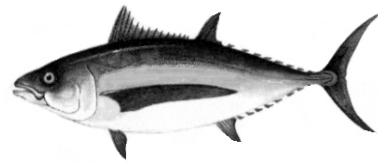


WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

March 5, 2010

This is a condensed newsletter prior to the WFOA/AFRF Annual Membership Meeting (AGM) in Rocklin/Roseville, CA. Included are updates on issues affecting albacore fishermen and the AGM meeting schedule, agenda, and reservation forms. All issues in this newsletter will be discussed in detail at the AGM.

WFOA will send a detailed newsletter on or about April 20, 2010 with updates and info on issues such as albacore management, MSC, markets, and public outreach.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

➤ **Dues:** Dues for 2010 are now payable. We appreciate those who have already paid their 2010 dues and a special thanks to those that also contributed extra to the Public Education Fund.

➤ **AFRF Fees:** Vessels that did not sell to an AFRF contracted buyer owe \$20/ton payable to AFRF. If you did sell to a contracted buyer they paid the fee for research over and above the dock prices.

➤ **CPR / First Aid:** WFOA is offering a CPR/First Aid course after our annual meeting in Rocklin, CA. It will be conducted on April 1, 2010, 8AM - 3PM at the Marriott Springhill Hotel or other designated site close by. You can sign up on the enclosed form. If we do not have enough on the list by February 20th it will be canceled.

➤ **2010 ANNUAL MEETING:** Please see page 3-4 for schedule and sign up form.

➤ **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 from supporting members either in PDF or JPG. This will save some time, money, and paperwork for WFOA.

PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN: WFOA is planning to continue this successful two-year project through 2010. Progress is being made in educating consumers, chefs, retailers, and others in the attributes of local wild albacore. Our efforts also compliment those of the Oregon Albacore Commission that has similar goals. The WFOA project can expand beyond Oregon and yet promote local albacore from the west coast. We have seen a increase in local demand in seafood outlets and restaurants and estimate that 15% - 20% of the albacore landings are now absorbed in the U.S. market and expanding.

WFOA is securing some grant funding to pay for a portion of this effort and in 2009 assessed member vessels \$5/ton upon unloading to supplement this effort. ALL funds collected went directly in the Public Outreach Program. WFOA is considering this again for 2010 and will do it in a more efficient manner. If WFOA did not have to spend considerable amounts for MSC certification in 2009 we would not be assessing member vessels. However, it is a good cause and its working.

DIRECTORS '2009 - 2010"

BRITISH COLUMBIA
DON BELLHAM

PUGET SOUND
KARL JOHNSON
(Vice - President)
NORMAN RINGSTAD
MARK HALVORSEN
HARVEY COSKY
BRUCE SAMUELSON

ASTORIA / WESTPORT

LOUIE HILL
(President)
MIKE PATTERSON
DOUG FRICKE
SHANE REEVES

COOS BAY / NEWPORT

JERRY BATES
BARRY NELSON
SHAWN RYAN

EUREKA / FT. BRAGG

AARON NEWMAN
PAUL PELLEGRINI

SF / OAKLAND

STAN DAVIS

MOSS LANDING

STEVE FOSMARK

MORRO BAY

WAYNE MOODY

SAN DIEGO/SOCAL

JOHN LAGRANGE

HAWAII

VACANT

NEW ZEALAND

PETER BALLANTYNE

MARGARET RINGSTAD
(Secretary / Treasurer)

MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (MSC): This has entered the final stage. On February 26th the final draft of the Global Trust certifiers assessment was published on the MSC website. At that point a 15 working day period ensues and anyone or entity can protest in that time frame. If there is no protest by March 19th the certification will be official. If there is a protest it will be heard by an independent adjudicator appointed by MSC. At that point it can be dismissed quickly or enter a protest process. It is now out of WFOA's hands at this point. Once certified all U.S. WFOA members in good standing will be certified and Chain of Custody (COC) buyers can buy your albacore as MSC, also, any non-member is eligible, however they will have to register and be put on our list available to COC buyers. WFOA will require buyers to sign a "Designated Party Agreement" with WFOA to be included on the buyers listing and they will have to have separate COC agreement with MSC which most already have. More will be sent once certification is final.

MANAGEMENT & REGULATION:

WCPFC Compliance: Many of you received the WCPFC Compliance guide last month from the Pacific Islands Offices of NMFS. The requirements such as VMS, markings, operations in closed zones, listed and registration process only apply to vessels fishing west of 150°W in the Northern Hemisphere, and west of 130°W south of 4°S in the Southern Hemisphere. This was supposed to go into effect on February 22, 2010, however after receiving many comments it has now been delayed until April 22, 2010. The lead time is about 30 days to get all set up and registered so if a vessel intends to fish west of 150°W this summer, which is about 1,200 miles offshore they should register.

PFMC: There will be a discussion on the white paper which the HMSMT reconsidered last week in LaJolla at the April PFMC meeting in Portland, OR. The HMSAS will meet on April 9-10, 2010 and the PFMC agenda has HMS scheduled on the 11th. It is at the Sheraton Airport Hotel in Portland, OR. We encourage members to attend if you oppose catch/effort controls on the U.S. albacore fleet.

Control Date: There will possibly be a change to the March 9, 2000 control date on the April PFMC agenda in Portland, OR. If passed by the council it would move the old date to the present date of the council meeting. There are mixed thoughts on this as moving it up would make a date more current and

less legally challengeable if used as a cutoff date for entry into the fishery. However, it also might trigger the limited entry process itself. A control date amounts to a notice to fishermen that entry into the fishery after such date may not qualify you. However, most limited entry programs used a whole gamut of qualifying criteria and not any control date.

WFOA's position remains that until there is a need for effort control/limited entry on the U.S. albacore fishery, WFOA is opposed to unilateral reductions on U.S. fishermen until international stock assessment show a need, and then only if a multilateral international approach is taken. We also believe IUU illegal fishing needs to be addressed.

United We Fish Rally and Fix Magnuson Now Petition: (Info from Nils Stolpe Report) WFOA signed onto the "Fix Magnuson Now" petition. Over 4,700 other fishermen and businesses signed. At the Fishing rally in Washington DC February 22, 2010 an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 showed up and made an impression on Capitol Hill, with the media, and with the anti-fishing movement as well. It was the largest group of fishermen united behind a single cause that anyone we've been dealing with had ever seen. The United We Fish website (<http://unitedwefish.com/>) has links to some of the media coverage of the rally. Among the best is the spot that the World Fishing Network did (<http://www.wfn.tv/news/video.php?video=402773>).

You can check on the United We Fish website (url above), the Recreational Fishing Alliance website (<http://www.joinrfa.org/>) or the Fix Magnuson Now blog (<http://www.fixmagnusonnow.blogspot.com/>) to stay up to date on our progress. We will be sending regular email updates as well.

Also, fishermen reps from Oregon and elsewhere put in much effort visiting DC and discussing fisheries issues with members of congress.

New Members: Since January 20, 2010:

F/V Bambi	Ted Martin	Ilwaco, WA
F/V Harvestor	Tyler Long	Coos Bay, OR
F/V Kara J	Steven Wilson	Coquille, OR
F/V Mistress	Chris Cain	Westport, WA
F/V Nelma II	Jim Gagnon	Coos Bay, OR
F/V Rose Lynn	Jim Gritzfeld	Morro Bay, CA

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**Western Fishboat Owners Association
American Fishermen's Research Foundation
Annual General Meeting and Convention
March 28 -31, 2010
Springhill Marriott - Roseville, CA
Tentative Schedule***

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2010 Directors Check In

2:30 PM - 7:00 PM DIRECTORS MEETING
Springhill Meeting Rm off Lobby_____

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2010

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
Hotel Lobby

8:00 AM - 6:00 PM DIRECTORS MEETING
Springhill Meeting Rm off Lobby

4:30 PM -7:00 PM RECEPTION /wine tasting??

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2010

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
Hotel Lobby

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (Vessel Members & Invitees Only)
Springhill Meeting Rm off Lobby

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM SEMINAR
NMFS - Pacific Islands Regional Office - Tom Graham/Charles Karnella - " WCPFC Compliance Information and Q&A"
Springhill Meeting Rm off Lobby

2:15 PM - 3:30 PM SEMINAR
Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) - "MSC requirements under WFOA certification for fishermen and processors"
Springhill Meeting Rm off Lobby

3:45 PM - 4:30 PM SEMINAR
GeoEye
Springhill Meeting Rm off Lobby

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM WFOA Executive Committee meeting with Processors and Buyers on MSC and PR issues.

5:30 PM - 6:15 PM Wine Bar Hosted by Marine Chartering Co.

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM SEAFOOD RECEPTION
Location: Whitney Oaks Golf Club

HOSTED BY: (Tentative List)
Bumble Bee Seafoods, Bornsteins Seafood, Interocean Seafoods, Chicken of the Sea,
Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Company, Pacific Seafood Group, StarKist Seafoods, Inc, Tri-Marine Fish Co.
Wild Planet Foods

TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED LEAVING HOTEL ABOUT 6:30PM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2010

- 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM** CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
Hotel Lobby
- 8:00 AM - 8:45 AM** SEMINAR
Gallagher Transport - Lori Goodwin - Customs, Immigration, and Crewing Issues
Springhill Meeting Rm off Lobby
- 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM** SEMINAR
Ocean Imaging - Mark Hess
Springhill Meeting Rm off Lobby
- 10:00 AM - 10:45AM** SEMINAR - Open
- 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM** LUNCHEON
Speaker - Dr. Nick Ralston - University of North Dakota - Selenium/Mercury Issues in Seafood,
(possibly another speaker from NOAA also)
Location: Whitney Oaks Golf Club
- Luncheon Sponsors:**(Tentative List) BCTFA, Gallagher Transport, Port of Astoria,
Wilcox & Flegal
- 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM** AFRF DIRECTORS MEETING
Springhill Meeting Rm off Lobby

* There will be more additions to this as the AGM approaches especially in raffle prizes. The main event dates and time should be accurate. A updated schedule will be available at the hotel on check-in.

Partial Preliminary List of Raffle Items:

- Port of Astoria - Vessel Haul Out
- Star Kist Seafoods - Various Items
- Tri-Marine Fish Co - Jackets Etc
- Ocean Imaging - Three Months Service
- Gallagher Transport - Various Items
- Kelly Andersson - (1) Basic Website \$750, (1) Website Upgrade \$500
- Sierra Nevada Brewing - Case of Beer

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2010

- 8:00 AM - 3:30PM** **CPR / FIRST AID - SACRAMENTO RED CROSS**
- DEADLINE , FEBRUARY 20TH - IF NOT OVER 6 PARTICIPANTS SESSION WILL BE
CANCELED. \$60/PER PERSON, \$50/ IF OVER 10 PARTICIPANTS, \$15 - LUNCH IF
NEEDED