

# Washington Trollers Association

April 2008

PO Box 799, Kingston, WA 98346  
(360) 638-1135  
jdazey@centurytel.net

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## WTA Directors

- Port Angeles:**  
Jeremy Brown *F/V Barcarole*  
Mike Ziara *F/V Ocean Home*
- Ilwaco:**  
Dick Good *F/V Pamela Jean*  
Kim Reisbick *F/V High Hope*
- Seattle:**  
Glen Aurdahl *F/V North Star*  
Joel Kawahara *F/V Karolee*  
Tony Rouff *F/V Dream Catcher*
- Tacoma:**  
Jim Olson *F/V Cynthia T*  
Steve Wilson *F/V Deep Threat*
- Westport:**  
Doug Fricke *F/V Howard H*  
Ron Harper *F/V Kathy Ann*  
Michael Baldwin *F/V Nellie M*

As most of you are aware, April 7 to April 10 were the days in Seattle that the PFMC process was completed and with it was the setting of the 2008 WA salmon troll seasons. As you are probably all aware, there will be no ocean salmon trolling South of Cape Falcon this year and very little ocean recreational salmon fishing this year. Because of the endangered listing of Lower Columbia River Coho, even the North of Falcon recreational fishery will be severely curtailed. That is the same reason why our summer fishery is restricted to six inch and larger plugs.

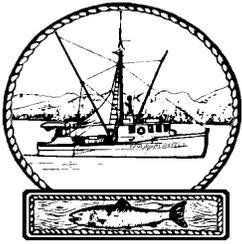
The elimination of the troll fishery South of Falcon has received considerable press and a big effort is directed to get disaster relief funds this year as was done in 2006 for Oregon and California. This year, Gov. Gregoire has also requested funds under the disaster relief effort. Time will tell if our fishermen are eligible for any relief. Again, we were fortunate to have Jim Olson as our WA troll Representative. Jim, Joel, Steve and I got into several heated discussions trying to maintain a reasonable opportunity for WA trollers. Joel and Steve along with the other Salmon Advisory Council members put together a meeting with the WA Congressional staffs and NMFS staff on the degenerating situation in the management of the Columbia River Chinook stocks.

Don't forget to contribute 1% and get your buyer to match with another 1%. These funds are of the utmost importance for us to send representatives to meetings to fight for our troll fishery. I hope to see all on the ocean this summer.

## PFMC Report – Steve Wilson

The April PFMC held Sunday, April 6 through Saturday, April 12 at the SeaTac Marriott Hotel, began with a somber mood and, frankly, never recovered. With zero fishing options on the table from the March meetings in Sacramento, some were still hopeful. But NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service representative, Frank Lockhart's haunting question, "Is it worth it?" never got a satisfying answer. The historic result is no commercial salmon fishing south of Falcon . . . not even scientific GSI studies which would also have impacts.

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## PFMC Report continued– Steve Wilson

As many of you know, your troll team of reps to the PFMC puts in a lot of time, for some, at least 15 days. But did you know how others outside our organization see them? Joel Kawahara has a seat on the prestigious Habitat Committee. Doug Fricke is the chairman of the Highly Migratory Species Committee. And Jim Olson continues to lead us from his influential seat on the Salmon Advisory Subpanel. Makes me wonder what I'm doing there. The truth is, these leaders need our support and assistance during this process. Thanks for the help we had from our membership are noted in a related newsletter article.

**The 2008 Numbers:** The total allowable catch for us is 20,000 Chinook. That's up a little from last year's 16,250, but still well below the harvest average since 2002 of 43,300. Coho is our largest constraint on Chinook harvest, and the primary reason why I think we are entitled to some disaster relief. We can keep only 4,000 marked coho in the summer fishery (compare that to the 22,400 marked coho we could keep last year).

The traditional 2/3 and 1/3 harvest split, spring and summer, was supported by the membership and in the draft until a hastily called meeting Tuesday by Phil Anderson. With several members present, Phil said the state was still exceeding its coho harvest impacts and each of the harvest groups would have to make lower adjustments. He said the ocean troll could either reduce our TAC by 2500 Chinook, or move them from the spring to the summer. We elected to move them and not lose them. So for this year, the spring TAC will be 11,700 Chinook and the summer will be 8,300.

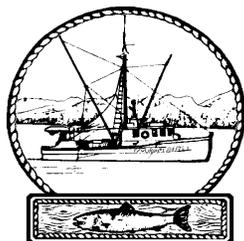
**Spring:** Breaking a little with tradition, our May opener will begin on Saturday, May 3, not May 1, to keep our 4 days on and 3 days off, Saturday through Tuesday sequence going. We were able to hold onto the 50 Chinook per opener option favored by our membership, and will be able to fish all gear during the May through June fishery.

Trip limits are identical above and below the Leadbetter line. The regulations read "Vessels fishing or in possession of salmon while fishing..." below or above the line must deliver below or above the line (respectively). We can take all salmon except coho. Like last year, there is a wide difference of opinion as to how many weeks the spring season might last.

**Summer:** The summer season will begin with a short two day opener, July 1-2, to acknowledge the request by our Westport fleet to have salmon to sell off the boats during the July 4 weekend. The standard 4 days on and 3 days off routine will start Saturday, July 5. We can take 35 Chinook and 25 coho per opener. All coho must have a healed adipose fin clip. We are restricted to 6 inch (or larger) plugs; that's to allow for the shortage of coho. As usual, there is no chum retention allowed north of Cape Alava. Trip limits are identical above and below the Leadbetter line; the same Leadbetter line language above also applies in the summer. Fish managers can make in-season adjustments regarding trip limits.

**Halibut:** After leaving 45% of our 2007 allocation still swimming, the WTA board worked with Michele Culver and her WDFW staff to change the salmon to halibut harvest ratio. We were successful in convincing the Council to adopt a 2:1 ratio (see the related Jumbo thank you article). Other incidental halibut harvest regulations continue to apply. Hope you remembered to get your IPHC license!!

Thanks for all your support. Remember, if you deliver incidental yellowtail rockfish this season, you must have an operational VMS on board. You may still deliver salmon and halibut without one. Be safe.



## Season Forecast – Jim Olson

First of all let me thank all the members who had input into the process that we just finished. This input is very important to us as we design the seasons and landing limits to try and meet the needs of the fishermen.

With no fishing to the south of Washington, it was good that we held onto the Leadbetter Line. With the help of the members coming to the PFMC meeting in Seattle, we managed to get an increase in the halibut landing allowance.

Again a big thanks to Doug, Joel and Steve for spending 2 weeks on the road and putting up with me.

Jim Olson, Troll adviser.

## Jumbo Thankyou – Steve Wilson

When a call was put out for Washington trollers to help testify to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council in April on important issues, our members answered. For example, our troll team thought that public testimony might help convince the Council to vote for a 2:1 salmon to halibut ratio.

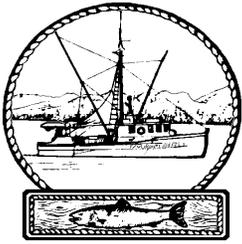
The Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) had voted against supporting our request as did the Enforcement Consultants group. But at the appointed PFMC agenda time, in the face of both agency groups negative support, our trollers took the opportunity during "Public Testimony" to offer convincing arguments. Paul Johns said, "It was an intimidating experience." If you have ever seen a Congressional hearing, put yourself in the "hot seat" with a microphone in front of you. Dick Good and I also spoke and like Paul, our message overcame our intimidation. We were thankful for the presence of Larry Dean, Ron Nevaril, Ted Schuman, and Art Kelstrup who welcomed us back to our seats. The Council also recognized the value of the salmon to halibut ratio by the attendance of those who traveled to attend.

The PFMC Chair called for a motion which was made by WDFW's Phil Anderson. In defense of his motion, Phil spoke with passion about the economic importance of this allocation to trollers, about the lack of data to support targeting, and about the unique set of circumstances surrounding the CA-OR-WA 2008 salmon troll season.

The discussion continued, but when the vote was taken, our large group of members was smiling. Salmon trollers with IPHC licenses will be able to take one halibut for every two Chinook this season (see the regs for harvest guidelines). Please thank your other troll representatives Jim Olson, Joel Kawahara, and Doug Fricke for their efforts.

Also thank Glen Aurdahl and Joe Dazey for their participation. They were there for several days observing and contributing to our goals. I even saw longtime member Roger Anderson (FV/Taurus) from Bellingham in the audience on Thursday.

And Department staff, which had to represent both sport and our sides to allocation questions, was professional, attentive and put in many hours of overtime. Thank you to Phil Anderson, Doug Milward and Wendy Beeghley, and for halibut and lingcod, Michele Culver and Heather Reed.

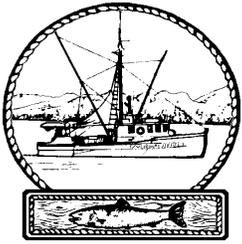


# 2008 WTA Associate Members

Anderson Attorney-at-Law, Paul Anderson, Seattle		(206)467-0237
Ballard Sheet Metal Works, Inc., Custom Fabrication for Fishing and Processing, Seattle	Fax:(206)781-0118	(206)784-0545
Dyno Battery Co., Mfg. Electric Storage Batteries Seattle		(206)283-7450
Englund Marine Supply Co. Complete Marine Service, Astoria & Westport	1(800)228-7051, (541)325-4341	(360)268-9311
Fisherman's News, [Philips Publications] Fisherman's Terminal, Seattle	1(800)258-8609	(206)282-7545
High Tide Seafoods, Buyer, Jim Shefler, owner; Port Angeles, Neah Bay, LaPush	Fax: (360)452-6710	(360)452-8488
Hingston, Phil, of Jones, Kushman, Hingston Certified Public Accountant, Seattle	Fax: (206)284-4525	(206)285-2777
Howard Moe Enterprises, Inc. Little Hoquiam Boats		(360)538-1622
Islander Charters		(360)268-9166
Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Co., Inc.—Salmon Buyer; Pierre Marchand, owner/manager	Fax: (360)642-3362	(360)648-3773
J & G Marine Supply, Don and Harold Jacobson, Tacoma	1(800)381-4217	(253)572-4217
Luhr Jensen and Sons: A Heritage of Quality Fishing Lures since 1932, Hood River, OR	<a href="http://www.luhrjensen.com">www.luhrjensen.com</a>	(541)386-3811
New Day Fisheries, Inc., Scott Kimmel, Port Townsend	Fax: (360)385-6455	(360)385-4600
Pacific Fishing Magazine, Jon Holland, Editor	<a href="http://www.pfmag.com">www.pfmag.com</a>	Fax: (206)324-8939 (206)709-1840
Pacific Net and Twine, Ltd., Richmond, BC, Frank Nakashima, Mgr	1(800)895-GEAR	(604)274-7328
Redden Net Co. (Steveston) Ltd., Richmond, BC, Canada	Fax: (604)274-9068	1(866)233-1422
Sampo Inc., Manufacturers of Terminal Tackle/Fishing and Marine Supplies, Barneveld, New York		(315)896-2606
Schiewe Marine Supply, Commercial Fishing Supplies, Newport, Oregon		(514)265-7382
Seafood Producers Cooperative, Bellingham, Sitka	[WA] Fax: (360)733-0513	(360)733-0120
Seattle Marine and Fishing Supply, Co., Commercial Gear and Marine Hardware; Sea		(206)285-5010
Select Fish, Quality Buyer, Scott Barton, Airport Way in Seattle		(206)767-2642
Sid's Super Market, serving Seaview, Long Beach and Ilwaco, WA		(360)642-3737
Silver Horde—Gold Star Sports and Commercial Fishing Lures and Supplies, Lynnwood, WA		(425)778-2640
South Bend Packers, Russell Raymond, owner/manager—salmon buyer		(360)875-6570
Stanto Enterprises, Stainless Products for the Troller, Westport, WA		(360)268-0342
Ted's Red Apple Market, Serving Westport and the fishing fleet with their grocery needs, WA		(360)268-9650
U.S. Seven Oceans, Inc, Jinkai Monofilament Trolling Line and Gear, Mukilteo, WA	1(800)346-2228	(425)347-7770
United Trollers Fund, Phil Hingston, Mgr., Seattle, WA		(206)285-4341
Washington Crab Producers, Bottom fish filets, salmon, crab, shrimp, Seafoods-Wholesale-Retail, Westport, WA		(360)268-9161
WESMAR—Western Marine Electronics, Woodinville, WA	Fax: (425)486-0909	(425)481-2296

## 2008 WTA Retired Associate Members

Rick Andries, Richard Haugen, Ron Wawworth, Diane Jones, Louis Miller, Ragnar Nergaard, Augie Roehr, Sandy Sanquist, Sig Sela, Harm VanSlyke, and Jack Warren.



Washington Trollers Association  
PO Box 799  
Kingston, WA 98346

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## WTA Membership Application Form

Yes, I would like to renew my WTA membership

Name _____	Boat Name _____	Size _____			
Street Address _____					
City _____	State _____	Zip Code _____			
Phone # _____	Cell # _____				
Email _____					
Troll Licenses (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> WA	<input type="checkbox"/> OR	<input type="checkbox"/> CA	<input type="checkbox"/> AK	<input type="checkbox"/> Albacore
Port of Registration:	<input type="radio"/> Ilwaco	<input type="radio"/> Port Angeles	<input type="radio"/> Seattle	<input type="radio"/> Tacoma	<input type="radio"/> Westport

- Fisherman's membership - \$150 / yr from subscribing date
- Associate / Business / Retired membership - \$50 / yr from subscribing date
- 1% Season donation included if not contributed through season buyer
- Additional donation to help us represent trollers with meetings, marketing, and season setting.
- I would like to receive my newsletter by email

**Mail to: Washington Trollers Association, PO Box 799, Kingston, WA 98346**