoria. The port provides no assistance, or work, with regard to transactions occurring across dock space leased to first receivers of seafood. If the Port of Astoria is successful, the intent is to assess and charge for anything moving over the docks. Potential tariffs include, seafood unloading, tie up fees to boats, ice and salt sold to vessels, and gear loading and offloading. Upon implementation, the deeper financial hit to fishing vessels landing at Port of Astoria properties, is the lack of a mechanism to stop rate increases by use of a simple motion at future port meetings. The secondary impact is the increased likelihood of similar tariff structure being implemented at other ports against their respective fishermen along the coast.*

I am asking WFOA and its membership to support Astoria processors and fishermen by writing letters to the Port of Astoria commission in opposition of seafood tariffs. The Port Commission meets for a second reading of the proposal on 9/16/14. They want to hear from people face to face as well, if any of your members are available for comment, the port meeting begins at 6 pm.

Very respectfully,
Christa M. Svensson

Please mail letters to:
Port of Astoria
Attn: Port Commissioners
10 Pier One Suite 308
Astoria, OR 97103

ISC Stock Assessment and ALBWG Report: The latest stock assessment on North Pacific Albacore is final and results are good for our fishery. The next assessment will be in three years. There is a full report in the AFRF newsletter included within. The bottom line for managers of the fishery again shows no need for further effort or catch restrictions on

small fisheries such as the U.S. and Canadian albacore fishery at this time. However, reasonable and agreed upon biological reference points and up to date reporting as well as data collection needs to go on. Also, more emphasis on enforcement of IUU fishing at sea and in the marketplace needs attention.

Report of IATTC and Northern Committee Meeting: Peter Flournoy is attending the Northern Committee of the WCPFC meeting this week in Japan on behalf of WFOA, AFRE, and AAFA. He will have a report on this and the IATTC meeting he attended in July soon. WFOA also will have reports on the PFMC meeting in Spokane to be held Sept 12-14 with many HMS issues on the agenda. Much of the issues will deal with Bluefin, DGN, and Forage Species. The albacore issues that may come out of the Northern Committee maybe be the Canadian proposal on biological reference points which needs improvement as of today.

Mexico Complaint about U.S. Salmon Boats: At the IATTC meeting in July, Mexico made a statement saying the U.S. albacore fleet was not in compliance with resolution C-05-02 which calls for member nations not to increase effort in the North Pacific above "current levels" citing the spike in effort in 2012 on the U.S. west coast. This resolution was adopted in 2005 and a similar measure was adopted by the WCPFC. Mexico also asserted that a number of U.S. salmon vessels entered the fishery without registering with the IATTC and thus were considered IUU vessels.

The U.S. responded that there was a spike but that the threshold of compliance on the resolution is imprecisely defined as "current levels of effort" and the definition needs to be further developed. In the meantime U.S. vessels need to be registered with the IATTC and fill out logbooks, and have an HMS permit. Most of the problem was with small coastal boats catch small amounts of albacore and probably not up on new regulations. Most are neither WFOA or AAFA members where they would get information.

Canada Treaty: WFOA has sent out this info in every newsletter and email news lists in the past six months but we have been notified that some boats have entered Canadian ports without the port entrance application (you can fish in Canadian water without it). Also, a number of ice boats have been landing albacore without an HMS permit. NMFS will probably cite them now. Most are not WFOA or AAFA boats but worth a mention as fines are high.

U.S. Vessels wishing to fish in Canadian waters pursuant to

the treaty must register with NMFS at least seven days prior to the first planned day in Canada by contacting NMFS at (562) 980-4024 or email albacore.fish@noaa.gov, as well as contacting Tofino CG prior to entering. Additional requirements and instructions can be found in the Guide for Complying with U.S./Canada Albacore Treaty.

Number of Vessels: 45 Canadian Vessels in U.S. EEZ, Historical Number U.S. Vessels in Canadian EEZ.

Application to Enter Canada Ports for service, unloading, crew transfers, maintenance, fueling, etc.:
<http://tinyurl.com/mvy4pvg>

Congress urged to make F/V discharge exemption permanent before temporary law expires in December

SEAFOODNEWS.COM by Ledyard King - September 2, 2014

When commercial fishing vessels unload their hauls on deck, crews usually gut their catch and put it on ice for the trip back to shore. Then they do something that could land them in trouble under a 6-year-old law: They hose down the decks, sending the bloody mix of guts and scales into the water.

The Clean Boating Act of 2008 requires vessels to test deck-water runoff for contaminants. They also must sample seawater that is circulated into live wells for crabs and lobsters and then discharged back into the ocean, gulf or bay. At least on paper.

The regulation isn't enforced because lawmakers have approved temporary exemptions sparing commercial fishermen from having to comply with a rule that many call onerous and expensive. The current exemption ends in December, and the industry is concerned congressional malaise and partisanship could stall legislation to extend it.

That would leave commercial operators on the hook for an expensive and time-consuming sampling regimen that they say could drive them out of business and reduce the fish available at local markets and restaurants.

In response, Democratic and Republican senators, mostly from coastal states, have sponsored the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act to make the exemption permanent, similar to the one given recreational fishermen several years ago. Mississippi Republican Sens. Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker are among the cosponsors of the bill. It was passed by the Senate Commerce, Space and Technology Committee last month and is now headed to the full Senate

for a vote. A similar measure has passed the House as part of a Coast Guard reauthorization bill. Environmentalists don't have a problem with making the exemption permanent for fishing boats less than 79 feet long. What they don't like is the larger bill attached to it.

A letter to lawmakers in June from some of the nation's most prominent environmental groups warned that the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act would not only allow large commercial ships to continue releasing ballast water without proper monitoring or remediation but also would curtail ongoing state-led efforts to clamp down on such discharges.

Christopher Brown with the Seafood Harvesters of America said commercial fishermen simply want certainty. "We want to stabilize the environment in which we conduct our business," he said. "And coming out of the recession we just crawled out of, we don't need any more instability."

Update -Sept 3, 2014 - House has passed Coast Guard bill with permanent exemption. Senate Commerce passed VIDA but it includes ballast water language which has strong opposition so won't make it thru Senate. Hope is to have stripped down version (commercial exemption, no ballast water) go forward. Best bet at this point is contact your Senators and tell them of importance of commercial vessel extension, need to have it in place before Congress adjourns, ballast water issue needs to be considered separately

IUU Vessels - Netmarked Fish: From USCG- The CG launched a C-130 in response to some of the reports we received of net marked fish. Our interviews of some U.S. albacore harvesters, combined with other available intelligence resources, provided us with an area of interest to focus on, approximately 600 NM offshore. An Air Station Sacramento C-130 was deployed to the area on 15 August, 2014. The nine-hour flight, with an embarked NOAA Fisheries Enforcement agent, covered approximately 4,000 square nautical miles, in addition to a round-trip to and from the search area of approximately 2,000 miles, and yielded no observations of suspicious activity. We'll continue to monitor activity and look forward to any additional information your members might be able to provide.

Brian Corrigan, Coast Guard District 13, 206-220-7309

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. 2014 brought us a large shift for brine frozen albacore into the domestic retail market such as Costco. We now need to do more for the blast frozen loin markets in the months to come. There will be inventory and it should be used domestically after access to fresh/iced albacore dwindles.

Oregon Seafood Article on Fishwise:

<http://tinyurl.com/ptc35wx>

Safeway Stores in Oregon recently ran a week long promotion of local albacore tuna, most of it was from the iced/fresh catch: <http://tinyurl.com/pvbm1m6>

Whole Foods held an albacore cut-and-wrap event on Saturday August 23 in Portland, OR. Nancy Fitzpatrick of Oregon Albacore Commission (OAC) attended distributing local albacore information. She said it went well.

Wild Pacific Albacore Tuna: Web & Social Media Links

Websites:

www.wfoa-tuna.org

Association Site

www.PacificAlbacore.com

Consumer Site

www.afrf.org

Science Site

Facebook:

Wild Pacific Albacore:

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

New Members:

F/V Miss Tiffanie

Kris Melling

Ast/West

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