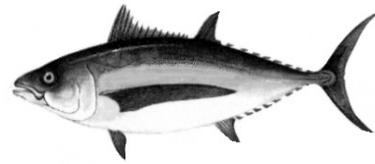


# WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

March 1, 2020

We are approaching spring leading up to a new North Pacific season. Conditions and catch over the past three seasons have been abnormal so anything is possible. A number of meetings and events are upcoming that affect the fishery, and some are listed in this newsletter. Informational sheets on regulations will be sent out in the next newsletter around May 1st.

## NOTICES:

**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 30<sup>th</sup>. For the dinner we absolutely need you to RSVP. (See Enclosed Flyer)

If you plan to attend dinner on March 30<sup>th</sup> email [wfoa@charter.net](mailto:wfoa@charter.net) or call 530-229-1097 with your name and number in party by March 25th.

**Dues 2020:** WFOA appreciates all who have sent in their 2020 dues. They were 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 printed version will be:

May 2020      Deadline May 1st  
June 2020      Deadline June 1st

**2019 CATCH:** As of December 31st, 7,783/st of albacore were landed in WA, OR, and CA. This amount is about 500 tons higher than in 2018

which is positive. Westport had the highest landings, and about 800 tons of U.S. caught albacore was landed in Canada. This information is from PacFin and changes from time to time. Final numbers probably will not be posted for a couple months.

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 month.

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:** The fishing in the South Pacific has been good since mid-December. Of the 19 boats down there most have filled up their boats and have

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made second trips. Fish have averaged about 14 pounds.

Most boats unloaded Tauranga, New Zealand to tranship the fish back to the Canadian and other markets. Those boats that have no prearranged sales are having to unload at regular cannery prices or slightly higher depending on the destination so they can try to get another trip.

Star Kist did buy in Pago Pago at around longline pricing and one WFOA vessel has unloaded there. Star Kist indicated they may buy next year.

Also, good albacore trolling is being reported off the SW New Zealand coast by local boats.

It seems like this area has flipped back to good catches and probably will see another increase in effort next season. I don't think there are carrier options any longer as the small 400-800 ton ships are gone. But we again need to be looking ahead at potentially more issues regarding this region. It is happening at the same time there is talk of effort and catch/area closures in the South Pacific. Thus, we will stay more involved.

#### **MANAGEMENT:**

**Pacific Fishery Management Council** will hold meeting in March 2020 to adopt management measures for ocean fisheries. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC or Council) and its advisory bodies will meet March 3-9, 2020 in Rohnert Park, California, to address issues related to groundfish, salmon, Pacific halibut, highly migratory species, ecosystem, habitat, and administrative matters. The meeting of the Council and its advisory entities will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Sonoma Wine Country, One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, CA 94928; telephone, 707-584-5466.

Please see the March 3-9, 2020 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: <https://www.pcouncil.org/>

Please contact Pacific Fishery Management Council

staff at 503-820-2280; toll-free 1-866-806-7204 if you have questions.

**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.

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.

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.

#### **Pacific Albacore Tuna IFMP (Canada)**

FN0056-Draft 2020-21 Pacific Albacore Tuna IFMP Available for Review and Comment

A draft of the 2020-21 Pacific Albacore Tuna Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) is now available for a 30-day consultation period ending on February 23, 2020.

To request a copy of the draft IFMP and to provide comment, please contact the Tuna Resource Manager, Brad Langman via email at [bradley.langman@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:bradley.langman@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

The purpose of the IFMP is to identify the main objectives and requirements for the Pacific Albacore Tuna fishery and the management measures that will be used to achieve these objectives. This document also serves to communicate the basic information on the fishery and its management.

The full draft Commercial Fishing Plans for Canadian Vessels in the USA EEZ and USA Vessels in the Canadian EEZ are not available at this time as the fishing regime under the Tuna Treaty expired on December 31, 2019.

Negotiations to establish a new fishing regime will take place in early 2020; upon conclusion of these negotiations, DFO will complete the commercial fishing plans and provide these by way of an amended IFMP. The Department will issue an additional fishery notice at that time. Please contact Bradley.langman@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or 604-666-2188 if you have additional questions.

**Logbooks:** The U.S. albacore industry is lagging in turning in logbooks. Non-compliance may be as high as 35%. Most of this is from non-WFOA or AAFA vessels. WFOA and AAFA recently submitted a letter with this as one of our concerns and will bring it up at the March PFMC meeting. A section of the letter is as follows:

*"It is necessary to address the continued problem of logbook submission by U.S. fishery participants*

*During last year's DWG Call, NMFS estimated that sixty-five percent (65%) of logbooks from fishermen harvesting North Pacific Albacore ("NPA") were actually submitted. Looked at another way, over a third of catch and effort from the Commercial Fleet has to be estimated. In our eyes, this is unacceptable and needs to be addressed. We cannot help but think this gives less confidence in catch and effort totals presented by the U.S.*

*After the 2019 DWG Call, we sent a letter to Mr. Dave Hogan (U.S. Department of State) seeking clarification on data submitted by the Canadian Government. In 2018, Canadian Catch increased by roughly 50% over 2017 (2,717mt v 1,830mt). This was accompanied by an almost four-fold increase in Canadian Catch within its own EEZ (205mt in 2017 v 837mt in 2018). How can we expect to get Canadian data (at least on their fishery outside our EEZ) if we aren't prepared to give them our data because of the low coverage by U.S. fishery participants (65%).*

*We believe the lack of logbook compliance from 35% of the albacore vessels that landed albacore in 2018 were mainly from non-association vessels fishing albacore as an opportunistic fishery when the resource is close to the shore and weather is good. Also, we understand there is a growing number of small recreational vessels that have HMS permits but may not be aware of logbook requirements or*

*disregard those. As noted below, we know our members are aware of the logbook requirements and believe our members have a near 100% compliance. More research has to be conducted to determine which vessels are not submitting logbooks and then increase efforts to educate non-complying owners/operators while enforcing laws and regulations which cover logbook compliance.*

*We have polled our members and all who have responded indicate they submit the required logbooks on a timely basis. Is there anything that NOAA can do to ensure additional compliance by non-conforming fishermen? California recreational fishermen who harvest California Spiny Lobster are required to complete and return a Spiny Lobster Report Card which details their catch and effort. Early on, the returns of the Report Cards were roughly 30%. The State, in order to increase returns, implemented a rule whereby if you didn't return your Report Card by a certain deadline, you were unable to get a Report Card for the following year without paying some minor penalty. We are not suggesting that NOAA do something similar; but we think it is worth exploring any available mechanisms to ensure FULL Logbook compliance within the NPA fishery. This is likely going to become even more important as we move further along with the Management Strategy Evaluation ("MSE") process and eventual development and implementation of Harvest Control Rules impact the NPA fishery."*

#### **OTHER:**

**Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture hearing scheduled** – March 12, 2020 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., State Capitol, Room 113, Sacramento, CA

Senator McGuire, Chair of the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (JCFA), is announcing the upcoming JCFA hearing on March 12, 2020 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., State Capitol, Room 113, Sacramento, CA. The 47th Annual Zeke Grader Fisheries Forum is an informational hearing that will include presentations and discussions of fishery and

aquaculture issues from throughout California. More detailed information will be provided in the upcoming weeks and will also be posted on our web site.

Tom Weseloh, Chief Consultant  
Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture  
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**Feared return of 'The Blob' fizzles as storms churn, chill Pacific Ocean** Feb. 19, 2020 - By Lynda V. Mapes - Seattle Times environment reporter: It looked big. It looked bad. But the marine heat wave that threatened much of the West Coast in the fall of 2019 has mostly dissipated, at least at the surface.

The Northeast Pacific Marine Heatwave of 2019, or NEP19, lasted 225 days and at its peak covered about 3.2 million square miles. It was the second longest-lasting and second-largest such event ever recorded in the northern Pacific Ocean over the past 39 years, according to a blog post by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The disturbance decreased below the agency's classification threshold for a heat wave as of Jan. 5, said Chris Harvey, a fisheries biologist at the agency's Northwest Fisheries Science Center, on Tuesday. . . See: <https://tinyurl.com/quzzppx>

**USITC TO INVESTIGATE IUU SEAFOOD IMPORTS AND IMPACT ON U.S. COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN:** The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) is seeking input for an investigation of the extent to which seafood products obtained from illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing are imported into the United States and the potential economic effects on U.S. fishermen of competition with such imports. IUU seafood includes products obtained in contravention of fisheries management regulations or in violation of labor laws.

The investigation, Seafood Obtained via Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing: U.S. Imports and Economic Impact on U.S. Commercial Fisheries, was requested by the House Committee on Ways and Means on December 19, 2019.

As requested, the USITC, an independent, nonpartisan, factfinding federal agency, will:

provide a review of the existing data and literature on the prevalence of IUU products in the U.S. import market, and an overview of international mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement to address IUU fishing;

*provide a description of the size and structure of the U.S. commercial fishing industry;*

*provide a description of the major global producers of IUU products, including but not limited to China, and country practices related to IUU production and exports;*

*provide an analysis of the extent to which IUU product is imported into the United States, as well as major U.S. import sources and the global supply chains of such products; and*

*provide a quantitative analysis of the economic impact of IUU imports on U.S. commercial fishermen and U.S. commercial fishing production, trade, and prices.*

The USITC expects to deliver the report to the Committee by December 21, 2020. Further information can be obtained from the USITC Internet site ([www.usitc.gov](http://www.usitc.gov)) or by contacting the Office of the Secretary at the above address or at 202-205-2000. . .

**USCG Intercepts Illegal Fishing Vessels Off Guam and Hawaii** - BY THE MARITIME EXECUTIVE 02-24-2020: For the first time in eight years, the U.S. Coast Guard has intercepted illegal fishing vessels within American EEZ areas in the Central and Western Pacific. Fishing boat interdiction is a common task for the Coast Guard off the coast of Texas, where Mexican "lancha" fishing boats are routinely intercepted in U.S. waters, but IUU fishing by foreign vessels is almost unheard of in America's far-flung Pacific Ocean EEZ regions. For Full Story See: <https://tinyurl.com/to3wvqt>

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