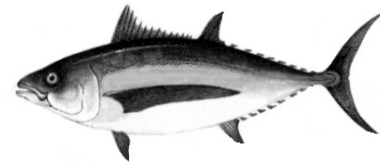


WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

January 6, 2020

Happy New Years 2020 to WFOA members and all. We wish you a prosperous and safe year in your fishing operations and hope harvest patterns of albacore stabilize from the past four-year sporadic trend. It has been very quiet on issues the past few months but we expect that to change. This newsletter is relatively short, with mainly followup information and previews. There is a short AFRF newsletter also included.

printed version will be:

March 2020	Deadline March 6 th
May 2020	Deadline May 5 th
June 2020	Deadline June 5 th

NOTICES:

Expo Membership Meeting: We thank those that attended the open membership meeting in Seattle in November. It at least gives us some idea through discussion where thoughts of fishermen lie on issues such as the treaty, MSC, regulation and other issues going forward.

MARKET and CATCH: As of December 31st about 7,783/st of albacore were landed in WA, OR, and CA by 537 troll and baiboats. This amount is about 600 tons higher than in 2018 which is positive. Westport had the highest landings. This information is from PacFin and changes from time to time. Final numbers probably will not be posted for a couple months.

2020 Annual Meeting: WFOA/AFRF will hold a general meeting March 30-31, 2020 in Newport, Oregon. The venue will be the Hallmark Hotel. If you are not a WFOA or AFRF director on the master list, reservations can be made by calling the Hallmark at (541)-265-2600. This again will be a scaled back meeting similar to last year in Astoria but with a dinner/reception on Monday evening, March 30th. For the dinner we absolutely need you to RSVP. (See Enclosed Flyer)

About 800 tons of U.S. caught albacore was landed in Canada. The catch data from Canada is not final. There are no numbers on Canadian catch yet in the U.S. or Canadian EEZ's. We expect that prior to treaty negotiations later this spring.

If you plan to attend dinner on March 30th email wfoa@charter.net or call 530-229-1097 with your name and number in party.

Dues 2020: WFOA appreciates all who have sent in their 2020 dues. They are officially due on January 1st and new invoices were sent last week.

Future Newsletters: For supporting members that wish to place flyers in the newsletters (we can post a PDF file flyer at anytime on the website)the next

DIRECTORS
<u>BRITISH COLUMBIA</u> DON BELLHAM
<u>PUGET SOUND</u> KARL JOHNSON (Vice - President) JOHN McKINNON MIKE BROWN ROD McVICKER BRUCE SAMUELSON
<u>ASTORIA / WESTPORT</u> LOUIE HILL (President) ED BITTNER DOUG FRICKE LIBIE CAIN RON HARPER
<u>COOS BAY / NEWPORT</u> HENRY deRONDEN SHAWN RYAN
<u>EUREKA / FT. BRAGG</u> AARON NEWMAN
<u>SF / OAKLAND</u> VACANT
<u>MOSS LANDING</u> TOM HART
<u>MORRO BAY</u> WAYNE MOODY
<u>SOCAL/HAWAII</u> JOHN LAGRANGE ROB McADAM
<u>NEW ZEALAND</u> PETER BALLANTYNE
<u>TERESA REEVES</u> (Secretary / Treasurer)

As mentioned previously, recreational catches this season were very good. We do not have exact figures but it may

be in the 1,000 tons or more range due to the close-in nature of the 2019 fishery. This could throw an extra element into future catch distribution and controls but it is too early to tell.

South Pacific: As many as 20 vessels went to the South Pacific this season. Some arrived very early in mid-December. Fishing has been reported as good. Fishing in the 1990's and 80's in this region was much better than that in the North Pacific at that time leading to speculation that the south increases when the north decreases. There is no evidence other than catch to support that, but it is interesting to make the comparison. We wish those boats good fishing and a safe season.

Prices and Markets: The brine market ended up fairly stable at year's end and the \$3,200/st to \$3,300/st prices were maintained throughout the summer season. The blast/bled market was softer especially at the beginning of the season when prices to vessels were not much higher than brine fish. Smaller fish did not help. Cheap imported loins and whole fish may be an issue that we are trying to determine how much of a factor it plays.

Blast prices at season's end seemed to stabilize around \$4,000/st. Also, quality and handling issues had affect on some of the markets. This has always been an issue for many years. Even if rejected by a buyer the fish does make it into the supply chain at some price which hurts everyone. Quality begins on the vessel and extends to the buyer at the first landing point but how address that is difficult. WFOA strongly encourages all to do their part in this.

MANAGEMENT:

WCPFC Papua New Guinea: The regular session of the WCPFC was held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea December 4-11, 2020. WFOA/ AFRF did not send a representative to this session because of the costs involved. Fortunately the PFMC sent Christa Svensson, and also attending was Dorthy Lowman who is a WCPFC Commissioner. WFOA and AFRF need to stay involved to protect our access to the South Pacific grounds where our boats began fishing in the mid-1980's and continue to be the only troll fleet in the region at this point.

WFOA remains on the look out for anything coming from FFA or New Zealand having to do with the Tokelau arrangement. This is where the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) try to push through having all albacore fishing take place within their EEZs thus closing down the high seas. The FFA and SIDS have gotten this on the agenda a couple of times with no advanced notice. At one time it was modified to include only longline gear, but was later changed to include all albacore fisheries. It keeps popping up. NMFS-PIRO is aware of it but it doesn't hurt to keep reminding them.

Some Excerpts From the WCPFC Website:

The Commission agreed to reinvigorate the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap Working Group in 2020 under the leadership of Fiji and for it to continue to work intersessionally to develop the Roadmap for Effective Conservation and Management of South Pacific Albacore.

The Commission further agreed that the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap Working Group would meet in the margins of SC16 and TCC16 and that during the intersessional period it would work to develop its workplan and terms of reference.

The Commission noted the progress on the development of performance indicators for South Pacific Albacore.

The Commission noted the progress on the development of harvest control rules and management strategy evaluation for South Pacific albacore.

The Commission noted that possible future amendments to CMM 2015-02 would be among the matters to be considered through the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap Working Group.

WCPFC17 would be held as a seven-day meeting with FAC13 and the HOD meeting held immediately prior, at a date to be advised in December 2020. As there was no offer to host the meeting, the Secretariat was tasked to

find a suitable location for the meeting and advise CCMs and Observers accordingly. The Commission also approved the use of the working capital fund by the Secretariat, if necessary, to supplement the costs of the WCPFC17 meeting.

SP albacore Roadmap would hold two face-to-face meetings, the first to be held immediately prior to SC16 in Apia, Samoa on Monday 10 August 2020 and the second to be held immediately following TCC16 in Pohnpei, FSM on Wednesday 30 September 2020.

Report indicates key tuna stocks in Western and Central Pacific Ocean are healthy - By Bernadette Carreon December 12, 2019

Pacific bigeye, yellowfin, **albacore**, and skipjack tuna are all reported to be in healthy condition, according to a 2018 stock assessment announced this week during the 16th Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) meeting in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

According to SPC's overview of the tuna fisheries paper, the total estimated value of the tuna catch in the convention area increased by 1 percent to USD 6.01 billion (EUR 5.47 billion) in 2018.

WCPFC Executive Director Feleti Teo said, in his opening statement at the meeting on 5 December, that the region has high tuna production levels. He said the region's key commercial tuna stocks of bigeye, skipjack, **albacore**, and yellowfin were "assessed to have been managed and maintained above agreed sustainable levels."

Teo added that compared to other ocean regions, the tuna stocks in the region is not overfished . . .

See: <https://tinyurl.com/yzw9o5nu>

U.S. Canada Treaty: The U.S./Canada treaty regime ended on December 31, 2019 but new negotiations to extend or change it will begin soon. 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. One of the main issue is the catch attribution if future quotas are applied to the fishery. WFOA has

always supported catches by Canadian in the U.S. EEZ be applied to any future quota for the U.S. and vice versa. The following is the existing language adopted between the governments in past negotiations that we feel is not strong enough:

In the event that an international fisheries management organization such as the InterAmerican Tropical Tuna Commission (IA TTC) adopts measures for international management of North Pacific albacore using a national catch allocation system, the Parties to the Treaty understand that the portion of any national allocation received by Canada and the United States attributable to the catch taken in the EEZ of the other country is expected to be reallocated by each country to the country in whose EEZ that catch was taken, or that the national allocations are intended to be otherwise implemented in a manner that ensures respective future fishing opportunities under international management reflect total catches in each country's EEZ.

Moreover, Canada and the United States acknowledge that this mechanism in respect of future allocations is intended to be implemented in a cooperative and constructive manner, in good faith, and that the potential outcomes of the activities to be carried out in implementing this provision are not intended to serve as the basis for termination of a reciprocal fishing regime or the Treaty. Furthermore, Canada and the United States are committed to working together with a view toward coordinating positions and objectives within international regional fisheries management organizations such as the IA TTC in the development of conservation and management measures for North Pacific Albacore, in particular any such measures related to international or national allocations and the manner and method of calculating such allocations.

WFOA has asked 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 its original source.

Treaty Poll: WFOA sent out poll cards on the treaty on October 1st and received 69 returns which was nearly 50% of the total sent out. Thanks to those that sent them in quickly. The cards were sent to all WFOA vessel owners. The results were 72% in favor of maintaining the regime, 23% in favor of ending it, and 5% no opinion. Keep in mind that this was before some other issues arose with Canadian EEZ and port licencing as well as import and labeling of albacore products. All will be discussed by the board between now and the end of March.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council: The PFMC will meet next March 3-9, 2020 in Rohnert Park, CA. The most important item on the not yet published agenda will be the U.S./Canada albacore treaty as a U.S. State Department representative will attend to hear input. Also, the ongoing bouy-gear and longline issues will be on the agenda.

Venue and Contact:

DoubleTree by Hilton Sonoma
One Doubletree Drive
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
Phone: 707-584-5466

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

Pacific Fishery Management Council and The Nature Conservancy to host 2-day Workshop January 22-23, 2020 in Garden Grove, CA

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and The Nature Conservancy are cosponsoring a two-day workshop: Developing Future Scenarios for Climate Change in the California Current Ecosystem, which is open to the public. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, January 22 and Thursday, January 23, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. until the completion of business on each day.

Please see the Developing Future Scenarios for Climate Change in the California Current Ecosystem January 22-23, 2020 workshop notice on the Council's website for full details.

For further information: Please contact Pacific Fishery Management Council staff officer Kit Dahl at 503-820-2422; toll-free 1-866-806-7204.

OTHER:

Wild Seafood Exchange 2020: February 27, 2020 Holiday Inn & Suites, Bellingham, Washington

Join Fishermen's News on February 27 at the only conference developed for the independent commercial fisherman looking to learn about marketing and direct marketing to restaurants, retailers, brokers and seafood buyers.

This will be year 17 of the conference, with The Port of Bellingham participating as Title Sponsor since 2014!

Please follow the links below for conference information, to register, or to exhibit or sponsor. <https://wildseafoodexchange.com/>

Canned Tuna Market – Global Industry to Witness Excellent Long-Term Growth Outlook 2019-2025

QY Research Published Global Canned Tuna Market 2025 Report: Industry Growth, Opportunities, Vendors, Shares, Competitive Strategies And Forecasts

This latest report provides a deep insight into the Global Canned Tuna Market 2019 covering all its essential aspects. Global Canned Tuna Market report provides pin-point analysis for changing competitive dynamics through comprehensive View of the key market dynamics. The research study provides market introduction, Canned Tuna market definition, regional market scope, sales and revenue by region, manufacturing cost analysis,

See: <https://tinyurl.com/ygbl6vuq>

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