



April 2010

# Washington Trollers Association

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## WTA Directors

### Ilwaco

Dick Good, *Pamela Jean*

Kim Reisbick, *High Hope*

### Port Angeles

Jeremy Brown, *Barcarole*

Mike Ziara, *Ocean Home*

### Seattle

Glen Aurdahl, *North Star*

Joel Kawahara, *Karolee*

Tony Rouff, *Dreamcatcher*

### Tacoma

Jim Olson, *Cynthia T*

Steve Wilson, *Deep Threat*

### Westport

Mike Baldwin, *Nellie M*

Doug Fricke, *Howard H*

Greg Mueller

## President's Report - Doug Fricke

As most of you are aware, April 10 to April 15 were the days in Portland that the PFMC process was completed and with it was the setting of the 2010 WA salmon troll season.

As previously anticipated, there is a significant increase in the opportunity to harvest chinook salmon off of both the WA and OR coast. There will be a minimum chinook troll opportunity off of the CA Coast. For the area North of Cape Falcon (NOF) there will be 56,000 chinook in our harvest quota which is more than double our harvest quota from last year. The bad news is that the coho will be limited to 11,800 which will make it difficult to access our chinook quota before running out of coho. With the abundance of chinook this year, we will have an unrestricted trolling season starting May 1 that will last until an estimated 35,000 chinook are harvested which we predict will last into the month of June. There is no six inch plug requirement for the summer season this year. There is a requirement that all retained coho must have a healed clipped adipose fin (called marked select fishing) starting July 1. This season WTA boats are cooperating with WDFW in continuing the Genetic Stock Identification (GSI) program that we hope will lead to management opportunities that will avoid requiring our fleet to move to marked select chinook harvest. With the situation this year there are four important issues to remember:

1. **Do not target marked coho.** Retaining too many coho this summer will cause the season to close and we will not be able to harvest the chinook.

2. **Freezer boats must call in** so Doug Milward can track chinook catches during the Spring and Summer.

Please call Doug at 360 902 2739 every week to 10 days. Going over the quotas will cause serious problems in the future.

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## President's Report (cont'd)

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3. **Ice boat trips** need to be a maximum of four days with delivery on the fifth day to maintain the quality that our markets expect.

Doing trips over four days may force us into the 4on/3off in future years.

4. **Volunteers are needed** to help with the GSI study. Contact Joe at the WTA office if you can help take GSI samples.

Again this year, Jim Olson led our delegation of Joel Kawahara, Joe Dazey, Steve Wilson, Dave Parker and me to the PFMC meetings to preserve the maximum opportunity for the WA trollers. These guys have committed almost two months of their lives to see that the Washington Trollers get a fair allocation of the allowed salmon harvest.

This May we are rejoining with the Makah Nation for a joint marketing/public relations luncheon and possibly dinner in Seattle.

The public really responds favorably to meeting commercial fishermen. If you have time, please let our Executive Directors, Joe and Sue Dazey know that you might be available to attend the event.

As usual, Ed Owens is watching issues for us at the Legislature in Olympia through our membership in the Coalition of Coastal Fisheries. Ed led the effort to avoid an effort to combine the WDFW into the Department of Natural Resources this spring along with other detrimental legislation in Olympia.

Don't forget to ask your buyer to withhold the 1 % assessment to support the Association that works all year to maintain our access to harvest ocean salmon. Also, ask your buyer to match your 1% assessment as this assessment represents approximately 50% of the WTA income. Have a safe and profitable season.

## Genetic Stock Identification Project for 2010

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The WTA Board decided to continue the GSI program that was started off the Wa Coast last year. South of Falcon fisheries will be conducting GSI sampling for the entire summer. North of Falcon there is no money allocated to conduct the sampling, so our vessels will be collecting the samples on a voluntary basis. There are many questions on how the sampling information can be used for management purposes, but without new tools for managing our troll fishery, all indicators are that we will be forced into marked select chinook fisheries in the future unless we can show how we can target the hatchery chinook stocks on the ocean more effectively. The

recreational ocean fishery is conducting a pilot marked select chinook ocean fishery in June this year. We will be interested in the results.

For 2010 WTA needs two designated and two alternate vessels in each of the four major ports. We'd like 10 samples during each day of fishing. If the primary vessel moves out of the area, the alternate vessel would take samples in that area. The process is fairly simple. It takes about five minutes per fish sampled including marking the catch place in a GPS, taking a fin sample, taking a scale sample, and measuring the fish. If you're interested, please contact Joe Dazey at 360 638 1135.



## **Albacore Update** - Doug Fricke

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For those that have not followed the albacore tuna regulations, there are not any changes in 2010. However, there was an effort at the PFMC to initiate a limited entry program that was promoted primarily by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Most tuna fishermen that understand the international situation realize that because our fleet harvests less than 20 % of the North Pacific albacore and because our government is going into negotiations with the other Nations that harvest albacore, it may put our fleet at a disadvantage in international negotiations if some type of limited entry is imposed on our fleet at this time. For the last ten years, our US fleet has actually reduced the number of vessels that are fishing albacore on an annual basis. There is an international workshop in conjunction with the Inter American Tropical

Tuna Association (IATTC) this fall to negotiate a definition of "current effort" for the nations that harvest albacore. Also, the international scientists say that North Pacific Albacore is currently harvested sustainably, but there is a stock assessment in July of 2011 that NMFS thinks will indicate that North Pacific Albacore may be overfished. As I have indicated in the past, I strongly suggest that if you want to qualify for an albacore harvest permit when limited entry does come in the future, that you try to get at least 2000 pounds of albacore delivered annually. Also, if you plan to fish albacore in Canadian Waters in 2010, you need to get your name on the US list of eligible vessels to fish in Canadian waters. This is a simple process of calling NMFS at 562-980-4024.

## **Troll Advisor's Report** - Jim Olson

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The season has been set and now is time to go fishing. This year we have the highest abundance of chinook that we have had in a number of years and low abundance of coho. I would suggest that we stay away from coho and look for chinook. This will help harvest all the chinook before we run out of coho.

When you see Joel Kawahara, Steve Wilson, Joe Dazey, Dave Parker and Doug Fricke on the docks, stop and give them a big thanks for all the time that they have given in getting this season set. This is time that they could have been working on getting their boats ready to fish.

## ***WTA Retired Members***

Lloyd Gowdy, Richard Haugen, Augie Roehr, Steve Spleen, George Walden



## PFMC Report - Steve Wilson

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### Sidebars and sandbars . . .

The April PFMC is past and the 2010 season is set. Looking back at the process in Portland, I'm grateful for what looks like a new trend.

Butch Smith, the PFMC's Salmon Advisory Subcommittee chair and Ilwaco charter business owner, organized two sidebar sessions with guest speakers to fill in our time waiting for model runs and the council process. And for the 3rd or 4th straight year, Joel Kawahara invited Congressional aides to a forum on fishing concerns.

Monday: The first and most talked about session was on bird predation impacts with speakers from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Corps of Engineers, and others.

The focus was on Caspian terns and double crested cormorants and their impact on Columbia River salmon. According to Butch's notes, these birds eat a combined total of over 17 million smolts a year. The Rice Island tern population is the largest colony in the world: Rice Island is near Ilwaco and was created by the Corps. Tim Roth (USFWS) recognized that the ecosystem is "out of balance" and efforts are underway to research and repair the continuing damage to our salmon runs, in spite of lawsuits by the Audubon Society, et al.

Tuesday: Joel's efforts to bring to lawmakers' attention the status of our industry was rewarded by the attendance

of delegates from nearly all of Oregon's Congressional Senators and Representatives (except Greg Walden) plus Washington's Norm Dicks. These staffers listened to reports from CA, OR and WA sport, tribal and commercial fishers about the 2010 salmon season. They asked probing questions and appeared genuinely interested in the responses.

Wednesday: Irene Martin, from Salmon For All, introduced Jeff Breckel, the Executive Director of the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board. If credibility is given this "plan," I believe ocean and river, sport and commercial harvesters are in trouble. The LCFRB has 15 members and until Irene's recent appointment, no harvester representation. As I watched and listened to the power point presentation, I saw that the recovery solution is to curtail harvest (surprise!!). Once completed, the plan will be forwarded to the National Marine Fisheries Service. Although the public comment period expired April 9th, I still plan to respond. See their website for more:

[www.lowercolumbiasalmonrecovery.org](http://www.lowercolumbiasalmonrecovery.org).

I hope to see more sessions like this in the future and I thank Butch for his vision.

Thanks also to our WTA team led by Jim Olson, and supported by Doug Fricke, Joe Dazey, Joel Kawahara, Dave Parker, and myself. Thanks also to Dick Good for spending a day with us.



## **Regional Fishery Enhancement Groups - Jeremy Brown**

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Regional Fisheries Enhancement- 20 years on. The volunteer based Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group (RFEG) program in Washington State turns 20 this year. It has been a long strange trip already- from the original ideas of fishermen-driven supplementation, championed by the late Senator Jack Metcalf, to grass-roots habitat rehabilitation and citizen action. (the program divides the state up into 14 roughly watershed based areas, with an RFEG locally based in each. Some are bare-bones all volunteer organisations, whilst others, in response to opportunities, funding and support, have developed million dollar plus budgets and all the trappings of mini agencies.)

WTA was there at the start, supporting a controversial \$100 surcharge on commercial licenses to help fund the program, and WTA members took leadership roles as well as getting down and doing the work on the ground. Geoff Lebon and Doug Fricke have both put in long hours over the years on the Advisory Board (AB) which liaises between the program and WDFW, and several others have served as board members and activists of individual RFEGs.

It is no secret that the road to twenty years of grass-roots restoration efforts has not been an easy one. State agencies have a difficult time relating to citizen initiative, and then Director Joe Blum did his best to see the program fail at its inception. Today we are

faced with the loss of the Advisory Board, which despite it being independently funded, is being cut along with all sorts of other boards and commissions as Olympia swings its budget axe. To represent the RFEGs interests and pick up from the AB, we now have an RFEG Coalition on which I serve, chaired by seiner Paul Ancich from the Hood Canal group. One of Paul's leading issues has been to secure solid funding by regaining revenues from state hatchery egg and carcass sales, which had over the years slipped out of sight in a cozy 'deal' between one processor and the department.

Trollers need to stay involved in the program and help shape its next twenty years. Everyone lives in a 'watershed', so there is a group that covers your neighborhood. If you are not already familiar with the program, check out [www.RFEGs.org](http://www.RFEGs.org). If you are active, let us know what you are doing in your area. Ground-level activism may not change government policy overnight, but it is amazing what can get done by just getting out and doing it while the bureaucrats just go through the motions of salmon recovery. Often described as the most effective citizen-driven restoration efforts, anywhere, it is your money that got this program going, and it can have a big effect on how future salmon policy is shaped.

"If the people lead, the leaders will follow" attributed to H D Thoreau.



## Promotion and Marketing - Jeremy Brown

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Going in to the season, it is tempting to over-read the tealeaves and make sweeping predictions, if only to prove that we are almost always wrong.

So what do we know for this year? Spring prices in Alaska are tracking a little lower than the past few years at \$8-9/lb., but it still looks good. Halibut prices are stronger (\$4-5), and blackcod just keeps going up and up, so there is a market out there.

Production of troll kings will be up this year, but nowhere near what the market routinely dealt with even a few years ago, and in the meantime farmed production out of Chile, one of our biggest challenges, is way down and likely to stay that way for a few years. Imports from Norway and Canada are taking up some of the slack, but they compete more directly with net fish these days leaving high quality troll salmon with the cream of the market.

So this season is another great opportunity for Washington troll salmon. There should be solid demand and a good price for top quality product. With the increase in quota, the stars are lined up for the Washington fishery. Let's make every fish worth the kind of price we would like to get for them!

In 1954 then President Eisenhower signed a piece of legislation called the Saltonstall-Kennedy. This act set up duties on imported seafood and stipulated that funds from this be available "to address the needs of fishing communities in providing economic benefits for rebuilding and maintaining sustainable fisheries, and in dealing with the impacts of conservation and management measures."

Over the years NOAA has taken over the program, reserved such funding as the agency saw fit for its own use and returned the balance to general funds. Fishing communities somehow got left out. There have been many attempts over the years to access even tiny amounts of these designated funds for their intended purposes, but the feds have only tightened their grip and in many instances used the funds to directly undermine American fishing communities, as in the development, and export, of fish-farming technology. A strong initiative, begun by the United Fishermen of Alaska, is looking to challenge the status quo and restore some of the original intent to the Act. The WTA board has sent a resolution of support to the organizers of the National Seafood Marketing Coalition and will be watching carefully to see how things develop.

Again this year, WTA, in partnership with the Makah Nation, will be hosting a 'trade lunch' at Lark Restaurant in Seattle on May 19th. This has become a very useful opportunity to get to know high-end Seattle area restaurants and chefs. Over an amazingly well-crafted meal, they are able to answer questions, connect sources and get to meet a few fishermen. Anyone who would like to attend or has suggestions about who we should add to the invitees, please let myself or the WTA office know ASAP.

WTA on the Web: Ecotrust of Portland has kindly given WTA a free trial on it's Food Hub direct marketing website [www.food-hub.org](http://www.food-hub.org). We have posted generic information about direct marketing and a link to WTA's site. This may be a good opportunity for members. Call the WTA office to get your information listed.



# **WTA Associate Members**

Anderson Attorney at Law, Paul Anderson -- (206) 467-0237  
Ballard Sheet Metal Works, Inc. Custom fabrication, Seattle -- (206)784-0545 Fax: (206)781-0118  
D & M Live Crab, Dave Wolfenberger -- (360)268-9319  
Dyno Battery Co, Electric storage batteries, Seattle -- (206)283-7450  
Englund Marine Supply, Astoria, Westport -- (800)228-7051, (541)325-4341, (360)268-9311  
Fisherman's News (Phillips Publishing), Fisherman's Terminal, Seattle -- (800)258-8609, (206)282-7545  
High Tide Seafoods, Ernie Vail, owner, Port Angeles, Neah Bay -- (360)452-8488, Fax: (360)452-6710  
Hingston, Phil, of Jones Kushman, Hingston Certified Public Accountants -- (206)285-2777, Fax: (206)284-4525  
Howard Moe enterprises, Little Hoquiam Boats -- (360)538-1622  
Ike's Fish, W. H. and Kiyoko Kendall -- (360)697-6781  
Icicle Seafoods, Lew Warner, Dillingham, AK -- (907)842-5204, Fax: (907)842-5690  
Islander Charters -- (360)268-9166  
Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Co., Inc., Pierre Marchand, owner-manager -- (360)648-3773, Fax: (360)642-3362  
J & G Marine Supply, Don and Harold Jacobson, Tacoma -- (800)381-4217, (253)572-4217  
Luhr Jensen and Sons: a heritage of quality fishing lures since 1932, Hood River, OR -- (541)386-3811  
New Day Fisheries, Inc., Scott Kimmel, Port Townsend -- (360)385-4600, Fax: (360)385-6455  
Pacific Fishing Magazine, Don McManman, Editor, www.pfmag.com -- (206)709-1840, Fax: (206)324-8939  
Pacific Net and Twine, Ltd., Richmond, BC, Canada, Frank Nakashima, mgr. -- (800)895-GEAR, (604)274-7328  
Redden Net Co. (Steveston) Ltd., Richmond, BC, Canada -- (866)233-1422, Fax: (604)274-9068  
Sampo Inc., Terminal tackle, fishing and marine supplies, Barneveld, NY -- (315)896-2606  
Schiewe Marine Supply, Commercial fishing supplies, Newport, Oregon -- (514)265-7382  
Seafood Producer's Cooperative, Sitka and Bellingham -- (360)733-0120, Fax: (360)733-0513  
Select Fish, Quality buyer, Scott Barton, Airport Way in Seattle -- (206)767-2642  
Sid's Supermarket, serving Seaview, Long Beach, and Ilwaco, WA -- (360)642-3737  
Silver Horde, Gold Star sports & commercial fishing lures & supplies -- (425)778-2640  
South Bend Products, Russell Raymond, owner/manager, salmon buyer -- (360)875-6570  
Stano 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 -- (360)268-9650  
US Seven Oceans Inc., Jinkai monofilament trolling line and gear, Mukilteo, WA -- (800)346-2228, (425)347-7770  
United Trollers Fund, Phil Hingston, Mgr, Seattle, WA -- (206)285-4341  
Washington Crab Producers, Wholesale and retail seafoods, Westport, WA -- (360)268-9161  
WESMAR - Western Marine Electronics -- (425)481-2296, Fax: (425)486-2296  
Ecola Seafoods -- Canon Beach, OR

## WTA Membership Application

Yes, I would like to renew my WTA membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Boat Name \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Troll Licenses - Check all that apply: WA  OR  CA  AK  Albacore

WTA Port (check one) Ilwaco  Port Angeles  Seattle  Tacoma  Westport

Fisherman's membership - \$150/yr from subscribing date

Associate / Business / Retired membership \$50/ yr from subscribing date

1% donation included if not contributed through season buyer

Additional donation to help us represent trollers with meetings, marketing, season setting

I would like to receive my newsletter by email

Subscription choice:  Fisherman's News or  Pacific Fishing or  Both (add \$7)

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



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