

News of the Washington Trollers Association

January 2017

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January usually marks the start of the busy season for your Washington Trollers Association representatives. With the many issues that can impact our industry, however, there is no off time. This newsletter will paint a clear picture of the issues affecting our industry and the actions WTA has taken thus far to represent your business. WTA remains the clear leader in representing the troll industry, not just in words but in active participation in the process. WTA is recognized on the state and federal levels and is on a first-name basis with our state and federal representatives. Sen. Maria Cantwell's staff has been highly responsive to our industry and WTA has been working with her staff on a couple of projects: life raft repacking and the radio station license. WTA contends that life raft repacking is only necessary every other year, and there is no legal reason to be required to have a radio station license. So far, the results have not been what WTA expected. That does not mean we give up.

At the Coastal Coalition of Fisheries (CCF) meeting on December 20, 2016, our former lobbyist, Ed Owen, challenged the Coalition members to build a war chest to lobby our elected officials, to the tune of \$40-50,000. It seems that is what our opponents are spending to push sport priority. With the financial strength of the member organizations, this is doable, and this is where the game is played. With a strong showing of members renewing memberships in December and January, WTA will continue to be active players representing your business. As I know almost all of WTA's members on a personal basis, your best interests are my ultimate concern.

There are some special acknowledgements I need to mention. First, to Adrienne Jones for all her efforts last year on behalf of WTA. Next, to Mary Toal, for the smooth transition into our Executive Secretary position and, finally, to Butch Smith, owner of Coho Charters in Ilwaco and Chairman of the Salmon Advisory Subpanel on the Pacific Fisheries Management Subpanel, and the information pipeline we share. And, to our members, thank you for your continued support.— **Greg Mueller**

Calling All WTA

Members:

2017 WTA Annual Meeting

Saturday, 2.11.17

See Page 2 for details.

WTA DIRECTORS

President

Greg Mueller

1st Vice President

Jonathan Moore, F/V Ocean Belle

2nd Vice President

Kim Reisbick, F/V High Hope

Ilwaco

Richard Lyons, F/V Bertha J.

Kim Reisbick, F/V High Hope

John Alto, F/V Spring Persuader

Port Angeles

Mike Ziara, F/V Ocean Home

Jonathan Moore, F/V/Ocean Belle

Geoff Lebon, F/V Halmia

Westport

Greg Mueller

Doug Fricke, F/V Howard H

Butch Henry, F/V Evening

Ryan Johnson, F/V Dove

Executive Director

Greg Mueller

Executive Secretary

Mary Toal



**WASHINGTON TROLLERS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AND 2017 ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, February 11, 2017

McCausland Hall, Westport

All WTA members are encouraged to attend!

- 9:00 a.m. Call to Order—Board of Directors Meeting**
Regular business meeting including a Bylaw amendment and adoption of the 2017 WTA budget
- 11:30 Break for Lunch**
Lunch will be provided for all members and guests
- Noon Call to Order—2017 Annual Meeting**
Business will include a report of the Association’s activities and finances in 2016, guest speakers, and goals for 2017. At this writing we expect the following guest speakers:
- Daniel Foe
 - Phil Anderson
 - Butch Smith
 - Mike Cenci
 - Wendy Beeghley
 - Molly Bold
 - Dan Chadwick

Please note:

2017 dues payments will be accepted at the Annual Meeting. WTA merchandise (hats, mugs, sweatshirts) will be available for purchase. We will also accept donations to offset the cost of food and beverages for the day. (Cash or check only, please.)



UPDATE: DISASTER RELIEF 2017

There is good news on the Disaster Relief front. Earlier this month WTA received an email from Senator Maria Cantwell's office reporting that with the help of Senator Patty Murray and Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler, the Disaster Declaration has moved off the Secretary of Commerce's desk and on to Congress for funding. At the moment there is some uncertainty as to what the new Congress might do with the funding issue. However, Senator Murray and Congresswoman Herrera Beutler sit on the Appropriations Committee in their respective chamber. That gives us some hope. WTA's Greg Mueller and Butch Smith, of Coho Charters in Ilwaco and who is the Salmon Advisory Subpanel Chairman to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, have devoted much time to this important issue. WTA will field any questions the members have.

It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.

-Harry S. Truman

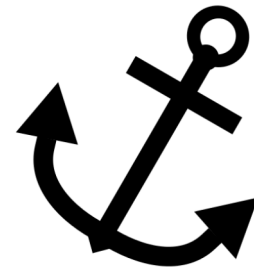
LICENSE FEE INCREASES 2017

WTA and other industry groups, under the Coastal Coalition of Fisheries title, have held a series of meetings dealing with the license fee increases proposed by WDF&W. As the dialog amongst the different fisheries leaders progressed, it became clear that this issue would not be a one-size-fits-all and that each separate fishery would agree to their own specific increases. After WTA asked members for their input and ideas, it was decided that a 1% increase in the landing fee would result in the desired results, that is encouraging the state to produce more fish thus generating more revenue to the state. At the moment, there are no plans to develop a crew license. Unless I hear differently from members who attend the Annual Meeting on February 11, that is the direction WTA will take, a flat 1% increase in the landing fee. Word has it that WDF&W has pulled their license fee increase bill to the legislature and is in the process of rewriting it. At the moment there is no word on what the new bill will contain.—GM

ALBACORE REPORT

The last albacore report was back in 2015. Since then, the last year of the fishing agreement with Canada expired December 31st. Unless there is a new agreement this spring, there will not be mutual access between US and Canada for vessels of the other country to fish in each other's EEZ. This last fall the State Department asked the industry if there had been any change in the industry's position of wanting to discontinue the mutual fishing agreement. A majority of the industry had been surveyed and there was agreement by a majority to request an extension of the US/Canada mutual fishing agreement as long as not more than 45 Canadian vessels are allowed to fish albacore in US waters. Also, the US industry wants an assurance that in any future international agreements for national quotas that the Canadian caught albacore in the US EEZ will be credited to the US quota. So now the US industry is waiting to see if the US State Department is going to initiate talks with Canada for the purpose of negotiating an extension of the mutual access fishing agreement that expired in December and on what terms.

The international management of North Pacific albacore is moving, but very slowly. Last May there was a workshop in Japan on the Method Strategic Evaluation (MSE). MSE is the process of creating a computer model that when you know the size of the albacore biomass and throw in a bunch of variables, that you can determine how much albacore each albacore fishing nation can harvest that is fair to each country and still keep the biomass sustainable. Supposedly the US hired a scientist this fall to work out the computer model. Who knows if we will live long enough to see management by this MSE computer model. It does appear that if the model is ever completed and the international scientists come to agreement on the model use, that we will have a US quota on albacore. --Doug Fricke



MITCHELL ACT TULE PRODUCTION

WTA has received some inquiries about the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit against NOAA and their funding of an activity that has incidental mortalities of a listed species, that is Lower Columbia River Wild Chinook, and that entity they are funding does not have an incidental take permit nor have they done the biological opinion needed to base a take permit on. The WFC lawsuit contends that straying of hatchery-produced tule stock Chinook has harmed and is continuing to harm the genetic integrity of natural spawning stocks in some of the streams in the lower river containing wild (?) stocks. The preceding explanation was with some help from a friend. In brief, what has come out of this is an agreement from NOAA to a 25% decrease in tule production phased in over five years. The net result will mean a 7% decrease to the ocean troll fishery as far as tule harvest is involved. NOAA has agreed to research areas where tule production can be increased, above Bonneville Dam. On the positive side of this, the new FRAM model reflects a decrease in tule harvest by the troll fleet that makes the reduction in production about a wash. This agreement has to be signed off on by a judge and, at the moment, we are waiting for all the parties to agree.-GM

YOUR DOLLARS @ WORK

Representing Your Business Interests

The following documents meetings in the last several weeks where WTA members and their businesses were represented. Time in preparation is taken seriously so all issues can be properly addressed.

1. Nov. 19; Seattle, Fish Expo
2. Dec. 9; Olympia, Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission
3. Dec. 10; Olympia, Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission, Pacific Salmon Treaty
4. Dec. 10; Olympia, Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission, Columbia Basin Salmon Management Plan
5. Dec. 15; NOAA, 2 hour conference call, Columbia River tule lawsuit
6. Dec. 18; Westport, Wefish board meeting
7. Dec. 20; Westport, Coalition of Coastal Fisheries (CCF) meeting
8. Jan. 11; Montesano, CCF meeting on proposed license fee increase
9. Jan. 11; Tacoma, guest speaker, Puget Sound Anglers
10. Jan. 27; Westport, Wefish board meeting
11. Jan. 30; Olympia, meet with Senator Maralyn Chase on salmon issues, i.e., sport priority

WTA continues to be the industry leader in representing the salmon troll industry . For information about any of these topics, please contact Greg Mueller.

POLITICAL ACTION AND PETITIONS

It recently brought to my attention that a petition was circulated via Facebook that dealt with the Open Public Meetings Act and Washington State and Treaty Tribal negotiations. To open these meetings to the public would be detrimental to the coastal salmon industry's relationship with the treaty tribes, especially during the North of Falcon season setting process. This petition is being floated by Tim Hamilton and his brother Dave of the Grays Harbor Fish and Wildlife Advocacy group. This group is anti-commercial and anti-treaty tribes. This is the same group that has destroyed the non-treaty gillnet fishery in Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay. The coastal fishing industry has forged a close working relationship with the treaty tribes that has one goal in mind: a sustainable salmon resource that will support an ongoing salmon fishery. WTA prides itself in an accurate flow of timely information to its members and my availability to respond in a timely manner to the memberships' concerns. Please, before signing on to any questionable political action, contact WTA to make sure it is not potentially detrimental to our efforts. - GM

FISH POLITICS 2017

Sport priority has raised its ugly head again. House Bill 1229, prime sponsored by Rep. Liz Pike of the Camas area, was introduced in the Washington State House of Representatives. The language in the bill deals with ensuring that fishing opportunities in Washington State are consistent with the economic contributions provided by the users. Representatives Pollet, Pettigrew, Shea, Taylor, Vick, Springer, Goodman, Harris, Kraft and Young have all signed on to the bill. If any of these represent you, they deserve a phone call or email to voice your unhappiness with their performance. (Go here for their phone numbers: www.leg.wa.gov/house) This bill is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt at sport priority as it means those that contribute the most to the Department of Fish and Wildlife get the most fish. The commercial fishing industry is never given credit for the revenue we generate for the state as most of it goes into the general fund. However, in doing so, the legislature allocates more money than what we contribute and that funding goes to the total fishery, sporties included. The commercial fishing industry is severely limited on the amount of funding we can contribute as we have been on limited entry and by the limitations placed on our fisheries. This is my sixth time around the same arguments the sporties have used since 1987, in pushing their sport priority agenda, and those arguments continue to fail to gain traction with those in Olympia. The bill has been referred to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee for a hearing, and with Rep. Brian Blake Chairman of the Committee, our best guess is that Brian will bottle this bill up in committee and it will not see the light of day. We will continue to closely monitor the situation.

NEW AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES LICENSE PROPOSED

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is proposing a new license that would cost \$20 for every commercial vessel to start with. The new license would fund the Aquatic Invasive Species program. All vessels down to kayaks would need the new license. (Am wondering about surf boards.) In addition to WTA not being involved with the process up to this point, there are some questions that the Department needs to answer. First and foremost is why a charter boat, crabber, troller, etc. that spends its entire time in state waters should need this license. The invasive species problem was all brought on by ocean-going freighters and their discharge of ballast water away from wherever they acquired the water. Another problem is the bottom paint we are allowed to use is, because of Department of Ecology and EPA rules, no longer as potent as it used to be allowing for unusual bottom growth. The EPA and Ecology cannot have it both ways. It will be interesting to see the break down on who pays what. How much will Paul Allen's yacht, which travels the world's oceans, be charged? Until WTA is involved in this process and understands the reasoning, we cannot support this proposal.

PACIFIC MARINE EXPO

The Washington Trollers Association's new look booth at the Pacific Marine Expo was a huge success. Partnering with our alliance group, Wefish and their President Molly Bold, our booth generated more interest and signed up more new members than ever. Thank you to Adrienne Jones, Mary Toal, and Molly Bold for their participation and success in the WTA booth at the Expo. (Mark your calendar for the 2017 Expo, which will be held November 16-18.)

WESTPORT FISHERMENS' MEMORIAL

The Fishermens' Memorial, at the extreme north end of Neddie Rose Drive in Westport, is in a state of disrepair. In addition to being in a state of neglect because of its location, it has been the victim of a many a hit and run with lasting damage being done. Wefish has taken up the cause to find a solution and make the memorial a centerpiece of the commercial fishing industry in Westport. One idea that has been discussed is to move the memorial to a more centralized location in the fishing district, perhaps in the vicinity of the Maritime Museum. Wefish is open to any constructive ideas. Please be in touch with the Wefish leadership at wefish.washington@gmail.com



PAUL ANDERSON RETIRES

One of WTA's longest standing Associate Members, Paul Anderson, retired as of the end of 2016. Paul was not only WTA's go-to person for all of the Association's legal matters, but also gave legal advice to our general membership, often at no charge. Paul's knowledge of the commercial fishing industry and maritime law will be missed by not only WTA, but also the entire commercial fishing industry. WTA wishes Paul the best in retirement.

Paul recommended a replacement in Daniel Foe. Greg Mueller has spoken with Daniel, who joined WTA as an Associate Member and will be present at our Annual Meeting on February 11, to address the membership as to his background and answer any questions members may have. For more information about Daniel and the firm of Mullavey, Prout, Grenley and Foe, go to www.ballardlawyers.com.



2017 WTA SPOON PROJECT

We are working with Silver Horde again this year on a custom spoon project. The spoon will be painted black and white on one side, and glow on the other. We originally wanted to use #5 Superiors, but were unable to find enough blanks. It sounds as though there may be a couple of new companies manufacturing Superiors this year, so we will wait and see how those work out and we may be able to use them in the future.

For this year, we are going to use the S2B#6. The sports have been using a version of this spoon called the "Sonic Edge." It is made from the same die as the S2B but made out of a lighter gauge metal. We decided to go with the lighter material because it gives the spoon more action and the painted spoons tend to be thicker than the bright spoons. This will be an exclusive edition, available only through WTA. The past versions of our spoons will be available through Englund Marine Supply. —Kim Reisbick

WTA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Ballard Sheet Metal Works, Inc. (Custom Fabrication for Fishing & Processing), Seattle	206-784-0545
Blue Sea, Inc., Jerry Lowe	360-738-8230
Boat Seafoods, Doug & Barb Fricke	360-580-3027
Caterpillar Marine Engines, Chris Downes	206-818-7546
D&M Live Crab, Dave Wolfenbarger	360-268-9319
Englund Marine Supply Co. (Complete Marine Service), Astoria & Westport	360-268-9811
Evans Manufacturing (Suppliers of Talbor Troll Floats)	360-652-4200
F/V Snapper Products	360-268-0294
Harbor Marine Supply, Westport	360-591-9270
Hightide Seafoods, Inc., Port Angeles	360-452-8488
Hingston Fletcher & Associates, PLLC, CPA; Phil Hingston, Seattle	206-285-2777
J&G Marine Supply, Don & Harold Jacobson, Tacoma	253-572-4217
Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Co., Inc. (Salmon Buyer), Pierre Marchand, Owner/Mgr.	360-648-3773
Jolly Roger Seafood (Buyer of Crab, Salmon & Albacore), Sonny Peterson	360-593-0108
Lutz Seafood, Newport, OR*	503-267-1125
MASCO Petroleum, Westport	360-537-9744
Mullavey, Prout, Grenley and Foe; Daniel Foe*	206-789-2511
New Day Fisheries, Inc., Scott Kimmel, Port Townsend	360-384-4600
Pacific Net and Twine, Ltd., Frank Nakashima, Mgr., Richmond, BC	604-274-7328
Pacific Seafood/Washington Crab Producers (Bottom Fish, Salmon, Crab, Shrimp), Westport	360-268-9161
Philips Publishing – Fisherman's News	206-284-8285
Sampo Inc. (Manufacturing Terminal Tackle/Fishing & Marine Supplies), Barneveld, NY	315-896-2606
Seafood Producers Cooperative, Bellingham & Sitka	360-733-0120
Seattle Marine and Fishing Supply Co. (Commercial Gear & Marine Hardware)	206-285-5010
Shipwrights Co-op, Port Townsend	360-385-6138
Silver Horde (Gold Star Sports & Commercial Fishing Lures & Supplies), Lynnwood	425-778-2640
South Bend Products (Fish Buyer)	360-875-6570
US Seven Oceans Inc. (Jinkai Monofilament Troller Line & Gear), Mukilteo	425-347-7770
United Trollers Fund, Phil Hingston, Manager	206-285-4341
*New in 2017	

THANK YOU

WTA MERCHANDISE – SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

To order yours, complete this form and mail it to WTA
along with your check (payable to WTA). Mary Toal will contact you regarding delivery arrangements.

ITEMS:	QUANTITY:	COST:
Blue hat (adjustable)		\$20
Green hat (adjustable)		\$20
Red hat (adjustable)		\$20
Tan hat w/blue bill (adjustable)		\$20
WTA mug		\$20
2016 WTA spoons (limited quantity available)		\$6 each
Hooded sweatshirt – heavy weight (choose L or XL)		\$50
Hooded sweatshirt – lightweight (choose L or XL)		\$40

Proceeds benefit the work of the WTA.



Left: Heavy Weight Hooded Sweatshirt (black), \$50 each.

Above: Light Weight Hooded Sweatshirt (black), \$40 each.

WTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Your Name _____ Boat Name & Size _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone# (____) _____ Home Phone # (____) _____

Email Address _____

Troll License(s) - Circle all that apply: WA OR CA AK ALBACORE

Port of Registration: Ilwaco Port Angeles Westport

New Membership Membership Renewal

Annual Membership Rates (full calendar year):

Individual membership \$250 \$ _____

Business Associate \$75 \$ _____

Combined Business/Individual Membership \$300 \$ _____

Retired \$50 \$ _____

1% Season donation, if not contributed thru season buyer \$ _____

Additional donation to help us represent trollers at meetings, with marketing, and in season-setting \$ _____

I would like to receive my newsletter via email.

I would like a subscription to Fisherman's News

OR Pacific Fishing OR BOTH add \$7 \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please make your check payable to WTA, and mail to PO Box 1821, Westport WA 98595
Dues for individuals must be paid by January 31, 2017, to be eligible to vote in 2017 port elections.

WASHINGTON TROLLERS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1821 Westport WA 98595

PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE

