

Washington Trollers Association

April 2013

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Attachment

2013 Troll Season Regulations

WTA Directors

President:

Greg Mueller *F/V Southside*

1st Vice President:

Mike Ziara *F/V Ocean Home*

2nd Vice President:

Dick Good *F/V Pamela Jean*

Secretary/Treasurer:

Tony Rouff *F/V Dream Catcher*

Ilwaco:

Richard Lyons *F/V Bertha J*
Steve Newell *F/V Roma*

Port Angeles:

Tony Rouff *F/V Dreamcatcher*
Mike Ziara *F/V Ocean Home*

Westport:

Kory Murphy *F/V Gallows Point*
Butch Henry *F/V Evening*

Executive Directors:

Sue and Joe Dazey

Editor:

Joe Dazey

President's Message

The ocean salmon troll season has been finalized through the PFMC process of April 5-11 and forwarded to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for his signature. The PFMC approved a North of Cape Falcon ocean salmon troll season that met conservation objectives of the salmon stocks listed in the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but left a disappointing outcome for the Washington salmon troll fleet. The major constraint for the north coast (Areas 3 and 4, LaPush and Neah Bay) was mid-Hood Canal Chinook. In order to save literally a handful of Chinook, WDFW was forced to institute some extreme measures. There will be a May 1 to June 30 hard cap of 8700 Chinook and a July 1 to September 17 hard cap of 6100 Chinook in Areas 3 and 4, while moving the majority of the Chinook (29,200) into Areas 1 and 2. The vast majority of the Chinook (70%) caught in Areas 1 and 2 are of Spring Creek and Bonneville Pool origin and with those stocks down 30% from the 2012 season this appears to be a case of much opportunity and few fish. When the hard caps are reached in Areas 3 and 4, those areas will close to commercial troll fishing. Trollers will not be allowed to exceed the hard cap harvest numbers.

The coho fishery, while not the money fishery for the troll industry, will be similar to the 2012 season. Although the final outcome was disappointing, especially to those trollers who fish in Areas 3 and 4, it was not for lack of effort. WTA representatives, along with guidance from WDFW Director Phil Anderson and staff Pat Patillo, Doug Milward and Wendy Beeghley, used every angle and worked overtime to secure trollers with the best possible season, while working under the Federal government's guidelines. A special note of appreciation from WTA goes to ocean salmon troll manager Doug Milward for his guidance and availability throughout the season-setting process.

On the halibut front, Director Anderson was able to negotiate a "1 for free plus 1 for 3" Chinook ratio, with a landing cap of 15 halibut per trip. Director Anderson again did an excellent job negotiating for the Washington troll fleet, as Oregon and California wanted a 1 in 4 Chinook ratio and a landing limit capped at 10 halibut.

WTA thanks members Steve Kraske (F/V Monarch), Paul Alexander, (F/V Eagle Eye), Kim Reisbick, (F/V High Hope), Tony and Barb Rouff, (F/V Dream Catcher), Mike Ziara (F/V Ocean Home), Greg Mueller, (F/V Southside) and Executive Directors Joe and Sue Dazey for representing WA in Portland during the PFMC season-setting process. Joe and Sue made daily updates of the Council process available via e-mail as well.

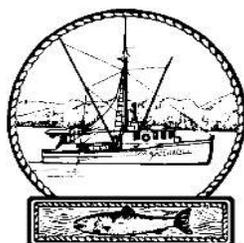
Tuna: At the April 4, 2013 WTA Board meeting, a suggestion was made to form an Albacore Tuna Committee consisting of Doug Fricke as the point person, along with Rodney McVicker, and Tony Rouff. Doug is this year's chairman of the PFMC Highly Migratory Species (HMS) panel and is doing an outstanding job of representing WTA's interests in the fishery. Tony and Rodney have vast experience in the fishery and, together with Doug, will form an excellent team. An informal discussion followed the suggestion, however since a quorum was not in attendance and it was agreed to address this for a vote via an e-Board meeting, which has since been done and approved.

April is also the month for election of officers and with a quorum not present due to the April salmon troll opening in Oregon, nominations and voting could not be conducted. Therefore, all positions will stay the same until the next meeting, as follows: Greg Mueller, President; Dick Good, Vice President; Mike Ziara, Vice-President; and Tony Rouff, Secretary/Treasurer.

A few more important points:

WTA has an impressive list of business members who support our troll industry and Association (see listing in this Newsletter). As you gear up and outfit your boat for the upcoming troll season, don't forget to patronize

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President's Message - Continued

those businesses that support us.

Also, thank you to Lynn Mueller and Heide Reisbick for preparing the excellent dinner buffet and desserts that are provided for all attendees at WTA's open board meetings!

Here's a question NMFS needs to answer: Why are the salmon stocks which are most effected by the Columbia River dams flourishing, while stocks least effected by the Columbia River dams are vastly under performing? (question posed by Mike Baldwin, F/V Nellie M)

To close, as this is the last newsletter and President's Message until Fall, I offer some food for thought: With approximately 90 members in good standing, plus 30 business memberships and about 10 retired members, we will have disagreements. It is how we work through our differences in a civil way that will define our association.

Good Fishing, Greg

Trolling Float Raffle

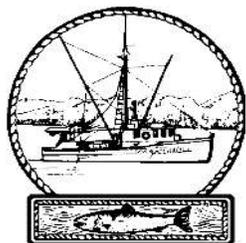
Talbot 60-70lb trolling floats courtesy of Evans Manufacturing. Tickets are \$10 each or 10 for \$80. The drawing will be held at the 2013 Annual Meeting. You do not have to be present to win. Get your tickets from Sue (jdazey@centurytel.net) or ask a Board member.



WTA Hats and Mugs

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Donation</u>	<u>Total</u>
	Blue Hat	_____	\$20	_____
	Green Hat	_____	\$20	_____
	Red Hat	_____	\$20	_____
	Tan w/ blue Bill	_____	\$20	_____
	WTA Mug	_____	\$20	_____
	Total			_____

Mail to: WTA
 PO Box 799
 Kingston, WA 98346



PFMC Report – Sue Dazey

By this time most of you know the critical pieces of the news about seasons, quotas and other details for the coming season. I'd also like to share a few of the other highlights of this round of PFMC partially because they directly or indirectly pertain to our fishery and also so you have some sense of how we fill up all the time between battling and decision making.

But first, an important note: As you may realize there are a host of groups represented at PFMC, who also have to work together in sub-panels to hammer out all the details and put them in order to present to the Council: Each state has representatives for troll, sport, gill net, as well as the tribes, law enforcement, conservation, habitat, technical, and more. Everyone there is trying as hard as possible to get a fair share of fish pie, all the while trying to maintain some semblance of cooperation and civility. This time, although the pressures and constraints were more demanding than ever, I think most everyone went above and beyond by putting out major efforts to be collaborative, fair and productive. This includes representatives from both troll groups, who did an admirable job of working together as one interest group. Of note, we were encouraged in no uncertain terms by WDFW and others in the salmon community to mend fences and face some far larger threats related to the gillnet issues in the Columbia. Be aware that trollers are on the menu!

The 2013 Salmon Season: So now, for the critical facts and a little of how we got there. You can find the technical description in the Options enclosed in this newsletter, but essentially the North of Falcon share of Chinook was 44,000 with a 2/3 Spring and 1/3 Summer catch ratio. An additional conservation measure for mid-Hood Canal Chinook resulted in our agreeing with the least of the evils available in the form of a management cap on Areas 3 and 4. The quota for those area will total 14,800 for the whole season, divided into 8700 in the May-June period and 6100 in the July-September period. It will be managed with in-season calls starting when numbers get to 75% of the cap in each season. Other areas in the fishery will be managed in this manner with in-season phone calls as well, according to the overall quotas for Spring and Summer seasons.

Note: It's important that you understand that the caps were strictly a conservation measure proposed by WDFW as the best of several grim alternatives to protect mid-Hood Canal Chinook, a tiny population that hardly shows on the radar, but which is a critical stock and drives the numbers. A frequently asked question was why we couldn't separate the two areas and just have a cap in Area 4 if that would be enough to bring the numbers down to requirements. The reason is that Areas 3 and 4 are modeled as one catch area in PFMC's

statistical model so can't be entered separately. Another driver for this decision was the tendency for higher Chinook catch rates recently in those areas. If there's a plus side to this, WDFW followed the WTA team's suggestion and will allow you to cross the Area 3-4 line into Area 2 or vice versa during a trip with fish on board as long as you **call in to WDFW when you cross the line**. You need to report the number of salmon and halibut on board. Please keep fish from each area separate. This allows you the flexibility to land fish in either area. **We want to emphasize that it is extremely important you call in as agreed. If there are problems with this, this option will disappear.**

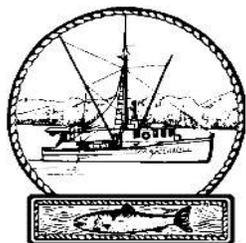
Halibut: Regarding halibut, we ultimately had to compromise our preferred cap of 20 down to 15, but on the plus side, we got the 1+1:3 ratio, thanks largely to Phil Anderson, who listened and responded to our arguments despite enormous pressure from Oregon and California for a lower cap and ratio. Our best specific argument was that with the Tule quota down this year, plus the caps on Areas 3 and 4, we would need the more generous catch ratio in order to have any hope of fulfilling the halibut quota by the end of the May/June period as is the goal. With halibut, there was much discussion about the April fishery opening in Oregon. The current halibut ratio decision will carry over into April, 2014, and then be reviewed in the second PFMC session for the balance of 2014. There is some unease about how much halibut Oregon will catch and how much that will impact halibut quotas in the Washington May/June fishery. Oregon fishers don't think it will amount to much of anything but we'll see.

Summary of Other Related Items:

Besides salmon management, PFMC spends a good deal of its sessions on many important topics, most of which are relevant to us in some way. Here's a thumbnail look at a few of them, realizing there are many other topics not mentioned here such as groundfish, habitat, sablefish, ecosystem reviews, sardines and forage fish, and a host of procedural details. It's a very intense week.

VMS: The current requirements for Vessel Monitoring Systems pertain to groundfishing, however some tuna boats (Highly Migratory Species) have installed VMS units, activated them, received the offered reimbursement subsidies (through the NMFS Office of Law Enforcement) to cover the costs, but have yet to declare activity in commercial groundfish. The question is, why did they install it at all? The answer is that the cost of e-mail is a fraction of what it is with other on-board communications systems. This is a bit of a loophole that may result in more regulatory action, particularly with regard to HMS boats. PFMC has been asked to look into it.

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PFMC Report – Continued

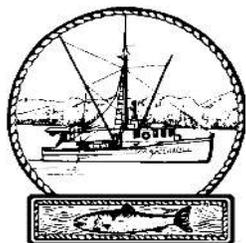
Columbia River Salmon Recovery Plan Groups: Irene Martin is leading efforts to ensure that the new effort by NMFS/NOAA to create a Columbia River Salmon Recovery Assessment group reflects and builds on the efforts of a number of grass roots stakeholder groups which are already established and working on those same issues, rather than disregarding those efforts and starting from scratch with limited representation from stakeholders. She outlined five points for PFMC to consider when communicating with NMFS on this issue.

Birds: A draft Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared by the Army Corps of Engineers and the US Fish and Wildlife service to curtail the predation on juvenile salmonids by double crested cormorants in the 40 miles between the mouth of the Columbia River and Bonneville Dam. The impact of these birds is huge. Columbia River tribes and others who put major efforts and funds into hatcheries are extremely concerned. The cormorants, along with Caspian terns (whose numbers are now managed/reduced by putting oil on the eggs), eat millions of young fish each year. This issue is complicated since the cormorants and the terns are considered “migratory” and thus fall under the Migratory Bird Protection Act. The Salmon Advisory Sub-panel has requested that PFMC put this on its agenda for September 2013. The EIS should be available for public comment in August.

Marked Select Fish: Once again, the tribes jointly gave a powerful presentation explaining their objections to this form of fisheries management claiming it manages “only for harvest, not for rebuilding”. Their pressure at PFMC results in very thoughtful use of this method for sports, tribal and commercial fisheries and is constantly re-evaluated. (This is one area where solid GSI data might help.)

California Marine Sanctuaries: There is a proposal for expansion of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries in the process of review. These are both in the general area from San Francisco north to Point Arena. None of this is intended to have an impact on management of fisheries, but rather to ensure the ecological health of the area, which is rich in nutrients and supports a large range of marine life. It would have direct bearing on off-shore oil drilling, or any activity impacting the ocean floor. NOAA is doing this through the Woolsey Act, which is very explicit about having no fishing restrictions beyond those currently in effect and involves a lengthy public review process.

“Reallocation” --Something to Watch: This is one issue that trollers should not take lightly. It relates to the current Columbia River gillnet controversy now in court. The same group is maneuvering to do the same type of thing with the ocean commercial salmon fishery. As described in a letter of February 18, 2013 by Jim Martin, salmon allocation reviews are “rusted shut”. He proposes PFMC lead the way in systematic reviews of the economic and conservation benefits of ocean fisheries. The motivation for this arises out of the recreational fishery under the guise of “conservation” and could pose a serious threat to the viability of the commercial ocean troll fishery. During the course of the various meetings at PFMC, trollers were strongly advised to pay attention to this and work together in a strong, united manner. Whatever issues and differences trollers may have among themselves, there are much more pressing issues like this that need close attention.



Director's Notes – Sue Dazey

Port Meetings: Since the last newsletter we've had a host of meetings starting with three port meetings in Westport, Ilwaco and Port Angeles (held in Port Townsend). Detailed minutes of those are available, but in summary, we had good attendance at each meeting. Tacoma and Seattle ports were decommissioned as of March 15 since each failed to have the required 10 members (in accordance with the new By Laws). Members in those ports moved to the remaining port of their choice. The following members were elected to be on the Board for the coming year:

Westport (3): Kory Murphy, Butch Henry, Greg Mueller

Ilwaco (3): Dick Good, Richard Lyons, Steve Newell

Port Angeles (2): Mike Ziara, Tony Rouff

Members also discussed the PFMC options presented to date, and unanimously voted in favor of Option I for salmon and Option I for halibut.

PFMC Public Testimony Meeting: PFMC, along with representatives from NMFS, WDFW and the Coast Guard hosted this session April 25, to an audience of 32 people, half of which were WTA members and partners. Of those, five spoke on behalf of WTA, supporting Option I for salmon and Option I for halibut. There were four others who testified, one for the charter industry and three on behalf of themselves. Thank you to all the WTA people who attended. Your presence made an impact!

WTA April Board Meeting Summary: There was an unexpectedly small group at this meeting and we did not have a quorum. Although there were discussions related to the above meetings, the following time-sensitive issues will be voted on via e-Board meetings: Purchase of another order of hats; renewing GSI-related insurance with unsure funding from the state; establishing a WTA albacore committee; and voting on S520, regarding labeling. Elections of officers will be postponed until the next WTA meeting with a quorum. The current officers will remain until then.

Finances were reviewed, showing us slightly down from last year at this time, but well within the range of the past few years. This is in part due to smaller 1% contributions from last season. Buyer packets for 1% contributions were distributed to Board members who will forward them on to the specific buyers. You can contribute through your buyer or directly to WTA. This is important for the financial well-being of WTA so be sure to give it your attention as

you process your sales.

Note: There are complete minutes of all the above meetings in the WTA files, which are available to any member upon request.

April PFMC: A review of these meetings and decisions can be found in the President's Message, a separate "PFMC Summary", and the copy of the final options all in this newsletter. The most demanding issues revolved around the conservation requirements for mid-Hood Canal Chinook, halibut, coho conservation issues, and a lower Tule quota. Of note, everyone working on these issues should get high marks for developing the best solution (i.e., the most fish) for every interest group. Phil Anderson, Pat Patillo, Doug Milward, and Wendy Beeghley went out of their way to be available, crunch numbers, to keep us all updated, and to hear us continually through the process whether in meetings or the hallways. That we ended up with as much as we did is due largely to their expertise. Trollers from both WA associations also made genuine efforts to present a united presence and do what they could to help the greater effort.

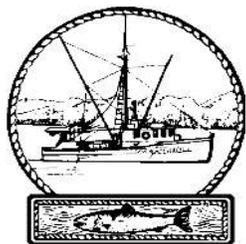
GSI: Despite unsure funding for the project, the State has agreed to let us continue sampling on a volunteer basis. There will be kits available both at Washington Crab, (Westport) and High Tide, (Neah Bay). When and if funding comes through, the expectation is that reimbursement will be similar to last year (\$20/sample). If there are more people who want to sample than there are kits, a waiting/rotation list will be made in order to be fair to everyone.

Remember, for now its voluntary.

Albacore Update: The latest developments from the US/Canada Albacore Treaty negotiations are not encouraging. The US State Department, over the objections of the fleet, is forcing an allocation of some Canadian vessels into the US EEZ for 2013. The tentative number is 45 Canadian vessels into US waters and unlimited access for US vessels into Canada. There is supposed to be a phase-out of Canadian vessels beginning in 2014. It will take continued pressure on the US State Department to make this happen.

Membership and Dues: Renewal notices will be sent out to those due each month, but if you know your anniversary month, go ahead and send in your dues. While we will be doing business from Alaska over the summer, we will keep time lines and turnaround time as prompt as possible. The WTA phone number, e-mail and address remain the same.

Good fishing! - Sue



WTA Associate Members

Anderson Attorney-at-Law, Paul Anderson	(206)467-0237
Ballard Sheet Metal Works, Inc., Custom Fabrication for Fishing and Processing, Seattle	(206)784-0545
Bayview Building Materials, Westport, WA bayview@comcast.net	
D & M Live Crab – Dave Wolfenbarger	(360)268-9319
Dungeness Seaworks, Allen Richardson	(360) 460-7048
Englund Marine Supply Co. Complete Marine Service, Astoria & Westport	(360)268-9311
Evans Manufacturing – supplier of Talbot trolling floats	(360) 652-4200
F/V Snapper Products, Westport, WA	(360) 268-0294
Harbor Marine Supply, Westport, WA	(360)268-9166
High Tide Seafoods, Buyer,Ernie Vail, owner; Port Angeles, Neah Bay, LaPush	(360)452-8488
Hingston, Phil, of Jones , Kushman, Hingston Certified Public Accountant, Seattle	(206)285-2777
Hungry Whale Enterprises Chevron Station and Deli – Berkley Barker	((560) 628-6323
Icicle Seafoods, Lew Warner, Dillingham, AK	(907) 842-5204
Ikes's Fish, W.H. & Kiyoko Kendall	(360)697-6781
J & G Marine Supply, Don and Harold Jacobson, Tacoma	(253)572-4217
Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Co., Inc.—Salmon Buyer; Pierre Marchand, owner/manager	(360)648-3773
Jolly Roger Seafood, Sonny Peterson – buyer of crab, salmon, and albacore	(360) 593-0108
Masco Petroleum, Westport,WA	(360) 537-9744
New Day Fisheries, Inc., Scott Kimmel, Port Townsend	(360)385-4600
Pacific Net and Twine, Ltd., Richmond, BC, Frank Nakashima, Mgr	(604)274-7328
Pacific Seafood/Washington Crab Producers, Bottom fish , salmon, crab, shrimp – Westport	(360)268-9161
Philips Publishing – Fisherman's News	(206) 285 -0765
Redden Net Co. (Steveston) Ltd., Richmond, BC, Canada	1(866)233-1422
Sampo Inc., Manufacturing Terminal Tackle/Fishing and Marine Supplies, Barneveld, NY	(315)896-2606
Sand Dollar Variety and Dollar Store, Rick Bridgemen, Westport	(360) 628-9650
Schiewe Marine Supply, Commercial Fishing Supplies, Newport, Oregon	(514)265-7382
Seafood Producers Cooperative, Bellingham, Sitka	(360)733-0120
Seattle Marine and Fishing Supply, Co., Commercial Gear and Marine Hardware; Sea	(206)285-5010
Select Fish, Quality Buyer, Airport Way in Seattle	(206)767-2642
Silver Horde—Gold Star Sports and Commercial Fishing Lures and Supplies, Lynnwood, WA	(425)778-2640
South Bend Products –Dean Antich	(360) 875-6570
U.S. Seven Oceans, Inc, Jinkai Monofilament Trolling Line and Gear, Mukilteo, WA	(425)347-7770
United Trollers Fund, Phil Hingston, Mgr., Seattle, WA	(206)285-4341
WESMAR—Western Marine Electronics, Woodinville, WA	(425)481-2296
Westport Diesel Service, Westport, WA	(360) 268-0669

WTA Retired Associate Members

Scott Bayer, Larry Engbloom, Steve Spleen, Paul Johns, Geoff Grillo, Augie Roehr, Gerald Brummond,, Richard Ramsey, George Walden, Steve Norwood, Bud Mathis, William Sipila

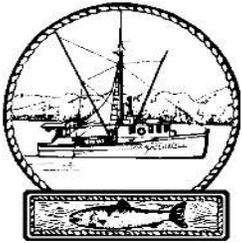
WTA Membership Application Form

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)	WA <input type="checkbox"/>	OR <input type="checkbox"/> CA <input type="checkbox"/> AK <input type="checkbox"/> Albacore <input type="checkbox"/>
Port of Registration:	Ilwaco <input type="radio"/>	Port Angeles <input type="radio"/> Westport <input type="radio"/>

- 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



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