

WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

March 5, 2011

Included in this newsletter are updates on the Annual Meeting at the end of March, flyers from supporting members, the American Fishermen's Research Foundation (AFRF) newsletter with an insert giving an overview on AFRF management activities over the last decade, and an update on WFOA's public outreach activities in 2010.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

☛ **NOTICE:** U.S. Vessel Member Poll Card on U.S./Canada Treaty was sent in the last newsletter. We have received about 35% of the total sent to WFOA U.S. vessel owners. Please fill out these ASAP and send in.

☛ **District Meetings:** WFOA will conduct these in as many districts as possible in the coming three months leading up to the spring meeting. These are a good opportunity to make your views known to your directors. Morro Bay, Moss Landing, and SF/Bodega Bay have been completed. Watch for an announcement in the mail for other districts.

☛ **Directors Re-Appportionment:** There will be no changes in 2011 in the number of directors per district.

☛ **Annual WFOA/AFRF Meeting:** This will take place back in Astoria, OR from March 27- 30, 2011 at the Holiday Inn Express. WFOA is now accepting commitments for sponsors/donors for reception/dinner sponsorship and raffle items. For early reservations contact the Holiday Inn Express at 503-325-6222. The main days for regular members would be the 29th and 30th. Please see the enclosed draft schedule.

☛ **Jensen Expo:** Following the WFOA annual meeting, Jensen Communication will be holding their 10th annual EXPO at their store in Warrenton, OR on March 30th and 31st. See flyer.

☛ **Electronic Newsletter Option:** Members and others who wish to receive this newsletter via e-mail in PDF format please send a request to <wfoa@charter.net>.

WFOA will also attach flyers in either in PDF or JPG.

☛ **Dues:** Dues notices for 2011 were being sent out. We appreciate member support and payment as soon as possible. A reminder will be mailed separately.

MANAGEMENT & REGULATION:

HSFCA Permit: The current application fee for a high seas fishing permit is \$67.00. As of March 15, 2011, the fee for a high seas fishing permit will be \$129.00.

Payment of the fee must be included with any application for the high seas fishing permit. The regulations for the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act, at 50 CFR 300.13, state that NMFS will charge a fee to recover the administrative expenses of permit issuance. The amount of the fee is determined in accordance with the procedures of the NOAA Finance Handbook for determining the administrative costs of this permit. The fee is specified with the application form for the high seas fishing permit and must accompany each application. Failure to pay the fee will preclude issuance of the permit.

High seas fishing permits continue to be valid for five years. Current permit holders do not need to take any immediate action."

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ia/services/highseas.htm>

DIRECTORS '2010"

BRITISH COLUMBIA
DON BELLHAM

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(Vice - President)
NORMAN RINGSTAD
MARK HALVORSEN
HARVEY COSKY
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BARRY NELSON
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EUREKA / FT. BRAGG
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SF / OAKLAND
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MORRO BAY
WAYNE MOODY

SOCAL/HAWAII
JOHN LAGRANGE

NEW ZEALAND
PETER BALLANTYNE

MARGARET RINGSTAD
(Secretary / Treasurer)

U.S. / Canada Albacore Treaty: 2011 will be the final year of the three-year regime of the reciprocal treaty. WFOA is asking for member input over the winter on what WFOA's approach should be when new negotiations begin between governments in the fall of 2011. There will be an exchange of data bilateral meeting in April conducted online. Under the present treaty there is no provision as in the past to enter any type of default period pending a new agreement or extension.

The three-year period was primarily based on the fact that new stock assessments would indicate if any aggressive effort restrictions would occur after 2011. Under the present regime the Canadians are allowed 110 vessels in U.S. waters with no permit leasing. The U.S. is allowed basically an unlimited number of boats in the Canadian EEZ. In 2010 the U.S. had about 69 boats fish in Canadian waters and the Canadians had the 110 listed vessels in U.S. waters over the 4-month period.

Fishermen and others can still send comments into the following with your opinions on the treaty. Please send them to HoganDF@state.gov, and please copy Mark Helvey in NMFS/SWR at Mark.Helvey@noaa.gov

The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 authorized the Coast Guard to make a substantial number of changes to the commercial fishing vessel safety regulations. While these are being worked on by the Coast Guard, no official regulations have gone out for comment yet. The Act sets the boundary between inshore and offshore at three nautical miles. Vessels operating beyond three nautical miles will be subject to many new requirements including maintaining a "vessel safety" logbook and completing a mandatory vessel safety inspection at least once every two years. The new standard for life saving equipment is "survival craft that insures no part of the individual is immersed in water." Individuals in charge of operating a vessel beyond three nautical miles will be required to undergo additional training in safety, survival, seamanship, navigation, and other areas. There will also be new regulations for construction of fishing vessels after 2012.

Even before the October 15, 2010 signing into law of this Act, the Coast Guard had issued on August 31, 2010 a long series of amended regulations concerning design construction and performance standards for life saving equipment to "harmonize" U.S. standards with international standards set forth in several International Maritime Organization circulars. The equipment involved includes launching appliances (winches, etc), release mechanisms, survival craft (lifeboats and inflatable life

rafts), and automatic disengaging devices.

While preparation of revised Coast Guard regulations can take some time, it is likely that these new regulations will come out in 2011.

Loining and Processing at Sea: WFOA is looking into this as a couple boats ran into situations last year with the State of Oregon where essentially there was no bureaucracy to handle the fact that boats were processing loins at sea and the government recognizing the events were not illegal but they could not allow this activity since they had no regulation in place. Go Figure!

Economic Supplemental Fleet Study: WFOA has worked with NMFS and Lisa Wise Consulting to secure funding for this project with results presented to the PFMC. Below is LWC letter to the PFMC which describes this fully:

March 2011 - PFMC Supplemental Public Comment

To the Council Chair and Members of the PFMC,

It is a pleasure to submit this letter to inform the Council that Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. is currently conducting an analysis of the non-biological constraints on the West Coast US Commercial Albacore industry. The project is funded by a grant from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with Dale Squires (NMFS, SWFSC) as the Project Manager. The work began on January 4, 2011 and is intended to be presented to the Council at the June meeting in Spokane, WA.

LWC is working closely with the HMSMT and the January meeting in Carlsbad, it was confirmed that the HMSMT will review the report from Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. at their April meeting and provide a summary and evaluation of it to the Council (in June), and/or provide additional information to supplement the report as needed.

The report is intended to quantify, to the extent possible, the effects of non-biological influences and their chronology on the west coast US commercial albacore fishery to augment and complement the stock assessment data. The methodology for this work relies heavily on stakeholder input to guide the LWC team in their research and analysis. As such, interviews are being conducted with fishermen, buyer/processors, regulators, enforcement personnel and other industry stakeholders.

A voluntary Advisory Group has been named to assist LWC identify and contact interview subjects, assist with the identification of appropriate data sources and review and comment on portions of the draft report when necessary. The list of Advisory Group participants is attached to this letter.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with the HMSMT to present our findings to the Council at the June meeting and remain available for comments or questions at: 805.801.9646 or henry@lisawiseconsulting.com.

*Henry Pontarelli, Vice President
lisa wise consulting, inc.*

2011 SEASON: Very few vessels went to the South Pacific this year. Fishing was slow but apparently wrapped up good. Boats are expected to receive very good prices on quality blast/bled albacore since the inventories are very low and demand is up.

While it is difficult to predict the future especially in albacore tuna a couple of issues do loom which could affect prices and catch. First of all the El Nino of 2010 is beginning to slack off and is expected to moderate by late spring. There is information in the AFRF newsletter on this. This may have an affect on fish location and upwelling patterns and weather. Secondly, it appears that there is very little albacore in inventory at this time which should bode well for both the domestic and export markets. And finally and a more negative factor is the increasing prices of oil again. Oil which bottomed out a year ago around \$45/barrel is now over \$100/barrel and is affecting the prices of diesel and gasoline. We could be looking at \$4-\$5/gal diesel prices again if this trend does not reverse. This could be detrimental to the effort worldwide which could result in increased prices for albacore. The chaos in the Middle East is creating opportunities for oil speculation, however things could change is Libya drops out of OPEC or other changes occur in supply.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Enclosed is a summary of this project for 2010 and some vision of what to expect in 2011 if funding permits. The WFOA board will be discussing the funding and project at the AGM in Astoria. WFOA working with Brooke George over the past three years promoted the health, sustainability, and historical perspective of the U.S. troll albacore fishery.

WFOA's public outreach is having success doing hands-on consumer events with albacore from California and Oregon. We have also worked closely with both the Monterey and Long Beach Aquariums with hands on events. Recently we have participated in the Chefs Collaborative event in Seattle as well as the Wild Seafood Exchange.

If funding and budget allows, WFOA will again be focused in 2011 more on getting the message out about the local and family aspect of the fishery and coastal fishermen in

general as a way to place a picture in the minds of the consumer of something more personal. Public outreach has gone into social media such as;

Blog: <<http://wildalbacore.blogspot.com/>>

Facebook:<<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wild-Pacific-Albacore/136170119771269>>

Twitter: <<https://twitter.com/PacificAlbacore>>

We really appreciate all of the west coast processors as well as the Oregon Albacore Commission that have been involved supplying WFOA samples at short notice and contributing financially in some ways or others. WFOA also thanks the vessels that have had the \$5/fee deducted from your proceeds at most west coast buyers as well as those that contributed voluntarily. This has made up about 40% of the costs and for 2011 we will have to consider new options for funding this important process.

WILD SEAFOOD EXCHANGE - March 9, 2011-Lynnwood, WA - This is a one day conference aimed at the independent commercial fisherman who wants to learn about marketing and direct marketing to restaurants, retailers, brokers and seafood buyers.

- Hear from your colleagues about their business through small business case studies.
- Learn about funding sources for business operations, new equipment, vessel re-powers and new construction. State and federal sources, as well as private lending will be discussed.
- Valuable one-on-one round-table discussions with shipyards, direct marketers, funding experts and colleagues.
- Processing and Distribution, Ship Construction Financing

For sponsorship and exhibit opportunities contact:
Bill Forslund at 206-284-8285

For registration and all other information please contact:
Denise Philips at 253-241-1355

Marine Stewardship Council: The annual MSC surveillance audit occurred in February 2011. Interested stakeholders had an opportunity to comment in a transparent way on the fishery and if it is actually still sustainable and well managed. This was conducted by Global Trust Certification from Ireland. We have not seen the final report yet but expect no issues.

WFOA has pursued fair, science-based, multilateral management in the form of well-defined reference points and good science at both the International level and Domestic level to meet the conditions of the certification. Since the new ISC stock assessment is still pending, we

cannot do much more until that occurs. And depending on the outcome may or may not require more aggressive approaches to meeting conditions. WFOA will also be re-accessing the certificate sharing protocol at the spring meeting for vessels who are non-WFOA vessels.

OTHER:

COSI - Samoa: From New Zealand Radio - March 3, 2011 -The company that is now leasing the former Chicken of the Sea Samoa Packing Plant in American Samoa says adding fresh tuna processing to its list of operations will support the local fishing industry.

Samoa Tuna Processors, which is owned by Tri Marine, is now ready to process fresh tuna to be shipped to major markets on the US mainland.

The Vice-president of production for Tri Marine, Dan Sullivan, says although the main focus for Samoa Tuna Processors is on tuna canning, the business will also be processing fresh fish.

“What it allows us to do is participate in another part of the market. It also provides an opportunity for the local vessels here that are not really of the size to produce quantities for cannery processing, so really an opportunity for the local vessels and some of those that are long line vessels that can bring in some high quality fish near the end of their trip and sell it as fresh.”

Dan Sullivan says Tri Marine will be conducting major renovations to the plant in order to improve the efficiency and hygiene of its tuna processing.

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Paul Krampe : The American Tunaboat Association (ATA), headquartered in San Diego, California reports that Paul Krampe, its executive director, has announced his intention to retire from his current position. Mr. Krampe has served as Executive Director of the ATA since the organization was reactivated in January of 2005.

The ATA has announced that an agreement has been reached to hire Mr. Brian Hallman to replace Mr. Krampe as Executive Director. Mr. Hallman most recently has held the position of Deputy Director of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. Prior to this position, Mr. Hallman held several positions in the U.S. State Department. His last position with the State Department

was the Director of the office of Marine Conservation.

Oregon Commodity Commissions: Oregon Department of Agriculture Director Katy Coba, wants to let you know that a list of commissioner openings on Oregon’s 25 agricultural and commercial fisheries commodity commissions is available on line.
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/ADMD/cc_applications.shtml#Albacore>

Most appointments are for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2011. Katy asks industry members and interested groups to help us find qualified applicants.

In order to qualify for an appointment, interested individuals must complete an application, be a United States citizen, and an Oregon resident. Producers and handlers must demonstrate an active interest in the development of the commodity, must be actively engaged in producing or handling the commodity for three or five years depending upon the commodity, and derive a substantial portion of their income from the commodity. Public members can't be directly associated with the commodity.

Although there is not a firm deadline for submitting applications, we ask you to use May 3, 2011 as a guide for sending applications and letters of recommendation to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, 1207 NW Naito Parkway, Suite 104, Portland, OR 97209-2832

If you have questions, please call Kris Anderson, Commodity Commission Program Manager, at 503-872-6600

New Members: Since January 20, 2010:

F/V Beloit II	Chris Brevick	Puget Sound
F/V Regina Marie	Aaron Weinzinger	SF/Bodega
F/V Three T’s	Dale Brevick	Puget Sound

Carson-Davis Oil Co. Coos Bay, Oregon

☛ 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.

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