

WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ©



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Members:

June 20, 2010

We are approaching another albacore season on the west coast. As usual there is a new set of challenges and opportunities ahead. WFOA wishes all the best this season in both catches and safety.

☛ 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:

☛ **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.

☛ **At-Sea Email 2010:** WFOA will be sending short updates to those that have email capability on the vessels. This could be through any provider. When the season begins we will send a couple test messages. If you do not receive one let us know if you want on the list or if you want off the list. If you have a new number or e-address please send it to us.

☛ **AFRF Tagging Charters:** One or two archival tagging cruises may happen in 2010 and 2011 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 and AFRF would compensate the vessel about \$35,000 depending on contract details.

☛ **2010 Dues:** Some have not paid their dues for 2010. You will be deleted from all mailing and email lists at the end of June.

☛ **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. You are still required to check in with Tofino CG.

GULF OIL DISASTER: The oil disaster in the gulf is bringing all commercial fisheries and fishermen in the spotlight. Media coverage showing fishermen as responders to the spill and in the line of fire for their livelihood is showcasing this story on national and global news reports. The situation is immense, and unlike a tanker rupture or sinking this just keeps coming with no end in sight and could vastly change the nature of gulf coast fisheries and lives for a very long time.

WFOA has been receiving calls recently from larger media sources inquiring about the nature of U.S. fishermen and their product. Although we greatly hope the problems in the gulf get solved soon we do think out of disaster there may come a new appreciation of U.S. fishermen and what they do and who they feed.

2010 MARKET AND PRICE: At this time markets for albacore remains

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uncertain. Horrific economic factors in Europe especially Spain as well as the steady drop in the value of the € Euro does not help the market. However, the Euro may have bottomed out in Mid-June according to some economic experts.

Looking westward the Japanese yen is stronger against the dollar and the Japanese early catch of albacore has been abysmal. Also, there is virtually no albacore in inventory in the U.S. or Canada. We also anticipate that major U.S. canneries' may be lagging in raw product at this time. Spanish catches have yet to get started although water temperatures in the Bay of Biscay look fairly good early. Blast bled markets are showing some renewed life and may need more fish in 2010.

WFOA expects most regular buyers to participate in numerous markets all the way from major canners to Europe, Asia and domestic. We remain encouraged that the U.S. consumer market is growing as more see albacore as a reasonably priced healthful alternative to other seafood.

Asian longline prices remain fairly low at this time from \$2,000 - \$2,100/ton. However, this price is less of a factor than in the past for U.S. coastal vessels unless there are large catches in Europe and elsewhere.

Water conditions in the NW are very bland. Due to continuous southerly weather temperature upwelling has not yet developed. Conditions appear better offshore in the 140W region. This week NW winds have begun to blow thus may be a positive factor soon.

Despite the world economic uncertainty WFOA feels people have to eat and will continue to buy items such as albacore tuna as a protein source. The largest effect of bad economics is credit, and the ability to finance large amounts of fish.

WFOA will be starting regular email reports soon as well as faxed reports to ports. WFOA will also maintain a very general fish report on the wfoa website.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: WFOA has contracted with Australian-based Crocmedia America as a public outreach agent for the past two years. Unfortunately in May 2010 Crocmedia closed its U.S. office. Fortunately, Brooke George remained and will continue the effort on her own with a couple of the original LA staff.

WFOA 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.

We have included an insert outlining our plans and goals in public outreach for 2010. We realize it is a slow process but feel it is having effects on U.S. consumer demand in retail stores, restaurants, and local fish markets. As more albacore is consumed at home the less it will cost fishermen to ship it overseas and the more we could see value being added to the product which will help all.

U.S. albacore fishermen have never had their "own" market for their product like fishermen of countries like Spain and Japan have. We have always been the space filler if some albacore was needed by someone somewhere far away. It is very hard to plan economically in those situations. There is no reason all the albacore landed at home could not be consumed here too. It just takes education and desire. Thanks for those that help in annual contributions and donations.

MANAGEMENT & REGULATION:

U.S./Canada Treaty Bi-Lateral: This was held in San Francisco on May 22, 2010 between the governments of the U.S. and Canada. Industry, Processor, Enforcement, and Science representatives were present. The main issue at this meeting was an exchange of data and information on the 2009 season as well as ways to make the 2010 season go smoothly. 2009 was the first year of the new three year regime. In 2011 discussions will begin on the future of the treaty which will expire after the 2011 season. WFOA has always strived for fairness in the treaty since we were instrumental in its creation in 1981. It's had its problems but still gives the U.S. unlimited access to the Canadian EEZ. In the past few seasons less than 30 U.S. boats have fished in BC waters. In 2009 110 Canadian vessels were permitted and fished in U.S. waters.

Canada reported that 110 Canadian vessels (the number allowed under the Treaty) fished in the U.S. EEZ at some time during the year. Approximately 5,200 mt of albacore were taken. Approximately 471 mt of albacore were landed in U.S. ports by Canadian vessels.

AIS requirements are expected to come into force and would apply to both U.S. and Canadian vessels over 65 feet LOA. USCG and NMFS- OLE reported on continuing investigations of minor enforcement violations. One collision between a U.S. and a Canadian vessel was reported in 2009, with the U.S. vessel cited for not maintaining an adequate bridge watch.

The delegations discussed the various rules on vessel identification mandated by the Treaty and other international agreements and agreed that efforts should be made to coordinate the various requirements.

For the current year, NMFS described the process used in the U.S. to identify vessels which would be allowed to fish in the Canadian EEZ. The USCG and DFO described efforts being made to potentially increase enforcement efforts in 2010, including additional over-flights by Canada.

The parties then discussed various international agreements that affect albacore and the work by the parties in each, including updates on the U.S. attempt to define current effort levels. Canada noted a preference for catch controls based on spawning stock biomass rather than current effort. This led to a lengthy discussion on how to design a management framework using reference points.

For All Requirements in 2010 See:
<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Permits/Other-Permits/Albacore.cfm>

NOTE - RUMORS: *There is misinformation being distributed that WFOA is funding Canadian's to attend the treaty meetings and other misinformation related to treaty negotiations. WFOA supports the treaty as it is presently with unlimited U.S. access to Canadian waters and 110 Canadian vessels in the U.S. waters. This will continue for two more seasons after which the treaty will remain status quo, amended, or expire depending on circumstances. WFOA recognized in 2007 after two seasons in default, there were no solutions to restrict permit trading and check in hassles, and it could not continue that way. With a default number at 94 Canadian vessels, but with 179 vessels available to fish by trading and leasing it was best*

to find a solution both governments could agree upon and rid the system of the vessel month system and other problems. This also gave everyone another three year period with NO default at the end, after which modifications could occur instead of leaving it in default for perpetuity. Thus, in reality the Canadians lost 69 vessels that cannot fish in the U.S. WFOA has not believed that access to the ocean should be given up without good reason as we fought hard for the original treaty in 1981. Nevertheless, the U.S. department of state made the actual decision to let in 110 Canadian vessels.

WFOA wants to remind all involved that the U.S. is in no way obligated to continue the treaty at present levels or in its present form after 2011 depending on regulatory and stock status.

There has also been misinformation that WFOA agreed on the 110 vessels number in order to get an agreement to split MSC costs with Canada. Again, this is ridiculous as WFOA was proceeding with MSC well before any discussions of the treaty began in the summer of 2008, and we made no financial agreement with Canada until it was settled. WFOA would have proceeded with MSC regardless.

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Pacific Fisheries Management Council: The HMSAS and MT met in Foster City, CA on June 10-11, 2001. While nothing specific to albacore was on the agenda and won't be until April 2011, the council did address some of the following issues. There is a further report in the AFRF section:

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NOTE - QUALIFYING DATES: *At the April PFMC meeting the full council voted unanimously to not proceed with any forms of effort or catch controls at this time. No action or discussion is expected on this issue until after the 2011 International Stock assessment. There have been rumors floating around that 2001-2004 would be qualifying years for any limited entry. **THIS IS NOT TRUE!** The 2002-2004 proposal was made at the September 2009 Northern Committee meeting of the WCPFC in Japan. It was promoted by Japan as a recommendation to the full WCPFC, and was supported by the U.S. government possibly by accident. In December 2009 the WCPFC took no action. The IATTC, as well as the PFMC still supports a 10-year band to only define current levels of effort and nothing more. At the recent PFMC meeting*

there was discussion on recommending the 10 year band be moved forward reflecting the 2011 stock assessment.

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New Dietary Guideline Recommendations on Seafood Consumption:

The Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) released updated seafood consumption recommendations in a report on June 15, 2010. The DGAC notes that eating at least 12 ounces per week of seafood can be safe to the general population if consumers choose the right mix of seafood i.e., selecting species that are low in contaminants such as methylmercury and persistent organic pollutants (POP). The 2004 FDA/EPA seafood advisory for women who may become or who are pregnant, nursing mothers, and children ages 12 and younger can safely eat up to 12 ounces of seafood, should limit eating white (albacore) tuna to 6 oz. per week, and should not eat large, predatory fish (i.e., shark, tilefish, king mackerel and swordfish) while following Federal and local advisories. Among these vulnerable groups, scientific studies show that eating seafood beyond 12 oz. per week may be safe, but additional benefit/risk considerations are needed.

The benefits of omega-3 fatty acids from fish outweigh the risks of mercury and POPs if the types and sources of seafood to be avoided by some consumers are clearly communicated to consumers. The Committee’s report says that eating two servings of seafood per week can reduce coronary heart disease or sudden death in persons with and without cardiovascular disease, and can improve babies’ eyesight and brain development during pregnancy and lactation.

Revisions to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans based on the DGAC suggestions are expected by the end of the year.

Source: Report of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2010, Part D., Science Base, Section 3: Fatty Acids and Cholesterol and Section 8: Food Safety and Technology. (June 15, 2010).
<http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/DGAs2010-DGACReport.htm>

Industry Future Projection: WFOA has contracted with Lisa Wise Consulting out of San Luis Obispo to do a future projection on the state of the albacore /seafood industry into the future.

Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc, (LWC) will work closely with the

WFOA to develop a data set of non biological influences on the west coast commercial albacore fishery, to illustrate how those influences affect earnings, landings, composition and size of the fleet, geographic shifts, entry of new participants, attrition, and associated infrastructure of the industry. LWC will use existing data sources, and conduct primary research, and compile this data in a report intended for the PFMC to augment the information on which they make their decisions.

LWC will identify appropriate data sources with regards to social and economic factors of the west coast commercial albacore fishery, including: catch data, earnings, employment, costs, infrastructure, pricing, imports, and exports, market trends, demand, seasonality, fleet size and composition. LWC will collaborate with directors, and the general membership of the WFOA, and other members of the fleet, and industry stakeholders to identify appropriate sources of information to complete the scope of work. LWC will also work with State and Federal agencies, and the academic community to identify appropriate sources of data to build a profile of the West Coast commercial mid water troll, and live bait albacore fishery. The first phase of this study will be presented to the PFMC and appropriate RFMO’s.

Ocean Protection Council Sustainability Advisory Panel:

The first meeting of this newly formed group met in Oakland on May 12, 2010. WFOA’s executive director was appointed as an industry representative. The group is made up of NGO’s, Industry, Restaurateurs, Processors, Agencies, and others. The goal seems to be promoting California Seafood as sustainable and healthful along the lines Alaska is doing. The problem I see in the approach is California fisheries have been reduced to a fraction of what they once were and there is not a lot of money or product to launch a large scale promotion. Some emphasized the need to certify all California seafood under something like MSC but there were no answers at this meeting. All agreed to keep talking about ideas.

New Members: Since April 20, 2010:

F/V Car Tanya	David Stockwell	Newport/Coos
F/V Princess	Heather Sears	Ast/Westport
F/V Wet & Wild	Rick Sullivan	Moss Landing
Starvin Marvin Seafoods	Charleston, OR	

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