

April 2015

Washington Trollers Association

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Attachment

2015 Troll Season Regulations

WTA Directors

President:

Greg Mueller

1st Vice President:

Jonathan Moore *F/V Ocean Belle*

2nd Vice President:

Kim Reisbick *F/V High Hope*

Secretary/Treasurer:

Mike Ziara *F/V Ocean Home*

Ilwaco:

Richard Lyons *F/V Bertha J*
Kim Reisbick *F/V High Hope*

Port Angeles:

Mike Ziara *F/V Ocean Home*
Jonathon Moore *F/V Ocean Belle*

Westport:

Greg Mueller
Doug Fricke *F/V Howard H*
Butch Henry *F/V Evening*

Executive Directors:

Sue and Joe Dazey

Editor:

Joe Dazey

President's Message

With the North of Cape Falcon season setting process wrapped up in Santa Rosa, California, on Wednesday, April 15, this article will take you through the process with the main players and explain the reasoning behind the decisions that had to be made.

As the process moved through its final week, it became clear that we were heading for uncharted waters. The Southern Puget Sound Treaty Tribes were again holding tight with their demands on more Chinook into their terminal areas and with the ocean fishery both treaty and nontreaty in compliance with this year's critical impacts, Queets coho, Thompson coho, and Lake Washington Chinook, it was unclear if NMFS would issue the permit needed to conduct a fishery with Puget Sound chinook still unsettled. It became increasingly clear that the only way the Muckleshoot Tribe would agree to a fishery was for the state to close the very popular sport fishery for Chinook in area 10, Shilshoal Bay, and on Tuesday, Phil Anderson on behalf of the state of Washington reached an agreement with the Muckleshoot Tribe that cleared the way for NMFS to issue the permit needed for the NOF fishery. Needless to say, the sporties are very upset, to say the least, and are all over WDF&W staff over this decision.

On to NOF nontreaty ocean troll. The Washington Trollers Association was represented at the PFMC meetings in Santa Rosa, California, by Washington troll representative Jim Olson, and WTA members, Dave Parker, Executive Directors, Joe and Sue Dazey, and President Greg Mueller.

The following adjustments were made to our fishery to meet conservation goals and requirements.

1. Go to a 60% spring,(40,200 Chinook), 40% summer,(26,800 Chinook), split instead of the agreed upon 67% spring 33% summer split.

Rationale - this lessens Chinook opportunity in area 2, which has a very high impact on Queets coho in May and June and reduces those impacts. We lose no Chinook.

2. Capped area 1 at 15,000 Chinook. We will start wide open, no landing limits.

Rationale - this limits tule impacts which we exceeded in 2014. We lose no Chinook.

3. Capped areas 3 and 4.

Rationale - with ongoing problems in Puget Sound there is no end in sight to these caps. Chinook into PS are down 25% from 2014.

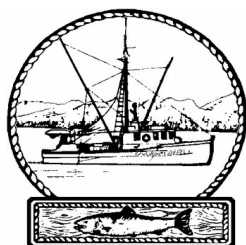
4. Moved 3,300 Chinook from areas 3 and 4 to areas 1 and 2.

Rationale - lessened impacts on Lake Washington Chinook and Thompson River coho and gave Phil Anderson the move he requested to get the Makahs to agree to make major concessions to their fishery.

5. Areas 3 and 4 will open with a 7 day a week, 60 Chinook, 12 halibut TRIP LIMIT.

Rationale - allows trollers to access halibut. Trollers can make as many trips in 7 days as they can. If this landing limit is not correct, it can be changed through an in-season management action. It is important that we have access to the halibut because if we don't get them some else will!

(Continued on Page 2)



President's Message - Continued

6. Traded 8,000 coho to area 1 sports for 2,000 Chinook.
 Rationale - Chinook are worth much more, especially with 50,000,000 sockeye forecast into Bristol Bay, coho prices could be depressed.

The bottom line is trollers lost no Chinook, which is our money fish, and gained significant opportunity on halibut. Sure we had to move some fish around and cap a new area, but we ended up with 67,000 Chinook in some very challenging times. One very real concern is that with the majority of the Chinook having to be caught in area 2 in the summer that they actually show up there.







Some special recognition needs to go to WDF&W staff, mainly Doug Milward and Wendy Beegley and the rest of the

number crunchers for the long days, nights and in a couple of instances early mornings that made this season possible. WTA will not soon forget the contributions of former WDF&W Director and special consultant Phil Anderson to the ocean fishery.

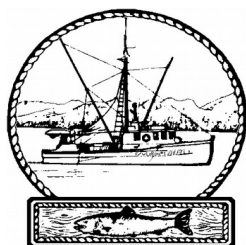
It is your board of directors hope that after all the meetings and work that went into crafting the 2015 season, that is a successful and safe season for our ocean troll fleet. If you have any comments or questions during the season, I can be contacted at: cell (253) 381 9713 or email at gregmueller@centurylink.net

Good fishing, Greg Mueller

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	_____
	WTA Spoons	_____	\$60/doz	_____
	Total			_____

Mail to: WTA
 PO Box 799
 Kingston, WA 98346



Executive Director's Report

As the 2015 season gets underway, I'd like to take a Moment to thank our associate members. Their support and financial contributions are deeply appreciated. Show your appreciation by patronizing these businesses whenever you can.

Our spoon fundraiser is going very well. Almost all of the 2014 pattern spoons are taken and about half of the new pattern (with GOLD) are gone as well. If you'd like some, get in touch with Greg asap. You can get him at (253) 381-9713 or email gregmueller@centurylink.net.

I've been asked about landings in Areas 3&4. Starting the season, you can fish 7 days/week. You can land 60 Chinook and 12 halibut per trip. You can make as many trips as you like until 6750 have been landed. At that point, there will be a conference call

to determine how to run the rest of the Spring opening.

The 2015 GSI sampling project is getting underway. The kits have been delivered to Westport and Neah Bay waiting for the samplers to pick them up. So far this year, there are 14 samplers participating. I have 2 more kits available at Washington Crab in Westport. If you're interested in sampling this year, let me know, and I'll put your name on one of them. Funding, while not guaranteed yet, is in the pipeline, and I don't expect any complications. We're again paying \$20/sample with a max of 35 samples/wk. If there is leftover money at the end of the season, we'll pay for them on a pro-rated basis.

After all the work and stress of getting a season, it's time to go fishing!

Joe

2015 Troll Buyers

So far we know of the following companies buying troll salmon:

Area 4:

Cape Flattery Fisherman's Co-op
High Tide – Neah Bay

Area 3:

High Tide – La Push

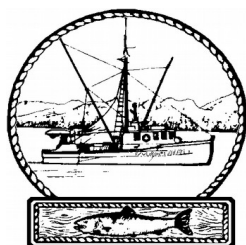
Area 2:

Westport Crab Producers
Jolly Roger
Westport Seafood Exchange, Stein Fricke
D&M Live Crab

Area 1:

Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Company

Most of these companies participate in our 1% program both by collecting contributions from fishermen and by adding matching/additional contributions.



PFMC Report Sue Dazey

You have most of the details of the recent PFMC proceedings and decisions in your President's Message, as well as the official documents on the season for trollers included in this newsletter. I'd like to add a few notes to that in hope of shedding a little more light on developments whether you're disgruntled, or resigned, or possibly even optimistic.

The challenges this year were as great or greater than ever, but different. There were all the expected issues of various groups (treaty troll, non-treaty, and recreational) vying for shares of limited fisheries. Everyone had to tow the line on limited numbers due to endangered run impacts, particularly Thompson coho, Queets River coho, and Lake Washington Chinook (Cedar River). On top of all that, we still don't have numbers for Chinook in Alaska and British Columbia since Alaska refuses to agree to a lower number than they thought appropriate based on last year's abundance.

In previous years we've had to adjust to environmental catastrophes in Oregon and California with the Klamath and Sacramento situations, but this year it seemed to hit home with the poor conditions for salmon returning to Lake Washington and the Cedar River. The reasons are numerous, including predation at the Ballard Locks, warmer water, less water in the Cedar River due to less rainfall, use of Cedar River water to supply Seattle's needs. The forecast is for that run to be down 35% this year. The Mukleshoot Tribe had grave concerns about inadequate returns to the Issaquah hatchery and stood firm on the need to address the issue. The gravity of the bottom line hit home Monday evening at the State Delegation meeting when Phil Anderson spelled out the reality that without an agreement NMFS would not issue a permit and the State could face having no salmon fishery at all. The result was a totally stunned and silent room full of people in shock, with just one day left to create a proposal to present to the Council.

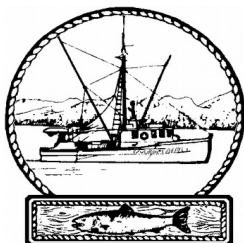
At that point, as Phil pointed out, we were in uncharted waters. As people started recovering their wits, suggestions emerged, such as splitting the State's fisheries into ocean and inside entities, and getting separate NOAA permits, (which likely would be too late to save this season anyway). Meanwhile, on through much of the night, Phil finessed a series of meetings with tribal leaders in between tribal caucuses. Meanwhile pretty much everyone was either too exhausted or too upset to do much but complain, with much of that from a few vocal factions about how trollers don't do their share of giving up fish. The next morning Doug Milward and Phil gave a short history of how much the trollers have given up over the years to contribute to the well-being of the fishery overall, including how the "mushroom" closure came to be, and the instituting of the Area 3-4 cap last year. This tamped down the complaining about trollers for the moment and was a very much-appreciated round

of support from the State leadership. No one else could have done that with such credibility, accuracy and authority. We owe them big time for that one!

So then came Tuesday morning, with tension high since the final agreement was scheduled to be presented to the Council that afternoon and we weren't even close. But shortly, to our immense relief, Phil announced that he had worked out agreements and concessions among key tribes, (Makahs and Muckleshoots) to bring the required numbers very close. With continued picking away at numbers, and moving fish around, running and re-running the FRAM all day to check the numbers, we got closer. This required more concessions from everyone, including trollers (especially in areas 3-4). Puget Sound sports took a hard hit with the total closure of Area 10 (Shilshole area) and 50% in Area 9. It was all presented to the Council Wednesday morning. No one came out unscathed, but ---we have a fishery.

It took huge effort on every group's part to make this work out at all. Of note, we felt all the trollers worked well with each other and alongside the recreational representatives. Either the problems were so daunting everyone felt forced to cooperate, or maybe we are just getting better at it, but it was one of the more amiable sessions of giving up fish. But it wouldn't have happened without the very impressive efforts of Phil Anderson (on special assignment for just this part); Jim Unsworth, (new Director of WDFW); Jim Scott, (head of the WDFW Fish Program) who patiently and courteously led many tense delegation meetings; Doug Milward (WDFW Ocean Salmon Manager); Wendy Beeghley, (WDFW Ocean Salmon Manager Asst.); Pat Patillo (also on special assignment for this); the Salmon Technical Team (who run the numbers); Butch Smith (chair of the Salmon Advisory Sub-Panel); Jim Olson (SAS Troll Rep); Joel Kawahara (Habitat Committee); the tribes; troll reps. with us, Greg Mueller, Dave Parker; and dozens of others involved in solving an extremely difficult situation.

We scraped by this year, but keep in mind: These issues are not going away. Our new leadership at WDFW will be running the show next year. (Jim Unsworth went through the whole process with Phil this year and admitted he had his eyes opened.) We are looking at increased environmental pressure on fish habitat, we have an unprecedented sea lion predation problem in mouth of the Columbia and the Locks, and we have continuing pressure from non-troll interest groups who would love to see trollers disappear over the horizon. If you'd like to see the troll industry and all the associated benefits for communities and livelihoods continue, start making plans now to participate in next year's North of Falcon meetings and the two PFMC sessions. Our voice there is essential.



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
Bill's Lead Balls – Bill Murray, cannonballs, Napavine	(360) 219-3996
Boat Seafoods – Doug & Barb Fricke	(360) 580-3027
Bower, Harrison P. - crew member	(206) 328-5807
D & M Live Crab – Dave Wolfenbarger	(360)268-9319
D & R Machine -Dennis Rush, Gurdy rebuilding and machine work	(503) 961-1858
Dave's Diesel Repair – Dave Wall	
Dungeness Seaworks, Allen Richardson	(360) 460-7048
Englund Marine Supply Co. Complete Marine Service, Astoria & Westport	(360)268-9311
Evans Manufacturing – suppliers of Talbor troll floats	(360) 652-4200
F/V Snapper Products	(360) 268-0294
Hanson Fish Company – Chris Hanson, F/V Carpe Diem	
Harbor Marine Supply, Westport, WA	(360) 268-9166
High Tide Seafoods, Buyer,Emie Vail, owner; Port Angeles, Neah Bay, LaPush	(360) 452-8488
Hingston, Phil, of Jones , Kushman, Hingston Certified Public Accountant, Seattle	(206) 285-2777
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
Sampo Inc., Manufacturing Terminal Tackle/Fishing and Marine Supplies, Bameveld, NY	(315) 896-2606
SAW Trolling Wre- St anley West, flexible Troll wire	(530)305-4480
Seafood Producers Cooperative, Bellingham, Sitka	(360) 733-0120
Seattle Marine and Fishing Supply, Co., Commercial Gear and Marine Hardware; Sea	(206) 285-5010
Silver Horde—Gold Star Sports and Commercial Fishing Lures and Supplies, Lynnwood, WA	(425) 778-2640
South Bend Products – Fish buyer	(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
Wall Marine – David Wall, PO Box 78, Westport, WA 98595 cell # (360) 340-5612	(360) 268-6348
WESMAR—Western Marine Electronics, Woodinville, WA	(425) 481-2296
Westport Diesel Service, Westport, WA	(360) 268-0669
WFM Select Fish, Quality Buyer, Airport Way in Seattle	(206) 767-2642

WTA Retired Associate Members

Steve Spleen, Gary Aubertin, Steve Norwood. Bill Sipila, Larry Dean
 Larry Engblom, Bill Wilson, Richard Ramsey

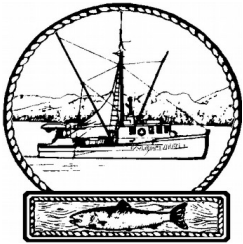
WTA Membership Application Form

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 - \$250 / year January through December
 - Business Associate - \$75 Combined Bus/Member - \$300 Retired - \$50
 - 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.
- Subscription: 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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