

WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION



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Members:

August 15, 2021

The west coast 2021 albacore season has been going on for about 6 weeks. Fishing/catching has shown mixed results so far. The coastal season in the past peaks around the first week of September so we will have a better idea how this all works out soon. Management and regulation once delayed by Covid is making a comeback with issues such as Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) being formulated for the south and north Pacific Ocean that will have an effect on the U.S. albacore fishery in the not-too-distant future.

Fishing and Markets: Fishing remains slow and spotty off Washington and Oregon. There have been some catches far off N. California and a sign off Canada. However, reports on average sound like half a ton per day in most areas, with fish of all sizes, a reports of some large albacore now closer in. There have been some better catches but they seem not to hold up very long. Effort from the U.S. fleet is down again this season with some not fishing or possibly targeting on species like salmon, plus fishing has been farther offshore. Bait is also an issue with the lack of it in the usual places, however, with a change in conditions we hope that the bait situation improves going into fall. Waters along the coast especially further south are unseasonably cold.

About 700/st of albacore have been landed on the west coast according to Pac Fin data updated recently, but does not account for albacore that are onboard vessels. Like the past few seasons this is a slow start to the season.

Prices: Albacore prices were established in mid-July for cannery destined unbled brine prices of \$ 3,000/st and Brine/Bled at \$ 3,100. Soon brine/bled at some buyers were from \$3,200-\$3,500 depending on quality and size. Blast at this time is ranging from \$4,500/st - \$ 5,000/st and maybe more depending on the buyer, day of the week, size and quality. Colder Straighter fish will bring better prices!

As the market is good in some segments, we strongly encourage vessels to please contact buyers to confirm prices ahead of delivery as much as possible, as it's the type of year where the market can change quickly.

There are still ongoing supply chain problems with containers and trucking for shipping albacore at this time. Covid seemed to have backed up the system, as well as many containers being sidelined for a year due to lack of business. This is slowly resolving itself but is centered in large container ports such as LA/Long Beach, Oakland, and Puget Sound.

Bolton Set to Buy High End Tuna Brand: By Tom Seaman
Undercurrent News 08/11/21

Italy based Bolton Group International is closing in on a deal for a high-end tuna brand, Wild Planet Foods, sources told Undercurrent News.

The percentage of the stake Bolton is set to take in Wild Planet under the deal is unclear, but appears it will give the Italian firm control.

Bill Carvalho is set to stay on after the deal closes, sources said. . .

For Article See: <https://tinyurl.com/5asrz4h5>

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MANAGEMENT and REGULATION:

USCG Boardings 2021: Crew aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Alert out of Astoria, Oregon, have completed 60-day law enforcement patrol focused on albacore tuna fishing within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone of the coasts of Washington and Oregon.

During the two-month patrol that concluded on Aug. 7, law enforcement teams from the Alert boarded 31 vessels, many of which had not been boarded in over a decade and issued 22 violations to commercial fishing vessel operators.

In addition to their enforcement of federal law and safety regulations, the crew of the Alert aided in saving the life of a commercial fisherman whose boat sank 160 miles off Grays Harbor, Washington, and who escaped in a life raft before the boat submerged.

See: <https://tinyurl.com/y3b7j2mr>

Survey of Economic and Social Conditions of Captains and Crew: Federal Register notice that is reopened for 30 days for comment, this economic survey covers the east coast and the Gulf but leaves the Pacific Coast out. When initially published the project was apparently only for New England, then it was expanded to cover the east coast and the Gulf due to the first round of comments, but now it still leaves out the Pacific Coast. [This Might be something various Pacific Coast fisheries organizations should comment on.](#)

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

Pacific Management Council Activities:

Marine Planning Committee formed: The Council has formed a new advisory body, the ad hoc Marine Planning Committee (MPC), focused on marine planning, which includes offshore wind, aquaculture, and other offshore development activities. The Council formed the group after hearing strong support from its advisory bodies for improving the Council's capacity to address the effects of offshore activities on fisheries, coastal communities, and

habitat. The Council intends for the MPC to provide an open and transparent process to gather industry and stakeholder input and advice on marine planning, and a mechanism to funnel constructive recommendations to the Council.

The MPC met with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and members of the Pacific Fishery Management Council and the public on July 22-23 to discuss offshore wind considerations for each Council-managed fishery. The MPC itself will meet in late August or early September to discuss and potentially develop a report for Council consideration.

Members of the MPC are Darius Peake for the Salmon Advisory Subpanel; Mike Okoniewski for the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel; Mike Conroy for the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel; Susan Chambers for the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel; Steven Scheiblaue for the Habitat Committee; Scott McMullen for the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel; Megan Waters in the conservation seat; Chris Potter for California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife; Delia Kelly for Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife; Corey Niles for Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and Yvonne DeReynier for National Marine Fisheries Service. The appointment for a Tribal seat is pending.

PFMC Advisory Bodies: The Council will be soliciting nominations for the next three-year advisory body terms for the Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel, Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel, Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel, Habitat Committee (California Tribal, Commercial and Recreational Fisheries, At-Large, and Conservation seats), and the Scientific and Statistical Committee At-Large Seats. If you are interested, please watch for the upcoming announcement by the Council in your email and on our website.

Ad Hoc Climate and Communities Core Team to hold online briefing for Council committees and public September 2, 2021 - The Pacific Fishery Management Council's ad Hoc Climate and Communities Core Team will hold an online briefing for Council committees and members of

the public. The online briefing will be held Thursday, September 2, 2021, from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., Pacific Daylight Time, or until business for the day has been completed.

Please see the public notice on the Council's website for the purpose of the briefing and participation details.

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

Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee to hold online meeting September 1, 2021- The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) ad hoc Marine Planning Committee will hold an online meeting. This meeting is open to the public. The online meeting will be held Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Pacific Daylight Time, or until business for the day has been completed.

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

U.S./Canada Treaty Issues: As of June 15th, the U.S. waters are now open until September 15th to the Canadian vessels on their list of 45 participants. We expect more Canadian effort than in 2020 when many took part at home in other permitted fisheries or just stayed tied to the dock with no blast markets available.

U.S. Vessels wishing to fish in Canadian waters pursuant to the treaty must register with NMFS at least 7 days prior to the first planned day in Canada by contacting NMFS at (562) 980-4238 or email albacore.fish@noaa.gov, as well as contacting Prince Rupert CG (250) 627-3074 * prior to entering and when exiting Canadian waters. Additional requirements and instructions can be found in the Guide for Complying with U.S. - Canada Albacore Treaty

See: <http://tinyurl.com/lopjffb>

Marine Stewardship Council: Marine Stewardship Council - WFOA and AAFA have

just completed the annual audit which was delayed by Covid for over a year. The NP and SP reports should be posted on the MSC website probably within a week.

U.S. albacore processors that utilize MSC for albacore in 2021-2022 need to have a **Designated Buyers Agreement** with WFOA and their own COC certification to utilize the process. WFOA and AAFA members are covered under the MSC certification. At this time 2021 buyers that utilize MSC need to send in their 2021 Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Buyers Agreement, those that signed up in 2020 were sent a mailer with a copy recently and also an email message. If you need one sent, please email wfoa@charter.net Any new troll or pole U.S. vessel can be added to the list of certified vessels by your buyer contacting WFOA with vessel name, owners, and doc or state #.

This number of processor participants varies from year to year as markets dictate. We appreciate those that have signed up. The list is on the website at www.wfoa-tuna.org under the tab "Marine Stewardship Council". There is also a list of designated albacore vessels that are covered by MSC. MSC designated buyers need to add any new ones to the list by contacting WFOA prior to unloading.

MSC Future: There will be requirements in the next couple of years leading up to recertifying for both the NP and SP to develop Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) to cover conditions set in the last certification. These would probably need to be completed or presented to RFMO's and others bodies by late-2022 for the SP and possibly as far as late 2023 for the NP fishery.

Beyond mid-2022 leading into the re-certification of the AAFA/WFOA certification for NP and SP Albacore we will be having a serious dialog with MSC itself, as well as internally within WFOA and AAFA about the feasibility and worth of re-certifying troll and pole caught albacore when the time comes. Our fishery is and has been recognized as a shining example by the Monterey Aquarium and their voice seems to have more recognition than MSC in some markets. WFOA and AAFA are both concerned that falling into a possible situation where we

have to promote and advocate more aggressively in the international RFMO process for certain harvest control rules which may regulate the U.S. fleet and let others ignore the potential regulations leaving the U.S. fishermen hung out to dry. We know some of our west coast buyers have and want to continue to access MSC markets, and WFOA plans to bring those that participate into the conversation soon.

IUU Fishing and Bycatch Mitigation: NOAA Fisheries released its 2021 Biennial Report to Congress on Improving International Fisheries Management identifying thirty-one nations and entities with vessels engaged in illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) fishing activities; and/or for lack of a regulatory program to address fishing practices that result in the bycatch of protected living marine resources (PLMRs).

Some nations or entities were identified for both IUU fishing and PLMR bycatch activities:

- China, Costa Rica, Guyana, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Senegal, and Taiwan are identified for IUU fishing activities.
- Algeria, Barbados, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Union, France, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Portugal, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, and Turkey are identified for lack of a regulatory program to address fishing practices that result in the bycatch of PLMRs.

The 2021 Biennial Report to Congress is an important part of NOAA Fisheries work to improve global fisheries management, combat IUU fishing, support the effective management of protected species and shark catch on the high seas, and ensure a fair market for the U.S. fishing industry.

To learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/f3h8n87>

EDF building bridges between US, Japanese fisheries managers By - Chris Loew, August 4, 2021

EDF worked behind the scenes to nudge Japan toward its 2018 Fisheries Reform Act by providing expert advice and policy support to government officials, scientists, and regulators. The law will move Japan from a total allowable effort (TAE) system – in which the number, size, and period of operation of fishing boats, and the types of gear allowed, are regulated – to a total allowable catch (TAC) system with vessel quotas for most species, by 2024.

See: <https://tinyurl.com/dskn3f>

OTHER:

American Fishermen's Research Foundation (AFRF) AFRF which is now separate from WFOA is carrying on the arrival tagging program with NOAA training crew on the albacore vessels to insert the tags this season. AFRF is also with help of buyers such as Westport Seafood doing bio sampling. If anyone happens to recover a tagged albacore bring in the entire fish and contact AFRF. The reward is still \$500/fish.

For Information Contact:

American Fishermen's Research Foundation
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New WFOA Members:

Robert Wright F/V Capriccio Eureka/Ft. Bragg

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