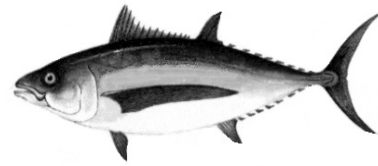


# WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

May 1, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting actions have pretty much dampened much of what is happening in fishing, marketing, and management. An unprecedented situation that no one saw coming will render some interesting outcomes to all and in the fishing industry in 2020.

**Fishing and Market:** Many management meetings have been postponed or are on-line such as the April PFMC and the ISC Albacore Working Group stock assessment.

The virus and its effect on fishing operations have been dramatic with the fresh fish market in many species including albacore. With restaurants and fish markets closed there are little outlets for the products. Some retailers have kept the supply chain open and many restaurants are doing take out and other inventive ways to at least keep some things flowing in their businesses. Some fishermen have organized more sophisticated off-vessel sales direct to the public and “meet the boats” type events at the docks across the US.

Demand for canned fish of all types including albacore has been very high and many retail outlets have had empty shelves.

What this all means for the upcoming albacore troll season is anyone’s guess at this point. Worldwide supply of albacore has been below normal and low in certain regions before the virus hit. Maybe if restrictions on restaurants are eased, we may see more opportunity in July and August. Demand for cannery fish may stay high as they restock their supply but canneries also have to grapple with finding ways to social distance in the plants themselves.

**Covid-19 Government Assistance:** WFOA is looking into Coronavirus help for fishermen and

these are some of many links. We will send out on our e-mails lists any new changes or opportunities that could help fishermen. Here is a link to the SBA.gov website with specific information for Coronavirus assistance.

<https://www.sba.gov/>

Also: NOAA Fisheries is actively monitoring and adjusting to the COVID-19 national health crisis. Ensuring the health and safety of our employees, partners, and broader fishing community during this crisis is a priority. We remain fully operational with much of our workforce teleworking.

This webpage provides current information, including the latest on the CARES Act.

<https://tinyurl.com/y73z6ojg>

**N M F S w a n t s fishermen’s reports of coronavirus impacts:**

With an initial \$300 million aid package coming, the National Marine Fisheries Service has launched an

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effort to collect detailed information on how the coronavirus pandemic and resulting economic lockdown is affecting the U.S. seafood industry.

The project includes online outreach, asking fishermen, aquaculture growers and other businesses through the supply chain to submit information by email to the task force at NMFS.COVID-19@noaa.gov

The \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act includes \$300 million earmarked for fishing communities, and in a historic shift provides unemployment support for the self-employed, including fishermen.

“With this effort, we are interested in assessing immediate and long-term needs to secure and enhance the resilience of the U.S. seafood and fisheries industries,” according to NMFS. “We will continue to work with the Administration and Congress on this important, unprecedented covid-19-driven effort.

“Stakeholders interested in sharing information on the effects of covid-19 on their businesses can submit that information to NMFS.COVID-19@noaa.gov.”

**Oregon Sea Grant Survey:** Oregon Sea Grant is collecting information about the impacts of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on Oregon's Seafood Industry using a short, online survey. You can find the survey here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y9hy4yq3>

The survey will be open until May 27th, and should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

We are asking for input from Oregon's seafood industry: people that are owners, managers, or employees that work at catching/harvesting, processing, selling, or supporting the industry. We plan to share summaries (no raw data) with local, state, and federal decision makers and others that are working to help the seafood industry recover. If you have any questions, please contact us at: OSG\_Covid19@oregonstate.edu.

## **MANAGEMENT:**

### **North Pacific Albacore Stock Assessment:**

Please see the segment in the AFRF newsletter. The bottom-line appears to show that in the North Pacific ocean overfishing on albacore is NOT occurring on, nor is the fishery in an overfished state. There appears to show low recruitment in the 2015-2017 time frame which probably reflects the low catches in the past three seasons. The detailed report will be available in July.

**Pacific Fishery Management Council:** At this time we do not yet know if this meeting will proceed as scheduled in San Diego or be online. A final decision is to be made in about two weeks.

**U.S. Canada Treaty:** The U.S./Canada treaty regime ended on December 31, 2019 but new negotiations to extend or change it have not started.

Due to the virus and timing, WFOA, OAC, AAFA, and WTA have requested that the US State Department extend the present regime for one-year with no changes and then renegotiate the regime starting in 2021. So far we have no answer back from the U.S. Dept of State. As of now the treaty regime is suspended until there is a solution.

There was a data-exchange meeting a week ago between the US and Canada and draft information shows that:

Total U.S. catch in 2019 was 7,797 mt of which 93% was caught in the US EEZ, by 556 boats, and 4.2% was caught in the Canadian EEZ by 16 boats. The balance was caught on the high seas. Logbook compliance was about 76%. Numbers on U.S. landings in Canadian ports varies from DFO and NOAA and is being finalized.

Total Canadian catch was 2,402 mt of which 45% was caught in the US EEZ by 43 boats, and 52% in the Canadian EEZ by 119 boats. Logbook compliance was 100%.

**NOAA Certificate of Origin Update:** NOAA's Seafood Inspection Program (SIP) announces an impending update to its catch and origin certification to meet increased needs of the EU and other trading partners. The new certificate, Legal Harvest U.S., will be released March 2, 2020.

The revised U.S. Catch Documentation Scheme is designed to issue a single form of legal harvest certification for export consignments US harvested of fish and fish products and processed products derived from such raw materials from the United States.

The U.S. producer or processor will be responsible for retaining all information corresponding to the vessels or list of vessels which contributed to the consignment and providing that information to the U.S. Government competent authority upon request. While previously the vessel name and registration information had been required to be maintained in records, going forward this information will be listed directly on the harvest certificate.

Health Certificate: Q & A to NOAA.

1. When do we need the Legal Harvest paperwork and Health Certificate mentioned on the NOAA website? Is it only for fish headed to the EU?

*NOAA - The following three certificates ( US Catch Origin, EU Catch IUU, and Fish Certificate of Origin) were retired from SISP on Monday, March 2nd. The new certificate, Legal Harvest US is designed to meet the needs of the EU and other trading partners. It is a single form for export consignments US harvested of fish and fish products and processed products derived from such raw materials from the U. S.*

2. Do I still need to set up an account as outlined in your email below, or is it a whole new ball game?

*NOAA - Yes. To request legal harvest certificates for US products, the applicant must enter a request for a legal harvest certificate through the SIP's online web-based request system (SISP).*

3. If I need to get the Legal Catch parts, do I need to have an inspection as I have had one to get the EU (FEI) number?

*NOAA - For the Legal Harvest US certificate alone, the US producer or processor will be responsible for retaining all information corresponding to the vessels or list of vessels which contributed to the consignment and providing that information to the US Government competent authority upon request. No physical inspection required.*

For Information See:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ydgbzvc>

**Commercial Fishing Vessel Exam**

**Procedures:** U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Francisco Virtual Commercial Fishing Vessel Exam Procedures to minimize personal interactions and reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, your upcoming CFVS Dockside Exam may be conducted in a virtual manner as opposed to a physical on scene inspection by a USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety (CFVS) examiner. This procedure will allow commercial fishing vessel operators to transmit required documentation electronically for review and also to verify proper service and installation of mandatory safety equipment.

Prior to requesting an exam the vessel operator should go to the USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel checklist generator to create a list of requirements for the subject vessel. Type or paste the following url into your web browser: <https://tinyurl.com/y8jkbhvj>

After verifying that checklist items are current/complete call to make an appointment for an exam with your local CFVS examiner at numbers listed below.

CFVS examiners will then pre-screen and capture the basic information required on the front page of Dockside Exam form, CG 5587 prior to a virtual inspection.

These requirements will also include, but are not limited to, your ability to use smart phone, Ipad, etc., to take pictures and video and that good cell and/or Wi-Fi service is available. Vessel operators should also have sufficient lighting and/or flashlights available to ensure

subject safety equipment can be adequately observed remotely by the CFVS examiner to verify compliance.

Prior to the issue of a CFVS Decal the examiner has full discretion to require additional documentation, pictures, or videos throughout the virtual inspection, and may also require a follow-up visit to verify equipment or systems in person.

To schedule a Virtual Dockside Exam or if you have questions please call:

USCG Sector San Francisco Prevention Department, CFVS Branch Manny Ramirez : (415) 399-7310 for Monterey, Moss Landing, Santa Cruz, HMB, San Francisco, and Bodega Bay. Melinda Bacon: (707) 481-0048 for Fort Bragg, Eureka, and Crescent City

**Marine Stewardship Council:** Changes in MSC certification in response to COVID-19 pandemic: From MSC - *The coronavirus pandemic presents an unprecedented challenge to us all. At this time of great uncertainty, we are particularly grateful to you for continuing to help put food on plates, by working to still fish and maintain supply chains around the world.*

*We are aware of the significant impact the crisis is having on businesses, many of which are not only having to change their operations, but are fighting to survive. To support everyone in the sustainable seafood industry we are pausing some of our certification processes.*

*All fisheries are being given an automatic six-month certificate extension. Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) have been told to extend deadlines for all associated processes, including assessments, conditions, action plans and milestones. Fisheries can choose to continue their current process by arranging remote audits with their CAB, where feasible.*

*The exception is expedited audits and objections, which need to continue to protect fish stocks and maintain confidence in our program. We will provide further details on these two processes shortly.*

*All supply chain companies may now be audited remotely until 27 September 2020. If this is not*

*feasible, CABs have been told to delay the audit and issue a 6-month extension to prevent a certificate expiring.*

*Full details of changes to our requirements are given in the Covid-19 Pandemic Derogation given to CABs. We will send CABs additional guidance in the coming days.*

*We would like to reassure all license holders that the MSC Label Licensing Team will continue to respond to you within 3 UK working days, including issuing licences, approving products and answering queries. Deadlines for submissions of Turnover Declarations and payment of fees will continue as normal. We are continuing to send out Turnover Declaration requests, but if you have any questions or concerns please contact your usual team member or email [ecolabel@msc.org](mailto:ecolabel@msc.org).*

*Thank you again for continuing to work to provide consumers around the world with certified sustainable seafood at this critical time. We are confident that we can get through this global crisis by working together, so please contact us through your regular MSC team member for further information and support. Dan Averill-MSC*

#### **OTHER:**

**Eat Seafood, America:** NOAA Fisheries is proud to support Eat Seafood, America!, a collaborative effort of the Seafood4Health Action Coalition. Watch this space each week for information about your favorite seafood, suggestions on how to purchase, prepare, and store it, stories about the men and women who bring it to your table, and more!  
See: <https://tinyurl.com/ycsrfcgf>

#### **New members:**

Mike Cunningham F/V Sally Kay Eureka, CA

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