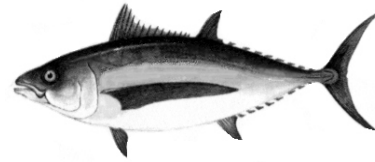


WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

May 5, 2009

We are only a couple months away from the 2009 North Pacific albacore season. It will be challenging to WFOA and to the fishery. I have included some important information in this newsletter concerning a changing landscape in the fishery and what it might mean in the short term and long term.

☛ 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:

➔ AFRF Coastal Survey Vessels Needed: See the AFRF section for details and requirements. Vessel owners can request an application from AFRF by email <wfoa@charter.net> or by calling 530.229.1097. The deadline will be June 1. These trips of 15 days each inside of 200 miles will be conducted early in the season.

➔ U.S./ Canada Treaty: The new rules to comply with the new version of the treaty are included in the newsletter as an attachment. U.S. vessels are still required to place themselves on the NMFS list at least 7 days prior to entering Canadian waters. Also the Canadian list for 2009 is final as of May 1, and will include the 110 permitted vessels for 2009. Vessels do not have to check in with Ship Com in Alabama any longer but are required to check in and out with Tofino Coast Guard. There also will be no more leasing of permits and the 110 will be the only vessels allowed in U.S. waters.

➔ VMS / AIS: Under the WCPFC Convention and subsequent Commission decisions, any vessel fishing for

HMS on the high seas in the Convention Area must carry and operate an ALC as part of the Commission VMS. The effective date was 1 Jan 2008 for large vessels (greater than 24 meters) and 1 Jan 2009 for small vessels. There is not yet an effective date for the area N-of-20N and W-of-175E). April 1, 2009 was the target date for the Commission to actually get the Commission's VMS up and running and get individual vessels on line.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: WFOA and AFRF again would like to thank all the members and participants that attended the Annual Meeting in Astoria. We extend a special thanks to the supporting members who contributed listed below.

Seafood Reception:
Bellingham Cold Storage
Bumble Bee Seafoods
Bornsteins Seafood
Interocean Seafood Inc.
Chicken of the Sea, Int.
Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Company
Pacific Seafood Group
Washington Crab Producers
StarKist Seafoods, Inc
Tri-Marine International
Wild Planet Foods

Luncheon Contributors:
Englund Marine Supply
Gallagher Transport
Koden America

DIRECTORS '2009'
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)

Port of Astoria
Wilcox & Flegal
Marine Chartering Inc. - Wine Bar

Raffle Drawing:
Port of Astoria
Port of Ilwaco
Pacific Seafood Group
Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Co
Koden America
Ocean Eye
Ocean Imaging
Englund Marine
Bellingham Cold Storage
Wilcox & Flegal
Tri-Marine Fish Co
Wild Planet Foods
Star Kist Seafoods
Bornsteins Seafoods
Gallagher Transport

Local Restaurants and Hotels & More

2009 Officers: WFOA officers elected for 2009 - 2010 were - President - Lewis Hill - F/V Holly H, Vice President - Karl Johnson- F/V Seven Daughters, Secretary/Treasurer - Margaret Ringstad.

Gayle Parker attended the luncheon in Astoria and happened to win many raffle prizes. We are wishing her good luck in her own challenges facing her. The members at the luncheon chipped in about \$1,300 to put toward a new piece of equipment to help her out. BCTFA also contributed \$500 toward that effort at the WFOA luncheon.

Public Education Committee: The board voted to set up a formal Public Education committee within WFOA made up of half WFOA and half processors to advise on the Crocmedia campaign and funding.

Public Education Assessment 2009: At the 2009 annual meeting the WFOA board approved assessing members a \$5/ton fee on WFOA members for the 2009 season only. We are also encouraging matching funds from the processors dedicated for Public Education. The fee will be collected at the time of delivery. Proceeds will be paid to the WFOA Public Education Fund on a monthly basis, or on a schedule determined by the committee. WFOA will issue a list of members prior to the season to each buyer/processor. WFOA also requests that the

processors make available a donation form non-WFOA members can also sign at the time of delivery if they desire to donate. A list of processor contributors will be published in the June newsletter.

WFOA has a couple major financial undertakings in 2009, such as the PR campaign and the MSC certification. Both together will nearly double our usual budget, but both go hand in hand and are important to carry out.

WFOA will also be looking for some albacore to be donated for PR demos at retailers throughout the year. WFOA will get details on where vessels could unload it and in the next newsletter or e-mail lists. We do not need a large amount but having 5 tons or so on hand would be great.

MARKET: Albacore markets this coming year remain unpredictable at this time. The Spanish economic situation is dire with very high unemployment. However, much as always will depend on supply and demand as we approach the season.

Cannery prices for albacore have dropped for longliners in Samoa to \$2,350/st for fish over 20 pounds. We expect another drop soon. Fishing pressure from Asian longliners in the Indian Ocean is on the increase and could also be a factor.

For the reasons mentioned is why WFOA is spending a lot on Public Education and MSC in order to sell high quality value-added products in the U.S. as a part of the overall landings.

We will have more information on the market as we approach the season and put it in the next newsletter and on our e-mail lists.

Landings 2008: In the AFRF section there is a graphic from Pac Fin that shows U.S. albacore landings by port in 2008. Between the U.S. and Canada about 16,000 tons were landed in 2008 which is an average season.

Canada's catch was 5,478 mt, down from 6,075 in 2007, effort 5,875 down from 7,113 in 2007, total vessels 133 down from 198 in 2007, and lowest number since 1995. CPUE was up 932 vs. 611 in 2007 and similar to 2006

when it was 932 kg/v-d. The distribution of the Canadian catch shows that about 60-70% of the Canadian catch was in the US EEZ.

MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (MSC): The North Pacific Albacore Tuna Fishery for the Canadian Highly Migratory Species Foundation and the Western Fishboat Owner's Association is currently undergoing an independent assessment to determine if it meets the criteria under the Marine Stewardship Council's Sustainable Fishing Standard. The third party who is undertaking the assessment is the IFQC. The IFQC will hold a series of meetings to gather information from interested stakeholders, particularly representatives of the fishery, fishery management and environmental management bodies. The meetings are will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia on 19- 21 May; Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington State from 22-27 May, and; La Jolla, California on 28 and 29 May. If you would like to talk to the assessors, please advise them of your interest by 11 May, providing your name and contact details, your association with the fishery, and the issues you would like to discuss. This information should be sent to: Dr. Antonio Hervás, msc@ifqcglobal.com. More information about the Marine Stewardship Council is available at www.msc.org.

WFOA is paying for its' share of certification from the WFOA budget and/or any third party funding WFOA may receive. WFOA is not accepting processor funding for this process despite some reporting to the contrary. WFOA will come up with a reasonable and fair certificate sharing arrangement and cost recovery formula for future and ongoing costs. We anticipate that these will be low and all member vessels would be covered if they meet the troll and pole and line criteria of MSC. Vessels will be able to market their own fish as now to whomever buyer they choose. MSC albacore would have to go through a Chain of Custody certified buyer. WFOA recognizes that MSC should cover the entire U.S. albacore troll fishery and be used to promote the sustainability aspect of the fishery to foreign and domestic markets. WFOA is pursuing MSC in order not to be the only albacore entity without it, since AAFA has received certification and the Canadians are now in assessment and new Zealand is considering it.

MANAGEMENT & REGULATION:

Bait Harvesting Legislation in Oregon: The State of Oregon is investigating allowing seining of bait in bays for the purpose of using for bait on the tuna bait boats. Current state rule does not allow commercially fishing bait in Oregon's bays, with the exception of a very specific fishery for herring in Yaquina Bay. They are looking for input specific to harvesting bait from any albacore fishers such as locations to be fished, gear used, timing, etc. They are targeting the August Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting for rulemaking. To do so, they need to get proposals together in the next month. Any input members may have would be greatly appreciated. Contact:

Gway Kirchner - Marine Resources Program
Fisheries Management Section
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
2040 SE Marine Science Drive
Newport, Oregon 97365
(541) 867-0300 ext. 267 gway.r.kirchner@state.or.us

Landing Taxes - AB 489 -CA: (This is something we need to track as in present form it would be problematic for tuna landings)

This proposed bill would convert the landing fees paid by commercial fishermen from the current per pound tax rates set in code to an ex-vessel price based on the landed value of the fish. Current rate on tuna is \$0.0013 per pound.

Provides the amount of the landing tax shall be a percentage of the average ex-vessel price for that species or group of fish species managed under the same fishery management plan.

Provides that beginning January 1, 2011, the landing tax shall be 1.5% of the landed value of the fish, and beginning January 1, 2013, shall be 3% of the landed value.

Requires the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) to establish the average ex-vessel price for each species or group of fish based on the prior year statewide average ex-vessel price.

PFMC Council Selections: (Kathy Fosmark- shunned)
The following is from PCFFA, however WFOA is in agreement and wrote letter expressing our concern and displeasure to the Secretary of Commerce and Governor Schwarzenegger, especially regarding excluding council member Kathy Fosmark from the list:

“March 14, 2009 - SCHWARZENEGGER’S SECRET AND UNLAWFUL PFMC NOMINATION LIST: While the Governors of Oregon and Alaska were issuing press releases with their list of names of individuals being nominated for upcoming vacancies on the Pacific and North Pacific, respectively, fishery management councils, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s office has refused to release his list of nominees for two California-held seats on the Pacific Fishery Management Council. The lists have always been considered public information and Governors, including Schwarzenegger in the past, have released the lists at the time they were submitted.

One of the reasons Schwarzenegger’s office apparently has been loathe to release their list this year is that it contains only four names. The Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) requires a minimum of three names for each seat a Governor seeks an appointment for. Schwarzenegger’s list is two short. The California Governor’s refusal to submit the minimum number of nominees is a clear violation of the MSA. Indeed, in the past the Governor’s list often contain more than the minimum three names, allowing the Secretary of Commerce the broadest possible choice to assure a balance of interests on the regional fishery councils. As a result of Schwarzenegger’s refusal to comply with the MSA, Secretary of Commerce Locke will be jammed in his selection process this year, a result of the attempt by the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) to load-up the Pacific Council with its own choices. EDF, an NGO with funding from the Walton and Moore Foundations, in combination with some trawl groups, is pushing the groundfish trawl IFQ [individual fishing quota] program at the PFMC, and has its eyes on albacore next. In addition to having three of its four candidates reportedly on the Schwarzenegger list, EDF also landed one of its consultants at the top of Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski’s list. The Oregon Governor at least submitted the required number of names and made his list public.

A further problem with Schwarzenegger’s list that is not in violation of the law but certainly the spirit of the MSA, is the nature of the three EDF-backed candidates. One, a trawl representative, will have a serious conflict of interest in decisions relating to the trawl IFQ program and the allocation of groundfish between trawl and non-trawl sectors. The other two only have had a cursory relationship with the Pacific Council, not having previously served on any of its committees or advisory bodies and one of them is a consultant to EDF. Schwarzenegger's list also failed to include fishery representative Kathleen Fosmark, who is eligible for a second term, but apparently was scratched from the list over her questions about the IFQ, or "catch share," program EDF is pushing. Fishery council appointments are expected in June from the Secretary of Commerce.”

Emissions Control: On March 27, 2009, the United States became the first country to ask the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to create an emissions control area (ECA) around the U.S. coastline.

The ECA proposal would designate specific portions of U.S. and Canadian coastal waters in which stringent international emission controls would apply to ocean-going ships, essentially creating a “buffer zone” around the U.S. coastline. The proposed area of the ECA includes waters adjacent to the Pacific coast, the Atlantic/Gulf coast, and the eight main Hawaiian Islands. The proposed ECA would extend 200 nautical miles from the coastal baseline, except that it would not extend into marine areas subject to the sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction of any country other than the United States or Canada.

Under the program, large ships such as oil tankers and cargo ships that operate in the ECA would face stricter emissions standards. These standards would cut sulfur in fuel by 98 percent, particulate matter emissions by 85 percent, and nitrogen oxide emissions by 80 percent from the current global requirements. To achieve these reductions, ships would be required to use fuel with no more than 1,000 parts per million sulfur beginning in 2015, and new ships would be required to use advanced emission control technologies beginning in 2016.

The diesel program web site for smaller craft is at:
<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/marine.htm>

OTHER:

New Members: Since March 6, 2009:

F/V Bertha J	Richard Lyons	Astoria / Westport
F/V Gotha Foss	Gustave Johnson	BC
F/V Janice Ann	Dick Pickett	Coos Bay / Newport
F/V Pathfinder III	George Lubisz	BC
F/V Wahoo	Mark Thomas	Coos Bay / Newport
BCTFA	Larry Teague	BC

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