

WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

WFOA wishes all a productive spring and good fishing in the upcoming albacore season. This is the first newsletter since the re-organization of AFRF and it will be discussed in this newsletter. Also include making up most of this newsletter is our annual list of management and regulatory measures U.S. albacore fishermen are subject to. Unfortunately, this list seems to grow by the year but it also serves a reminder what fishermen face and have to be aware of forces that would remove your access to the fishing grounds whether intentionally or as a type of management / regulatory bycatch.

Fishing: Fishing in the South Pacific for 2021 wrapped up early and was mostly poor in the region, which is a stark contrast to the 2020 season. Weather was a limiting factor for much of the time and also what appeared to be very scattered fishing made it more difficult. Most U.S. and Canadian vessels have made their way back to the west coast at this time. While it's too early to predict the fishing in the North Pacific we do know that the past three seasons have seen landings 40% off historical averages of the past 25 years. Weather and ocean conditions have been unpredictable. 2021 so far has seen an increase in very cold coastal waters along the west coast as well as heavy NW winds early on. Drought conditions again are in California with the large high pressure persistent offshore. There are indications of more coastal upwelling than in the past few years which is positive.

Albacore Prices: Longline prices in the Western Pacific have remained flat since November. Longline catches were good January - March but have fallen off. There probably is some consumer hesitancy after Covid-19 due to large inventories of canned albacore and other tuna's moving from

May 1, 2021

factory warehouses to consumer's pantries during the panic of spring 2020. The same issue applies to other panic items such as toilet paper sales are also down substantially. Link to Story <https://tinyurl.com/vsyt399c>. Maybe some good news is that there are more restaurants and other outlets for blast bled albacore slowly opening back up and improving demand in that market.

Mid- North Pacific Request: Jeremy Brown, F/V Betty H and a few others are hoping to drum up interest in Midway, offshore fishery early. It will take a measure of cooperation to cover the area, so they have requested for anyone interested to email Jeremy at barcarole@me.com. In the past good albacore fishing was had in May and June in the region west of the dateline but lack of effort with lack of coverage in the area has been a factor.

WFOA Board Meetings: WFOA held a virtual board meeting on April 6, 2021 mainly to focus on organizational issues some which are mentioned in this newsletter. WFOA combined its' board call with a general

DIRECTORS

BRITISH COLUMBIA

DON BELLHAM

PUGET SOUND

KARL JOHNSON

JOE MALLEY

JEREMY BROWN

BRUCE SAMUELSON

AST / WESTPORT

LOUIE HILL

(President)

ED BITTNER

DOUG FRICKE

(Vice - President)

LIBIE CAIN

RON HARPER

COOS / 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

VACANT

TERESA REEVES

(Secretary /

Treasurer)

membership meeting to satisfy our bylaw requirements. We appreciate those regular members that did call in and participate. We may do something similar in mid-June for anyone that wants to call in and get information prior to the season.

Directors: Since WFOA has not held any district membership meetings in the past year the present board was rolled over for 2021 or until districts can decide. WFOA is open to any members in districts nominating new directors until we can hold regular ones in the fall.

Election of Officers: Results for 2021 - Elected President – Louie Hill, Vice President-Doug Fricke, Secretary – Teresa Reeves

E-Board: Results Louie Hill, Wayne Moody, Karl Johnson, Doug Fricke, Shawn Ryan, John LaGrange.

AFRF Board: Rick Goche, Louie Hill, Shawn Ryan, Henry deRonden, John LaGrange, Doug Fricke, Karl Johnson, Alternates Ron Harper, Jeremy Brown

Note: The 2021 AFRF board also has seven buyer members for 2021.

Membership Dues 2021: WFOA thanks all that have paid dues for the 2021 year. An invoice was re-sent on April 23, 2021. We appreciate those that pay every year and keep this voluntary association going. We cannot do it only by dues as the shrinking of the fleet continues.

Annual Raffle: Thanks to those that participated in the annual raffle. We also thanks companies such as Englund marines, DaYang Seafoods, Cabela's, and Ocean Imaging for their donations of prizes. Winners were John McKinnon, Richard Ogg, Ron Harper, and others. WFOA will begin a new round of raffle ticket sales for a drawing next spring.

American Fishermen's Research Foundation: (AFRF) which WFOA has managed since 1971 adopted changes where buyers advocated to re-organize the fee structure and make AFRF separate from WFOA. After nearly a year of

meetings this was adopted beginning for 2021 north Pacific landings. New fees would be \$20/st on first 400 tons purchased and \$10/st on any tonnage over. To be a processors/director the buyers have to commit to paying in \$8,000 if their annual sales exceed one million dollars and \$2,000 if less. Nine buyers to date have signed the new contract and seven have committed to be directors. There is a job description for an AFRF manager being floated. If interested contact us and we will steer you in the right direction. Cooperative research will continue with albacore bio-sampling, possible tagging, public education and other projects.

FYI, I no longer officially manage AFRF as of April 1, 2021 except for needs of the organization through a transition period when a new director/manger can be selected. However, I will maintain my position as WFOA manager through 2021. I can be contacted with questions about either. WFOA is at a crossroads. A few dedicated people have been keeping it together but as the fleet ages the apathy and non-involvement increases. That is nothing unique to WFOA but you are at this time on the verge of losing your fishery and access. It may not happen overnight but all the tools are in place. To keep our place in bodies that may intentionally but most like non-intentionally reduce your access requires some investment of dues, assessments and time. I thank those that have hung in and the moment has arrived to step up.

Tonnage Assessment: In order to cover some of the lost revenue we received from AFRF the WFOA board approved a voluntary assessment be set up for 2021 which members can have buyers deduct the fee at the point of landing from participating buyers and paid to WFOA for mainly management representation. Vessel owners will receive a description of this program and a release form in this newsletter or in a separate mailer or email.

MANAGEMENT & REGULATION: Much of HMS management such as the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) have been delayed for a year with COVID-19 as well as other management of

albacore that may be on different agendas. The international bodies have primarily stayed focused on other HMS species. We expect that to change later in 2021. The board stressed the need to keep in the game with items such as 30/30 in the works, the finalization of MSE, and a gamut of regulatory and management issues on the back burners that will soon be issue to deal with to maintain access to the fisheries of all types.

U.S./Canada Treaty Issues: Although the treaty regime will not be renegotiated until 2022 the latest data exchange this past week showed the following results for 2020.

Total U.S albacore landings in 2020 were 7,316 mt (8,047 st) with 78% caught in the U.S. EEZ, 9% in the Canadian EEZ, and 12% on the high seas. Logbook coverage was 69%. 31 U.S. vessels fished in the Canadian EEZ and the U.S. total number of vessels was 401 vessels. 10 U.S. vessels landed albacore in Canada.

Total Canadian catch was 2,356 mt (2,591 st), with 71% caught in the Canadian EEZ, 20% in the U.S. EEZ, and 9% on the high seas. 34 Canadian vessels fished in the US EEZ out of the 45 allowed and 103 in the Canadian waters. Logbook coverage was 100%.

The reduced Canadian effort in U.S. waters in 2020 was a result of Covid-19 and its effect on the blast markets which Canadians depend on exclusively. U.S. effort overall was also down close to 30% again much related to the markets plus poor weather coastwise.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) California Seat: In March we announced that WFOA supports Mike Conroy (PCFFA) in his attempt to secure a seat on the Pacific Management Council and we sent a letter to California's governor's office supporting that goal. Since then, we sent letter of support for continued representation on the PFMC by Christa Svensson who is nearing the end of her first term. She now is employed by Tri-Marine International.

NOAA Head Appointed: To lead NOAA, Biden has tapped Richard Spinrad, a professor of oceanography at Oregon State University with decades of experience as both a scientist and an executive. The position was left vacant during the Trump administration.

Spinrad, who's also a member of the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, retired in 2016 as NOAA's chief scientist, after former President Obama appointed him to the post in 2014. His resume includes stints as vice president for research at Oregon State and as the head of NOAA's research office and the National Ocean Service. He also co-led a White House committee that developed the nation's first set of priorities for ocean research.

He served as a senior executive with the Navy and in 2003 received the Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the Navy's highest award for civilians.

HB 8632, the "30-30 Bill": This legislation has some provisions that are targeting commercial fishermen through a section on Marin Protected Areas. The "30/30" nickname comes from the legislation's goal to have 30% of the United States waters set aside as conservation areas by 2030. If passed, it could stop commercial fishing in these areas but could allow sport fishing. The top-down approach will have cabinet level appointees approving the sites in which commercial fishing would be banned.

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/yd87nm3o>

Bill Text: <https://tinyurl.com/4yh5td5h>

Background Article: Wyss Foundation Launches \$1 Billion Campaign to Help Conserve 30% of the Planet by 2030:

See: <https://tinyurl.com/3udna6yr>

April 2019 Greenpeace publication representing the findings of a joint project between Greenpeace, Oxford University, and the University of York.

See: <https://tinyurl.com/d43y3ece>

Marine Stewardship Council: The next surveillance audit will occur in late May 2021. The annual audit has been delayed nearly a year because of COVID-19 but will be done this year remotely. All WFOA members are covered under the certification. Buyers that participate need to sign the standard Designated Buyers Contract with WFOA which we post online. Buyers can request a contract for mid-2021-2022 by contacting WFOA.

OTHER:

New Members:

Pucci Foods (New Owners of Jessie's) Hayward, CA

Article - Offshore wind is poised to take off in the U.S.—but it won't be easy - The Biden administration plans to build thousands of offshore wind turbines by 2030, a daunting task. Experts say it's possible if everything goes as planned.

See: <https://tinyurl.com/yf7k5e96>

At a port on the Delaware River in southern New Jersey, construction workers are busy pouring a concrete foundation larger than a football field. By the end of the year, it will support a factory unlike anything ever built in the United States. The factory's purpose: to turn sheets of steel from the heartland into columns that will underpin a colossal new tool in the fight against climate change.

Weighing up to five million pounds each, the 400-foot-long, 40-foot-wide "monopiles" will be heaved onto barges and ferried 15 miles offshore into the Atlantic Ocean. There, a crane on a specialized ship will stand them on end and drive them into the seafloor, creating a firm foundation for 800-foot-tall wind turbines that will produce carbon-free electricity for New Jersey.

A big new business is blowing to America's shores, and the Paulsboro monopile factory is its first ambassador. President Joe Biden would like

it to be the first of many. On March 29, his secretaries of interior, energy, and commerce announced a goal of installing 30 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity in U.S. waters by 2030 (and 110 gigawatts by 2050). In the process, the administration hopes to generate tens of thousands of new jobs in manufacturing, installation, maintenance, and more . . .

See Also: California lawmakers warm up to offshore wind- <https://tinyurl.com/8pwdjyyp>

Article on the Tuna Carbon Footprint: A new study published in Elementa by researchers at the University of California, Santa Cruz and NOAA examines traditional aspects of seafood sustainability alongside greenhouse gas emissions to better understand the "carbon footprint" of U.S. tuna fisheries.

See: <https://tinyurl.com/ydm3m8bk>

Fisheries in the United States are among the best managed in the world, thanks to ongoing efforts to fish selectively, end overfishing, and rebuild fish stocks. But climate change could bring dramatic changes in the marine environment that threaten seafood productivity and sustainability. That's one reason why researchers set out to broaden the conversation about sustainability in seafood by comparing the carbon emissions of different tuna fishing practices.

The paper also puts those emissions in context relative to other sources of protein, like tofu, chicken, pork, or beef. In particular, the study examined how the carbon footprint of tuna was affected by how far from shore fishing fleets operated, or what type of fishing gear they used.

There were other fishing methods that seemed to strike a balance. [Albacore tuna caught on trolling and pole-and-line fishing gear by the North Pacific surface methods fleet had both negligible bycatch and relatively low estimated climate impacts.](#)

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