

Washington Trollers Association

February 2008

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It seems that predicting the salmon resource gets more complicated as the years go on. If you haven't already heard, the Sacramento River Chinook stocks have collapsed. The Sacramento River System has been producing 600,000 to over a million Chinook salmon a year for the last decade. This year the prediction is for less than 200,000, well below the spawning requirements. In past years the Sacramento has provided up to 50% of the Chinook harvested off of WA in the May/June period. It is anticipated that there will be little or no salmon trolling opportunity South of Cape Falcon in 2008. The early predictions for the Fall Columbia River Chinook stocks are up a little for 2008

How these issues are going to affect the 2008 season is really unknown at this point in time, but it appears that with little opportunity to troll South of Cape Falcon, there will be considerable pressure to have opportunity for Oregon trollers between Cape Falcon and the Columbia River.

Some of the WTA Board members are meeting with WDFW staff to determine the potential to for a lingcod landing allowance with our troll salmon. Also during the meeting we will be talking about the proposed requirement for a "C" license to land our yellowtail allowance and the requirement for VMS to retain our allowed yellowtail bycatch.

At the Jan. Board meeting, the board decided to continue the troll salmon marketing campaign with the Makah Nation. Jeremy Brown is working with Amy Grondin to put together a program for 2008. The marketing program seems to be helping when you see the prices we have received for our troll salmon the last couple of years, Anyone with ideas should contact Jeremy.

Ed Owens has been busy in Olympia watching our back on State legislation that affects our industry. This year there haven't been any legislation affecting us directly, but issues like marine reserves, wave energy parks, Governor's Ocean Advisory Council, etc., seem to have a way of reducing our opportunity.

WDFW presents the 2008 salmon stock status on March 4. That is the official start to the process of determining the 2008 salmon troll seasons. Jim Olson and crew will be attending the PFMC meeting in Sacramento in the second full week of March to put together the 2008 options. Anyone with opinions or the desire to participate is encouraged to attend our WTA Board meeting in Fife on the evening of March 7.

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:

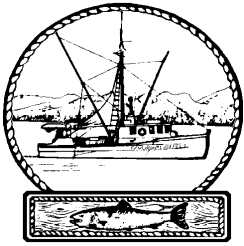
Glen Aurdahl *F/V North Star*
Joel Kawahara *F/V Karolee*
Tony Rouff *F/V Dream Catcher*

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*



Legislative Update – Steve Wilson

A number of bills of commercial fishing interest have been passed and traded between the House and Senate.

Although **HB2514** prohibits vessels from getting any closer than 300 feet to orca whales in Puget Sound, the bill's language exempts commercial fishers with gear in the water. Yes, I know this applies to netters, but "tomorrows" target may be the ocean. The bill has passed the House.

While we're still in Puget Sound, the Senate has passed and sent to the House **SB6337**. Although somewhat vague, this bill seems to have gillnet and seine fishers on opposite sides with the WDF caught in the middle.

The House passed **HB3216** which seeks to clarify regulatory jurisdiction for the development of wave and tidal energy technologies, and to streamline the permit process. Currently, there are 8 tidal projects (one by Tacoma Public Utilities and seven by Snohomish P.U.D.) and one wave power project on the ocean at Makah Bay. This bill would create a workgroup that make recommendations to the legislature and would include one representative from a commercial fishing association.

The Hood Canal cleanup gets some attention with **SB3227**. Residents and businesses would have until July 2009 to install sewage systems that don't conform to new rules. It doesn't appear directed at bringing failed septic systems up to standards. Maybe by 2009, we'll be happy that at least something was done.

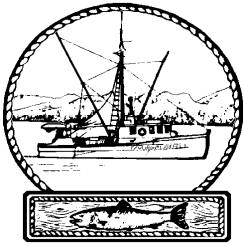
The House passed **HJM4029**, a bill requesting that Congress continue to mandate and fund the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative. Originally authorized in 1998, Congress funded the NSMCI in response to the Murray-Metcalf Commission report.

On a 32 to 12 vote, the Senate passed **SB6307**. The Puget Sound Partnership, that gathered much publicity in 2007, is expected to oversee the recovery of the health of Puget Sound by 2020. This bill appears to provide coordination with federal, state, local and tribal governments over "Marine Managed Areas." An "aquatic reserve system" of state-owned aquatic lands is also statutorily established.

SB6231, a bill that would have the director of the WDFW chair a group of Federal, state, local and tribal representatives with interests in our state's Marine Protected Areas, passed the Senate. If the above listed bill (SB6307) passes, then this MPA's workgroup would focus its efforts on the outer coast to avoid duplication in Puget Sound.

The goal of **SB6227**, which passed unanimously, is to provide support and resources to outer coast Marine Resource Committees. This builds upon the (inside waters) Northwest Straits Marine Conservation initiative and follows up last year's legislation to authorize all coastal communities to establish MRC's. (Thanks to Doug Fricke who testified on this bill's behalf during public testimony).

Late word out of Olympia is bad news for supporters of SB5213, a bill to strengthen Washington's ocean management policies. In spite of Congressional concerns about ocean policy issues and our 2005 legislature's provision of \$200,000 to review our ocean policies, the bill failed to survive the financial committee cutoff date. It's also sad because a commercial fishing representative was included in the Ocean Policy Advisory Council



Season Forecast – Jim Olson

It's time to think about season setting. What will the trip limits be? Will it be 4 days or 5 days a week? You can help make some of these choices by coming to the upcoming board meeting or one of the port meetings to be announced. If you can not attend one of these meetings feel free to give me a call. It looks the Chinook number is up a little but on the other hand the coho number is way down.

Chinook Stock Group	2008 February Forecasts	2007 Actual Returns	2007 February Forecasts
Lower River Hatchery—LRH	59000	32700	54900
Lower River Wild—LRW	3800	4300	10100
Bonneville Pool Hatchery—BPH	87200	14600	21800
Upriver Bright—URB	162500	112600	182400
Bonneville Upriver Bright—BUB	26400	24300	38500
Pool Upriver Bright—PUB	27600	22600	29500
Columbia River Total	366500	211100	337200

2008 Forecast

LRH - Improved over past two year's returns and 74% of the recent 10-year average.

LRW - Poor return. Second lowest on record (since 1964).

BPH - Significant improvement over last two year's returns. Similar to recent 10-year average.

URB - Strong return. 70% of the 10-year average.

BUB - Similar to last year's actual return. 66% of the 10-year average.

PUB - Similar to last year's actual return 67% of the 10-year average.

Total forecast of 366,500 Columbia River Fall Chinook is greater than last year's forecast and actual return. 74% of the recent 10-year average return of 494,300.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

February 14, 2008

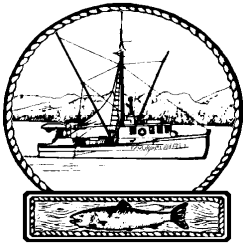
US.v Oregon Technical Adviaory Committee Sub-group

2007 Coho Abundance and 2008 Forecast

	2007			2008
	Pre	Post	Pre/Post	Forecast
Columbia River Early	424.9	291	146%	110.3
Columbia River Late	139.5	171.1	82%	86.4
Columbia River Subtotal	564.4	462.1	122%	196.7
Coast Subtotal	29.2	14.5	201%	19.4
Hatchery Total	593.6	476.6	125%	216.1
OCN Rivers	236.9	49.6	478%	50
OCN Lakes	18.5	10.4	178%	10
OCN Total	255.4	60	426%	60
STEP	0.2	0	--	--
Grand Total	849.2	536.6	158%	276.1



OPITT February1, 2008



Marketing/PR – Jeremy Brown

Troll caught Washington Chinook continues to find an enthusiastic welcome from regional chefs and foodies.

This winter we were able to present fish at the Seattle Slow Food RAFT (renewing america's food traditions) picnic- alongside other regional specialties prepared by a team of the area's (and the country's) most outstanding chefs.

Marbled Chinook was also on the bill at another Slow Food Seattle event, this time featuring raw and cooked seafood- along with

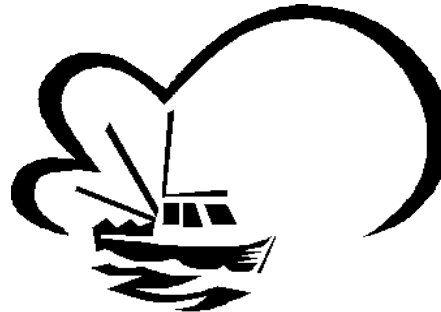
geoducks and Olympia oysters, at the very trendy Chiso Kappo in Fremont.

How much we are able to do this coming year will depend largely, like everything else, on how much of a season we get. At the very least we are planning the lunch for food professionals at 'Lark'. This will be our fourth year at what is proving to be a very popular opportunity for chefs and seafood professionals to network and enjoy a very special presentation of our fish by James Beard Award winning chef Johnathan Sundstrom.

Washington Trollers Association

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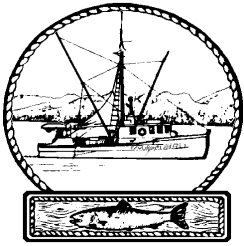
Doug Fricke, President
fricked@techline.com



Upcoming WTA Board Meetings

Friday, **March 7**, to discuss options for submittal to PFMC
Friday, **April 4**, to discuss results of March PFMC meeting
Meetings are held at the Fife School District Administration Building
5802 20th St E
Tacoma, WA

There will be a light meal served at 6:00pm. The meeting starts at 6:30pm. Please let us know if you plan to attend by emailing jdazey@centurytel.net or calling (360) 638-1135 not later than the Tuesday preceding the meeting.



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	www.luhrjensen.com	(541)386-3811
New Day Fisheries, Inc., Scott Kimmel, Port Townsend	Fax: (360)385-6455	(360)385-4600
Pacific Fishing Magazine, Jon Holland, Editor www.pfmag.com	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.

