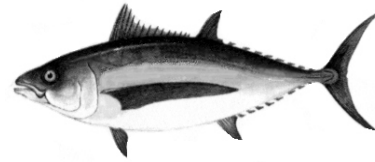


WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

January 6, 2008

Happy New Year to all WFOA members and supporters and wish the new year brings a good season. Included in this newsletter for regular members information are the WFOA bylaws. Also, an AFRF update and a letter requesting contributions for our ongoing PR campaign.

☛ This newsletter contains flyers from some of our supporting members who as part of their membership package may include information of interest and assistance to the WFOA regular membership. The content does not necessarily reflect the views, policies, or opinions of WFOA, its' officers, directors, or members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Annual Meeting: Once again this will be held in Astoria, Oregon beginning for directors on March 29, 2009 with the General member events and meetings and luncheon tentatively set the following three days. We have not set up any seminars yet, although we have one supporting member below which will be there. Any supporting members, agencies, etc. who would like to do a informative 60-90 minute seminar of your services please contact WFOA with your request. We generally have about 6-8 slots available.

Meet Integrated Marine Systems (IMS) staff members at the 2009 WFOA Annual Membership Meeting in Astoria March 30, 31 and April 1. IMS Sales Engineers will provide an informative Marine Refrigeration & Hydraulics presentation and will be available to answer questions for WFOA members.

For members wishing to attend and stay at the Holiday Inn Express you can call them at 503-325-6222 or 888-898-6222 and make early reservations. WFOA directors do not have to call as they will be on the master list.

HMS Permits: 2009 HMS permit renewals, courtesy notices have already been going out 90 days in advance of expiration. So if the permit expires in January or February 2009, they should have already got a notice. The Permit fee is not yet in effect. For more info as well as applications see: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/hms/hmsapp.pdf>, and compliance guide <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/hms/Tr oll HMS SECG.pdf>. Josh Nazeck at 562 980 4088 can assist with permit holder questions.

IRS: In a press release 5 September 2008, the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) noted that the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 permits fishermen to average their income over three years, just like farmers and other businesses. Making this election could save fishermen taxes during this year's closed salmon season. For more information see IRS Regulation 1.1301, Publications 225 and 595, Form 1040 (Schedule J) and Instructions for Schedule J, and Tax Tips-Agriculture, available from www.irs.gov.

FISHING & MARKET: U.S. cannery canceled all albacore delivery's from the Pacific for the rest of December and January. Overstock is the reason they are sighting and bad sales, reduced production. They are only taking fish off the local longliners at this

DIRECTORS '2008"

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(Vice - President)
NORMAN RINGSTAD
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HARVEY COSKY

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LOUIE HILL
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MIKE PATTERSON
DOUG FRICKE

COOS BAY /
NEWPORT
JERRY BATES
BARRY NELSON

EUREKA / FT. BRAGG

AARON NEWMAN
PAUL PELLEGRINI

SF / OAKLAND
STAN DAVIS

MOSS LANDING
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LYNN CRUMP
JOHN LAGRANGE

HAWAII
VACANT

NEW ZEALAND
PETER BALLANTYNE

MARGARET RINGSTAD
(Secretary / Treasurer)

time. World market for albacore has become soft. Bangkok prices dropped \$150/mt in one night last week to US\$2600. Spain is around \$2500 - \$2550/mt at present. We do not know how the economic situation, value of the dollar, prices of oil, politics, and other issues beyond our control will affect this year's market. It is very volatile at this time but we are confident that demand for reasonably priced commodities will be ok in bad economic times as they have in the past.

In 2008 only 430 tons were sold by U.S. troll boats to the major U.S. canners. Most albacore went to Europe, Asia and increasingly domestic markets.

Fuel Prices: Prices per barrel of oil have fallen in a spectacular manner since late in the albacore season. Once at \$147 per barrel they are now around \$40 per barrel. This is lower than anytime in the past 8 years. Gasoline and Diesel prices are also falling and maybe close to bottom. Cutbacks in consumption have really been a factor in the drop, but any instability in the middle east or elsewhere could result in prices going back up as fast as the free fall. The world economic situation may play a mitigating factor as everything is in a period of adjustment. We hope the trend is for lower fuel prices for the fleet next summer and WFOA will work with some of the fuel suppliers to see if we can find a way to lock in some of the low rates.

PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN: As we detailed in the October newsletter, this is an ongoing project. WFOA will put out more information in the coming months on the direction for 2009. WFOA really appreciates those who contribute to this effort by their voluntary donations. This ties into the below issue of MSC. WFOA's goal is to increase U.S. high end consumption and we now have to proceed down the certification road because of retailer demand which will increase in the U.S. market. WFOA can supply high quality albacore to these markets and have good cooperation with some of the innovative processors to achieve this goal.

MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (MSC): WFOA is going forward with MSC certification in a coordinated effort with the Canadian Albacore industry. This is for efficiency and economics. In the end both will hold certificates and not be tied together as far as requirements in each country. The WFOA board

considered this long and hard and voted to proceed in order to continue the spirit of MSC as far as certifying the entire pole and line fishery as sustainable. Benefits in marketing are not the issue but with our stress on local albacore and consumption it may well be a benefit to all in the long term and not a short term scheme. Myself and many board members have been highly skeptical of MSC certification but see if we do not acquire it we will be left in the dust. WFOA is working on this to benefit all pole and line/troll albacore fishermen. We will also work with buyers who support research, public education, data collection, and science by contributing to American Fishermen's Research Foundation's programs.

There are two developments in the certification industry of interest I have received this from the IUCN who are also involved in researching independent certifications of seafood.

ISSF: A new NGO, International Sustainable Seafood Foundation (ISSF), was formed a few months ago, is comprised of tuna processors and trade companies. WWF is also involved, with 2 seats on the ISSF board. It was organized by Chris Lischewski of Bumblebee. ISSF will use access to the processing sector to influence tuna RFMO member countries' conservation and mgmt measure voting practices, and will issue . For more info, contact Susan Jackson, President of ISSF (susansjackson@me.com) – former VP of Del Monte Foods.

MSC: In July of 2008 the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) released a revised version of its fisheries assessment methodology (FAM) which addresses issues regarding repeatability and certainty in MSC assessments. This new FAM provides clearer guidance for the certification bodies that undertake MSC assessments and sets out MSC expectations for fisheries that want to be tested against the Standard. This FAM is now in operation and applies to all fisheries, including those for tuna.

There is likely to be a growing influence of market-based factors on marine capture fisheries' practices and governance, and potential influence across the supply chain (e.g., processing, packaging, distribution - carbon footprint) if/when sectors across

the seafood industry are able to identify demonstrable financial benefits from reducing reputation risks, as has occurred most prominently in the UK market.

I see an opportunity for grocery retailers and buyers, which is not currently being taken, to work together to develop and implement sustainable seafood sourcing policies – to support existing responsible fisheries and achieve improvements in fisheries that currently have governance deficits.

MANAGEMENT & REGULATION:

U.S./ Canada Treaty: The U.S. and Canadian governments met in Long Beach, CA on December 15-16, 2008 in a formal treaty negotiation. Besides the U.S. Departments of State and Commerce (NMFS), there were enforcement and industry representatives from WFOA, AAFA, and WTA. The Canadian industry was represented by BCTFA. The WFOA board of directors met on November 24th and approved a number of approaches to get the treaty out of default and solve many of the problems associated with the treaty in the past.

About the only item of those things important to U.S. fishermen which we did not get (basically because the State and Commerce Departments gave it away before any of the rest of us had seen the draft amendments proposed by the U.S. limiting Canadian vessel size increases to 5 feet instead of 10 feet. However, the Canadian government and fishermen were put on notice that if there was an increase in their vessels' capacities, this could be a reason to terminate the fishing "regime". The vessel month scheme and ShipCom check in was eliminated and the number of Canadian vessels capped at 110, while the number of U.S. vessels was capped at "historical levels" which in the context of the negotiations means unlimited vessels. Additional exchanges of information such as log books and fish length as well as weight were also added. Provisions were added that if there were international or national changes in conservation and management measures this also would as between the U.S. and Canada give U.S. credit for fish caught in the U.S. EEZ by Canadian vessels.

All and all we think it was the best outcome possible given the State Department's assertion that the U.S.

Canada bilateral relationship outweighed considerations just based on the albacore fishery.

Proposal to expand AIS requirements : The US Coast Guard released an advance copy of its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on vessel requirements for notices of arrival and departure (NOAD) and the Automatic Identification System (AIS). The requirement to electronically submit an advance notice of arrival or departure would, under this proposal, be expanded to include all foreign vessels regardless of size departing to or coming from a US port or place and all US commercial vessels regardless of size coming to a US port or place from a foreign port. The AIS carriage requirement would be expanded for US vessels. AIS would be required on all domestic vessels of greater than 500 GT. The exemption for fishing vessels and for small passenger vessels would be revoked. Comments on the proposal should be submitted within 120 days of publication of the NPRM in the Federal Register. <http://www.hklaw.com/id16048/spotlight1/mpgid4720/>

Check out: <http://ais3.siitech.net/VTSLite/AView.aspx> for an example of AIS

New Boarding Ladder Requirements: Under existing regulations, "all vessels except for those vessels with a freeboard of 4 feet or less, must provide a safe ladder if needed for the authorized officer and his/her party to come aboard."

In this rule, NOAA defines a "safe boarding ladder" as a Coast Guard approved pilot ladder. CG approved pilot ladders were designed to transfer people at sea and are standard equipment for other sectors of the marine industry. Pilot ladders cost approximately \$64/foot custom-made. An 8-foot pilot ladder would cost approximately \$512. This would be a one-time cost for all practical purposes.

In the rule, NOAA clarifies the term "freeboard" as the working distance between the top rail of the gunwale, where the boarding officer climbs into the vessel, and the water's surface. This clarification was needed because under the existing rule, freeboard has been interpreted to mean either the weather decks or the top of the gunwale, which can be a vertical difference of more than 6 feet in some cases. Some vessels have

openings in the bulwarks specifically for at-sea personnel transfer; the new definition accommodates these openings. Points of Contact: LCDR Chris German, USCG (Liaison to the Office of Enforcement) 301-427-2300

Obama on Fishing: Given there are a lot of unknowns with the incoming Obama administration we have found the following information on BarackObama.com. WFOA certainly hopes fishermen have some say in their future. We expect the NGO's to have an easier time. There has been some upheaval already as the Commerce secretary designee Bill Richardson has withdrawn his name for the head of the Commerce Department.

Commercial fishing – both inshore and offshore - is critically important to the nation's economy. The \$65 billion industry provides 25,000 jobs directly and supports an additional 75,000 jobs across the economy. Healthy fish stocks are vital to the continued success of the fishing industry.

Promote Better Science - The path to equitable fishery management is paved with good science. Collaborations between scientists and fishers, like the University of New Hampshire's Northeast Consortium, have helped foster creative solutions to some of the most challenging issues facing our fisheries. Through its work, the Consortium has brought new insight to gear selectivity, methods, and stock assessments.

Protect and Preserve the Ocean - Barack Obama understands that the health of America's saltwater and freshwater resources is vital to the economic security of coastal communities. Key to achieving that goal is abatement of direct pollution from industry and wastewater, as well as runoff pollution, which are significant threats to fish stocks.

Bring Fishers to the Table - In its regulation of small business, the federal government has long known that it is important to involve small business owners in its decision-making process. The federal government's regulation of fishing must be no different. Ultimately, fishers are the best experts in such matters and Barack Obama believes that their input should be sought out and respected at both the regional council level and the federal level.

Provide Health Care for Fishers - Commercial fishing is unlike other industries in that its employees work on sporadic, transient schedules at the mercy of seasonal and oceanographic pressures. This employment pattern often denies them traditional health care coverage. He supports the Fishing Industry Health Care Coverage Demonstration Program and the benefits it can bring to America's fishers.

Lubchenco Will Helm National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: From Washington Post By Juliet Eilperin - President-elect Barack Obama has tapped Oregon State University professor Jane Lubchenco, one of the nation's most prominent marine biologists, to head the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Lubchenco, a conservationist who has devoted much of her career to encouraging scientists to become more engaged in public policy debates, is also a vocal proponent of curbing greenhouse gases linked to global warming. The appointment marks a shift for NOAA, which oversees marine issues as well as much of government's climate work. Lubchenco has criticized the agency in the past for not doing enough to curb overfishing.

OTHER:

To Our Health! Fisheries Technologies 2009: The 60th Pacific Fisheries Technologists Conference will be held February 22-25, 2009 at the Downtown Portland Hilton Hotel in Portland, Oregon USA. This international annual event is designed to provide a forum to broaden professional networks and exchange information and current research in seafood technology among industry, government, and university researchers and interested participants.

New Members: Since October 20th.

F/V Nyoda	Thomas Coffey	Astoria/Westport
F/V Seamaid	Dan Morris	Coos Bay / Newport

Seafood Producers Coop Bellingham, WA

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