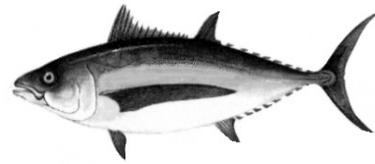


WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



P.O. Box 992723
Redding, CA 96099

Ph. (530) 229-1097
M. (530) 355-3151

wfoa@charter.net
<http://www.wfoa-tuna.org>

Members:

June 15, 2020

In this newsletter WFOA will cover important issues that may affect the fleet this summer and beyond. The year as we all know has been unprecedented in many ways and WFOA will keep the members informed as we head through this season. There is also a short segment from AFRF included within and a supporting member flyer.

We will be sending out an updated buyers list for 2020 via email prior to July and also post it on www.wfoa-tuna.org/ under the "Fish Report" link.

WFOA is hopeful the worst has past in the COVID-19 pandemic however, it will not go away soon. There is demand for albacore as some of the South Pacific albacore was sold off individual vessels direct to the public with good results. Also, the canned market is looking to refill empty shelves in stores that was a result of panic food buying in March and April.

Membership Dues 2020: WFOA still has some members that have yet to pay the 2020 dues. We understand that many have been affected by the shutdown and uncertain times. Please pay as soon as possible and you should receive a notice in the mail soon. You can mail it in, email credit card info, or use Paypal and send to wfoa@charter.net. Thanks

E-Mail Lists: WFOA will be sending out some test messages soon on the vessel email list. If you are not on or not getting messages on the vessel list or the land list and want to be on let us know via email, wfoa@charter.net. Also, if you have changed emails let us know and include the old and new email in the message.

CARES Act: The last newsletter contained a number of links to CARES Act - Covid-19 relief information. We have heard the process is difficult to navigate but there is still opportunity for

fisherman and business hurt financially by the pandemic and resulting closures. The following segment has some updated information of the NOAA page:

From NOAA - On May 7, 2020, the Secretary of Commerce announced the allocation of \$300 million in fisheries assistance funding provided by Sec. 12005 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also called the CARES Act, to states, Tribes, and territories with coastal and marine fishery participants who have been negatively affected by COVID-19.

Section 12005 of the CARES Act authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to provide \$300 million in appropriated funds to assist fishery participants affected by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). NOAA Fisheries understands the urgent need for these funds, and our overriding goal is to distribute the assistance as quickly as possible. To that end, we are working daily with the Department and our federal partners

DIRECTORS

BRITISH COLUMBIA

DON BELLHAM

PUGET SOUND

KARL JOHNSON

(Vice - President)

JOE MALLEY

JEREMY BROWN

BRUCE SAMUELSON

ASTORIA / WESTPORT

LOUIE HILL

(President)

ED BITTNER

DOUG FRICKE

LIBBIE CAIN

RON HARPER

COOS BAY /

NEWPORT

HENRY deRONDEN

SHAWN RYAN

EUREKA / FT. BRAGG

AARON NEWMAN

SF / OAKLAND

VACANT

MOSS LANDING

TOM HART

MORRO BAY

WAYNE MOODY

SOCAL/HAWAII

JOHN LAGRANGE

ROB McADAM

NEW ZEALAND

PETER BALLANTYNE

TERESA REEVES

(Secretary / Treasurer)

to finalize a process to expedite the distribution of Sec. 12005 funds, consistent with the direction provided by Congress. We will post details about the process for stakeholders and partners here.

Other provisions in the CARES Act will help NOAA maintain continuity of operations and support the continued success of our nation's fisheries. The \$20 million identified for NOAA is essential for continued provision of life saving services and for keeping our workforce safe.

For Details See: <https://tinyurl.com/yavnxhpm>.

Fishing and Market: There has been little effort to date off the west coast but we expect that to increase soon as water temperatures are warming in usual places. There have been no firm prices posted yet but we expect that to sort out soon also.

Longliners have had catches of albacore while targeting on other species between the mainland and Hawaii. Some of the catch was the age class usually caught on the west coast and in higher latitudes than normal.

The Japanese coastal small pole and line vessels have had a better than normal start in the past month. Catches are up over the past three-year average. This fishery usually runs through mid to late June. Prices have fallen a bit and most of this fish is exported to Europe and elsewhere and is generally of the same age class caught by the U.S. troll fleet.

The corona virus and its effect on fishing operations have been dramatic with the fresh fish market in many species including albacore tuna. With restaurants and fish markets closed there are limited 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 U.S. For instance:

SALEM, Ore.—The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), the Oregon seafood industry, and Oregon Sea Grant have launched the

#EatOregonSeafood initiative to encourage Oregonians and Washingtonians to purchase and prepare Oregon seafood at home amid the pandemic. Due to restaurant closures worldwide amid COVID-19 and the resulting reduced commercial demand, Oregon's seafood industry saw a sharp decrease in seafood sales between March and May. This is an opportunity to support regional fishing families and seafood processors and preserve the industry that delivers fresh, locally caught seafood that is celebrated in the Pacific Northwest.

#EatOregonSeafood is also recruiting a selection of the region's top chefs, foodies, bloggers, and influencers to post recipes, photos, and cooking videos of their favorite seafood-themed dishes on social media. From June through August, those involved will share recipes and tips to make seafood at home this summer. Participating chefs will be announced in the coming weeks. This initiative also includes the other experts in preparing seafood at home—Oregon's fishing families.

"We want to make it easier for people to buy and prepare the local, fresh seafood that we are so fortunate to have in Oregon," said Nancy Fitzpatrick, executive director of the Oregon Albacore Commission and Oregon Salmon Commission. "Since many of us are still preparing most of our meals at home, it's a good time to try a new recipe or type of seafood you may not have eaten in the past. Not only will it benefit our fishing community, but seafood has tremendous health benefits for people looking to eat nutritious and delicious food at home."

See: <https://tinyurl.com/y6kpsrcr>

Demand for canned fish of all types including albacore has been high and many retail outlets have had empty shelves. The shelves may have to be restocked but down the road the inventory that was once on those shelves are now in consumers pantries.

What this all means for the upcoming albacore

troll season is anyone's guess at this point. Maybe as restrictions on restaurants and markets are eased, we may see more opportunity in July, August, and September.

MANAGEMENT: Management for albacore given the better than expected stock status as mentioned below is at a sweet spot in the North Pacific. The Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE) both offshore and in the California current are ongoing and may wrap up early in 2021, laying out scenarios and options in case the assessment does at some point turn sour. However, international management in the North Pacific is more focused at this time on Bluefin. On the other hand the South Pacific may continue to be on another path. WFOA and AFRF have always tried to protect the U.S. fleets access to the south and emphasize the major difference between our fleets location and age class they catch compared to the large effort of the longline fleets of other nations fishing far from where our fleet does. Our effort in the South is up but is still below the 35 year average number.

North Pacific Albacore Stock Assessment: 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. These are preliminary results and we expect them to be adopted in July or August.

Pacific Fishery Management Council: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC or Council) and its advisory bodies will meet or will meet June 10-19, 2020 online only, to address issues related to groundfish, salmon, highly migratory species, coastal pelagic species, and administrative matters.

Please see the June 10-19, 2020 Council meeting notice on the Council's website for further updates and details regarding webinar participation; schedule of advisory body meetings, our E-Portal for submitting public comments, and public comment deadlines. There will be no meetings schedule during the weekend of June 13-14, however, the meeting will continue daily on Monday, June 15 at 8 a.m. through Friday, June 19, 2020. See: <https://tinyurl.com/ybx57e9z>

June 11 Statement from the HMSAS to the Council:

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) offers the following comments for the Council to consider as it contemplates recommendations to NMFS for upcoming international management activities.

North Pacific Albacore ("NPA"):

The HMSAS notes the 2020 Stock Assessment for NPA appears to put the stock in a better position than the 2017 Assessment. Because the Assessment is still preliminary, we are hopeful the ISC will endorse it during its plenary later this summer.

The HMSAS does wish to express some concern over the handling of the US-Canada Treaty negotiations this past six months. Shortly after your March meeting, representatives from the albacore industry groups (WFOA, OAC, WTA and AAFA) sent a letter to Dave Hogan seeking a one-year regime based on the items contained in our March HMSAS Report on this subject. The letter went unanswered. In May we learned the Department of State was going to move forward with a three-year regime, primarily because a one-year regime would be "inconvenient" to the Governments of Canada and the U.S. While we appreciate this may be an inconvenience for the Governments, we wish to remind the Council and Mr. Hogan that many of us believe the Treaty is an inconvenience for U.S. harvesters. Because there will be a new Working Group established under the Treaty for the purpose(s) of Port Access and other issues, we would ask the Council recommend industry participation in the Working Group and that it be established in an expedited timeframe.

IUU Vessels: The following is from Tim Frawley - NOAA: "My name is Tim Frawley and I am writing on behalf of a new research collaboration between US West Coast scientists and the commercial fishing industry designed to combat Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) high seas fishing activity impacting Pacific albacore stocks. I hope this email finds you healthy and well and that I've been able to

reach you while still in port.

In advance of this upcoming fishing season, we are asking for the assistance of commercial and recreational anglers in documenting observations of 1) net-marked fish and 2) foreign fishing vessels. Observations (with photos) of net-marked fish can be made using the form available at: www.netmarkedalbacore.com.

You are welcome to print out forms and email them to me after the season is complete or submit observations online (using a computer or iphone) as you go. Observations of foreign fishing vessels can be made using the attached form, generated by the USCG, and emailed to the address listed therein.

(See enclosed Forms for Reporting)

For those seeking more information about the project, I've also attached a brief introductory letter. Please spread the word to your friends and colleagues (more data is always better) and don't hesitate to reach out to me with questions or concerns. Thanks in advance for your help!

Good Luck and Good Fishing,

*Dr. Timothy Frawley
University of California Santa Cruz
NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center
tim.frawley@noaa.gov*

U.S. Canada Treaty: As most already know the US/Canada albacore treaty has been extended for another 3-years with no changes. The albacore industry was in unanimous favor of a one-year regime extension given the Covid-19 issues but the U.S. disagreed citing too many hurdles to go through in a very short time. Thus, we were notified in mid-May of the resulting agreement with no real opportunity to discuss some of the issues. There still remains the option of suspending the regime if harvest or effort limitations are imposed on the U.S. or if for instance the proposed vast MPA off the Canadian coast restricts surface vessels from fishing in traditional albacore waters. So far neither has occurred and probably will not through the life of this extension. One positive development is a working group will be formed to discuss port and fishing grounds access in Canada

and how to streamline and improve the process.

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%.

From NOAA-Shannon Penna -"We are now registering vessels for the 2020 season.

To register for the 2020 season, please respond to this email or call me at 562-980-4238 with your vessel name, vessel ID (Coast Guard documentation number/State registration number), vessel length, operator name, and hail port. We continue to accept emails through albacore.fish@noaa.gov.

You will also need to obtain an EEZ fishing license from Canada DFO. You can find the form at <https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/licence-permis/forms/eez-zee-eng.html>. Check #7 for fishing. Completed applications can be sent to: Pacific Fishery Licence Unit Address: 401 Burrard St Suite 200, Vancouver BC V6C 3S4, Telephone: 1-877-535-7307 [Ask for the Pacific Region], Email fishing-peche@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [Specify Pacific Region in subject line]"

*Shannon Penna
Permits Coordinator
NMFS SFD Long Beach, CA
NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region
U.S. Department of Commerce
562-980-4238 (Direct)
562-980-4047 (Fax)
shannon.penna@noaa.gov*

USCG Update: SEATTLE - The 13th Coast Guard District has implemented a

groundbreaking technology to assist mariners in distress on the waters of the Pacific Northwest. Across Washington and Oregon, mariners can provide vital location information to Coast Guard rescue crews from their smartphones without having to download an application. In addition to common life-saving devices known to mariners, such as Electronic Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB's) and VHF radios, the Coast Guard now has the i911 application as an additional tool to provide lifesaving information from a mariner's cell phone.

See: <https://i911.zendesk.com/hc/en-us>

American Fishermen's Research Foundation News:

Bio-Samplers Needed: WFOA again this year is seeking boats to collect a few whole albacore on a trip (5-10) at random and drop them off at buyers who are collecting the fish. Given the Covid-19 restrictions I will not have the details for a few weeks and at that time we will send it to boats that express interest. The results of this type of research is showing really interesting results. Fish collected will be paid dock price plus \$10/each.

Archival Tagging: There are still about 60-80 tags to deploy, we have a willing boat and tags, but the virus has stymied our progress so far. We are hoping to be able to deploy these soon and are still working with SWFSC for a way.

Kathleen O'Malley Albacore Genomic Data Project: From the May 1, 2020 AFRF Newsletter - Kathleen G. O'Malley, Felix Vaux, John R. Hyde and Sandra Bohn

The overall goal of our research was to generate genomic data to help resolve some of these uncertainties and provide more definitive results regarding stock boundaries of albacore tuna in the North Pacific. This collaborative effort involved researchers from Oregon State University, NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center, the Pacific Community (SPC) Pacific Marine Specimen Tissue Bank and partners from the American Fishermen's Research Foundation and the Western Fishboat Owner's Association . . .

Kathleen wants to further discuss opportunities to sample albacore this summer and the research questions this project hopes to address. She is interested in scaling up and sampling more fish to evaluate how many potential hybrid (mix of South Pacific and North Pacific genetics) we observe off the west coast and how many potential South Pacific albacore (based on genetics) we detect off the Oregon coast.

John Hyde (SFWFSC) is trying to develop a genetic marker for sex identification. If that is completed within the next year, we will be able to determine the sex ratio of albacore sampled off the west coast.

I am interested to hear from all of you to see if there are additional research questions that we could address. I would certainly appreciate the opportunity to learn from all of you and listen to your ideas.

Kathleen O'Malley
Associate Professor, State Fisheries Geneticist
Oregon State University
Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station
2030 SE Marine Science Drive
Newport, Oregon 97365
ph: (541) 961-3311
email: kathleen.omalley@oregonstate.edu
website: marinegenomics.oregonstate.edu

Logbooks: Recently fishermen have tried turning in their logbooks after the South Pacific season and due to Covid-19 they were not picked up by NOAA at the address to mail them to. In fact some have been returned to the sender. This issue may resolve itself soon and we suggest you do send in the logbooks on time to the address listed below but make sure you keep all tracking numbers and receipts of postage etc...

NOAA-The operator of any commercial fishing vessel and any recreational charter fishing vessel for highly migratory species in the management area must maintain onboard the vessel an accurate and complete record of catch, effort, and other data on report forms provided by the Regional Administrator or

state agency. All information specified on the forms must be recorded on the form within 24 hours after the completion of each fishing day. The original logbook form for each day of the fishing trip must be submitted to either the Southwest Fisheries Science Center within 30 days of each landing or transshipment of the highly migratory species. Each form must be signed and dated by the fishing vessel operator.

Mail Federal logbooks to:
NMFS Logbook Program
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
8901 La Jolla Shores Dr.
La Jolla, CA 92037

OTHER:

Executive Order: From FoodDive.com - <https://tinyurl.com/yaedas3z>.

President Donald Trump signed an executive order May 7 to accelerate the approval pathway for off-shore aquaculture in federal waters. There will be a two-year deadline for permitting projects, and applications will be overseen by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In addition to speeding up the approval process for commercial fishing, the Trump administration announced a \$300 million allocation through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to support fishermen and related businesses hurt by the pandemic. Alaska and Washington will receive the largest allocations, with \$50 million each, according to the Food & Environment Reporting Network.

The executive order is an effort to strengthen the U.S. domestic fishing industry and has drawn support from commercial fisheries, but has also elicited criticism from environmental groups.

See: <https://tinyurl.com/y7vuohxj>

Vessel Captain Available for South Pacific: Jim Anderson in Pago Pago is seeking a job operating a jig boat in the upcoming SP season. He retired from government service and has permanently moved back to American Samoa. Jim was a former longline and jig boat captain for 18 years, operating

the F/V Noella K 1995-1997 for jig fishing in both the 40 N/S. He can also assist with port captain work in Pago Pago. He has experience with both blast and spray brine systems and is qualified to operate and make repairs. Contact information below.

Jim Anderson
PO Box 5225
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
684-782-1059 or 684-633-7741
doyle73@att.net

New Members:

Eric Hooper F/V Aloha Astoria/Westport
David Stockwell F/V Western Flyer II Coos/Newport

Message from Executive Director:

"About a two months ago I notified the WFOA board that barring unforeseen circumstances I intend to complete my present employment contract as the WFOA executive director that runs through March 31, 2021. By choice this will be my final term as WFOA/AFRF full-time executive director.

That time period should be more than sufficient to find a replacement for WFOA.

It has been a pleasure serving in this position for 25 years.

Times are definitely changing in the fleet and industry as a whole, and adjustments need to be made for the future. I cannot make policy changes to WFOA and /or AFRF, for better or worse that has always fallen on the boards of both and you as directors will have to be engaged in making changes.

The albacore fleet continues to shrink by attrition, and you will need organizations to fight for access at all levels. The smaller the fleet becomes the more difficult that goal is."

Wayne H

© All material in this newsletter is copyrighted and may not be used, copied, or reprinted without specific written permission of Western Fishboat Owners Association