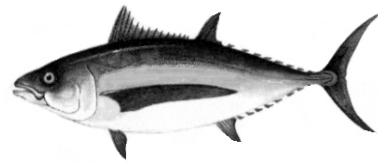


WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

April 25, 2010

Within this newsletter are reports on annual meeting events as well as board and general membership decisions for 2010. WFOA has three main areas of focus for 2010. These include the MSC certification and market, Public Outreach project through Crocmedia LLC, and keeping access to the ocean for our members through advocacy at federal and international, and state forums. In 2010 WFOA devoted much time to MSC certification that now can be directed at more hands on membership issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

☛ 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 time, money, and paperwork for WFOA.

☛ AFRF Tagging Charters: One or two archival tagging cruises may happen in 2010 depending on funding. Any vessels interested in this should contact WFOA and request an application. Any charter would not happen until late in the season.

☛ AFRF Coastal Survey: The early season surveys' AFRF conducted in 2008 and 2009 did not receive much support from districts. The AFRF board did not endorse doing another in 2010. However, it could happen if there was an otolith sampling project or similar proposed by SWFSC. We would solicit vessels then.

☛ 2010 Dues: Some have not paid their dues for 2010. We have included a bright reminder in this mailing if you are one of them. We appreciate your support when it comes to maintaining access to the ocean for the future. Being a member also automatically qualifies you under the new MSC certification.

☛ AIS: There has been no change since last year. A proposed rule is still going through the rulemaking process that would lift the current fishing vessel AIS

carriage exemption. Therefore, U.S. and Canadian vessels 65' or greater will be required to be equipped with AIS once the rule is implemented. Implementation date is uncertain.

☛ Canadian Treaty List: The owner of any albacore fishing vessel who wants that vessel to be on the list of U.S. vessels eligible to fish for albacore tuna in Canadian waters under the Treaty must contact NMFS at: (562) 980-4024, FAX: (562) 980-4047, or email (albacore.fish@noaa.gov) at least seven days prior to the first day on which any fishing in Canadian waters may begin.

The owner must provide his or her name, address, and phone number, vessel name, documentation number (or state registration if it is not documented) and vessel operator (if different from the owner) and his or her address and phone number.

NMFS will then place the vessel on the vessel list. The list is only valid for a single year. For the United States, a provisional list shall be provided to Canada by July 1 and may be revised during the fishing season.

DIRECTORS '2010'

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SHAWN RYAN

EUREKA / FT. BRAGG
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WAYNE MOODY

SOCAL/HAWAII
JOHN LAGRANGE

NEW ZEALAND
PETER BALLANTYNE

MARGARET RINGSTAD
(Secretary / Treasurer)

WFOA / AFRF Annual Meeting: WFOA held its' annual meeting in Rocklin/Roseville, CA from March 28-31, 2010 at the Springhill Marriott with the reception and luncheon at the Whitney Oaks Golf Club. We were very pleased with the hospitality and efficiency of the venues and their staff.

WFOA appreciates the support of the following sponsors for the reception the evening of March 30th.

Bellingham Cold Storage
Bornstein Seafoods
Bumble Bee Seafoods
Chicken of the Sea International
Interocean Seafoods
Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Co.
Ocean Gold Seafood
Pacific Seafood Group
Seafood Producers Coop
Star Kist Seafoods
Tri-Marine Fish Company
Wild Planet Foods

Whoa also thank the following for helping sponsors the luncheon on March 31.

BCTFA
Englund Marine Supply
Gallagher Transport
Port of Astoria
Wilcox & Flegal Oil Co.
Marine Chartering Inc.
(Marine Chartering also bought wine for the luncheon)

Raffle Prizes were also donated by the following:

Bellingham Cold Storage
Englund Marine
Gallagher Transport
GeoEye
Interocean Seafoods
Jessies Ilwaco Fish Co
Kelly Andersson
Sierra Nevada Brewing
Ocean Imaging
Pacific Seafood Group
Port of Astoria
Port of Ilwaco
Tri-Marine Fish Co
Wilcox and Flegal Oil
and many Restaurants and stores around Ilwaco and Astoria

At the Luncheon Dr. Nick Ralston gave a great presentation on the Mercury / Selenium research he has been doing and where issues stand now, and how he is getting out the word that seafood is good for you especially if it has selenium.

Mary Crowley and Chris Shaffer from Project Kaisei based in Sausalito, CA gave a presentation as a seminar on their project to create awareness of trash in the mid-Pacific. They ultimately want to raise awareness and funding for some vessels to go out and pick up trash and come into the Golden Gate as a news story. Some west coast boats may be needed for such a project. See: <http://www.projectkaisei.org/>

2011 AGM: WFOA has decided that the 2011 Annual Meeting will return to Astoria, OR the end of March 2011. Both venues of Rocklin and Astoria offer different styles and are easy to work with. The advantage Astoria has is most members are in the NW.

Election of Officers 2010: Lewis Hill, F/V Holly H - President, Karl Johnson, F/V Seven Daughters - Vice President, and Margaret Ringstad, F/V Misty R - Secretary.

Districts Combined: The board voted for a by-law change that will combine the SoCal/San Diego district with the Hawaii district. John LaGrange remains the director for this region.

WA Coalition: WFOA again contributed \$1,000 to the Coalition of Coastal Fisheries in Washington State. This organization with Ed Owens is keeping fishermen in the game in WA where many fishing issues are on the agenda.

Public Education Assessment: The board voted after input from district meetings to continue the \$5/ton, (1/4 cent per pound) assessment on WFOA member albacore for the 2010 season. This is important in continuing the work Crocmedia is doing promoting Wild Pacific Albacore tuna to the U.S. public and outlets. WFOA has spent about \$60,000 in both 2008 and 2009 on this initiative and member contributions are essential in growing the demand for our fish locally.

FINAL - MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (MSC): WFOA and CHMSF were awarded Marine Stewardship Council certification on March 23, 2010 for troll and baitboat North Pacific albacore tuna. The certification will cover all WFOA members automatically, and non-members with a simple registration process. Most WFOA/AFRF buyers are entering the MSC Chain of Custody and many have MSC potential markets for this coming season. Chain of custody begins at the unloading point.

Not all albacore landed is destined for MSC but

WFOA as certificate holders require each company to sign a "Designated Party Agreement." Each company will for 2010 pay over and above dock price for all albacore \$20/ton so we can recover our initial costs of certification. These will be sent to buyers soon.

Non-members have to register and will be posted on a separate webpage listing members, non members, and designated buyers. WFOA will mail forms out in May and also be sent to buyers.

WFOA feels that the MSC market has premium price potential and will be monitoring this closely in 2010. Since most albacore troll fisheries are now certified the market advantage may be diluted. Nevertheless, we still feel it will raise prices overall in the longterm as MSC is catching on overseas and domestically.

The WFOA board has discussed setting up its' own marketing entity as we discussed in 2002 but feels time is too short this season and we expect the regular buyers to do their best making this work for all members in 2010.

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. We will coordinate with 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 an 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.

Our contacts with chefs retailers, restaurants, media, schools, food advocacy groups are large and growing. WFOA has expanded the social networking through blogs and twitter. We will be doing more hands-on with consumers in food demos and other activities such as with Slow Foods Nation.

We will be redirecting our initiative slightly to educate the public and politicians on the threat of the U.S. seafood industry dying on the vine through over-regulation and unilateral management only on U.S. fishermen. We want to recruit the U.S. consumer in saving access to local wild seafood of all types including albacore.

At this time benefits are mainly being seen in iced and fresh local markets, thus we encourage ice boats to become involved. We do expect the benefits to grow more into brine and blast fish as more retailers

and restaurants lose that old stigma of fresh vs frozen, and realize that no matter what method is used, if done right local troll caught albacore is very high in quality.

MANAGEMENT & REGULATION:

PFMC "No To Limited Entry/Catch Controls for Now": The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel (HMSAS) met in Portland on April 9-10, 2010 with Limited Entry for albacore on the agenda. This issue was on the main council agenda on Sunday the 11th with council action scheduled to both set in motion a plan for albacore catch/effort control and potentially move forward the March 9, 2010 control date. The following statement was passed unanimously by the HMSAS.

The HMSAS opposes unilateral management by NOAA/NMFS or PFMC, such as effort or catch controls on the U.S. troll and baitboat albacore fishery. At this time indications from the International Scientific Committee (ISC) is that North Pacific Albacore stocks are being harvested at a sustainable level. All indications also show the U.S. albacore fleet is not expanding nor is effort or catch increasing. On the contrary, the U.S. albacore fleet and supporting infrastructure may be shrinking. The HMSAS feels that if and when future stock assessments show otherwise, effort controls of any kind should be undertaken in a multilateral effort internationally and address issues such as IUU fishing, regional effort and capacity issues in a multilateral international effort. The HMSAS strongly supports increased funding for science and research both federally and internationally for albacore tuna. The HMSAS feels the council at this time does not have enough knowledge of the fishery or stocks especially at the international level to begin a process that will affect less than 15% of the North Pacific catch.

The HMSAS believes that the U.S. albacore fishery is not increasing either in vessel numbers or people entering the fishery. The trend since 2000 has been very stable and has maintained levels at current levels despite restrictions in other fisheries.

The HMSAS believes the fishery which has a long history that needs to be supported and not restricted in order to keep it viable for the future given the lack of other options for fishermen.

The HMSAS is concerned that the PFMC has a full agenda and if it moved ahead with unilateral effort control on U.S. fishermen it would not be addressed in a productive way which could further jeopardize one of the last remaining sustainable and clean fisheries in the U.S.

The HMSAS discussed moving the control date for potential albacore limited entry from March 2000 to a more current date. As explained in the situation summary, " Although there is no hard-in-fast rule about how (the) recent control date needs to be when initiating

limited access program, it is expected that when a date is announced, the council will "proceed quickly" in developing the program." From the previous HMSAS testimony, you heard the reasons why the HMSAS advises the council that proceeding with limited entry is premature and therefore to suggest moving the control date at this time would not be appropriate.

At the main council session eight people testified on this issue. My testimony stressed the age of fleet and people, problems with unilateral managing U.S. fishermen, and getting something in place before we know if there is a problem. Also, I brought up that some on the council supported the Canadian treaty and it may wither if there is a cut in U.S. fishermen's access. I pointed out that a dying fleet would give the consumer a limited supply of local fish, and stated that our fishery is artizinal in nature as the Japanese are claiming their own coastal fleet is in an argument to be exempt from management. I suggested while awaiting the next international stock assessment in 2011, updating the white paper to present, and identify foreign and IUU catch and landing more accurately in the coming years would be good to do now.

After public testimony the council took up the issue with discussion questioning NMFS how a ban on new permits could be carried out. Mark Helvey (NMFS) said it would have to be done through a regulatory amendment. Mark Helvey then said concern about catch/effort controls came out of 2006 stock assessments that were problematic and his idea was to get something on the shelf in case the 2011 assessment was negative.

David Sones then spoke and stated he has been in international negotiations in the past and if you restrict your own fishermen you go in at a disadvantage and tie your own hands. Mark Cedergreen agreed with David Sones and said effort is declining and controlling itself. He suggested to wait until next assessment in 2011 and gather info over next 2-3 years and bring white paper current.

Marci Yaremko from CA F&G made a motion to proceed with data collection and have the HMSAS and HMSMT report on other countries management measures, and try to determine what other nations are doing and report back to the council in April 2011.

There was discussion among the council with most agreeing with the position of California. Michelle Culver of WA F&G did say she was in support of limited entry programs with respect to benefits they have for fishermen and went on about our place in

international management, the need to be proactive and do not want to get caught behind if the stocks are in trouble. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The council did not consider moving the control date as it was determined it meant little if there was no Limited Entry plan in place. There was some talk by a couple members outside the meeting about recinding the old date but it did not happen.

BCTFA & CHMSF: WFOA's Executive Director attended the BC Tuna Fishing Association and the Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation events in Victoria, BC April 19-22, 2010. There was a good turnout of fishermen and Canadian government people both from DFO and from Ottawa. Also, Loyola Sullivan the Canadian Ambassador for Fisheries Conservation flew in from Newfoundland to attend. Dr. Mike Laurs gave a talk on albacore migration and history overall. BCTFA presented WFOA with an award plaque thanking us for cooperation on a number of issues.

At the CHMSF meeting Lorne Clayton updated all on their ongoing public outreach for local albacore products. They are very effective in their projects a few years ahead of WFOA on this but all is along the same lines. He also gave an overview of the MSC process and how Canadians were using it.

I was given the opportunity to speak at the BCTFA meeting to members and government people where I basically gave the same line I did at the council. The Canadian government was looking for industry support for developing another tuna licence called "Q" license. After my talk and some debate BCTFA voted to not endorse any new license at this time.

New Members: Since March 20, 2010:

F/V Charleen	William Rhodes	Ilwaco, WA
F/V Diamond Lil	Donald Dazey	Puget Sound
F/V Defiant	Mike Haggren	Puget Sound
F/V Five Girls	Steve Spleen	Puget Sound
F/V Mr. Wind	Tomasi Vakadrano	BC
F/V Nyoda	Snodgrass Tours	Coos/Newport
F/V Taasinge	Mike Haggren	Puget Sound
F/V Tica	Andrejs Vanaga	Moss Landing

Jolly Roger Seafood Westport, WA

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