



News of the Washington Trollers Association

April 2018

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This newsletter has been a long time coming. That, and being a couple of meetings behind schedule, is on me. Since the first of the year, with all the important issues and meetings to attend, the responsibility of representing WTA has become a full-time job. I am not complaining, however there is only so much time in a day and it becomes difficult to do the governance part of this position. It is easy to say that some of the duties could be delegated to others, but one has to put the representation of WTA first when duty calls. Returning phone calls and emails, plus attending meetings, won't wait! For an example of how my time is spent, between April 4 and 19, there was not be one day without WTA being my main focus.

On to different subjects. Representing WTA, I, along with Butch Smith of Coho Charters in Ilwaco and Chairman of the Salmon Advisory Sub-panel to the PFMC, are working on an idea to increase hatchery production of salmon and reverse the downward cycle the ocean is now in. Since 1992, there have been 160,000,000 salmon smolts taken out of production. In recent years, most of the problem with hatchery production has centered around lawsuits filed by the "wild salmon fanatics." At the same time, the immediate lack of salmon has led to Orca whale starvation and their being listed under the Endangered Species Act. Last November, Butch and I met with leaders of NOAA Fisheries and impressed upon them the need to increase salmon production to feed the Orcas. Our message seemed to hit home and NOAA Fisheries is on board with our idea, "Save The Orcas, Produce More Salmon!" That's just one of the projects where WTA is a key player.

This newsletter contains much information that is vital to your business. Hopefully, you will find it interesting and realize the amount of representation WTA members receive for their money. From building alliances with other groups to building and maintaining open lines of communication with local, state and federal representatives, WTA is recognized and respected on the state and federal levels. That did not happen by accident; it took a major investment of time.

As always, I welcome your emails and calls. Thank you for your continued support, and good fishing.

- Greg Mueller

WTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Butch Henry, F/V Evening

Ryan Johnson, F/V Dove

Executive Director

Greg Mueller

Executive Secretary

Mary Toal

EMAIL:

WASHINGTONTROLLERS@GMAIL.COM

RECAP OF THE NORTH OF CAPE FALCON APRIL MEETINGS

The NOF meetings ran from Wednesday, April 5, thru Thursday, April 11, 7 full days. While most of the main players went into the process with the thought of an outcome similar to the 2017 ocean season, it soon became evident that would not be a realistic expectation. The exploitation and harvest rate limitations NOAA Fisheries guidelines required left the ocean fisheries little wiggle room, so to speak. So you have some understanding of the problems the ocean harvesters and their representatives had to work through, I will try to explain.

1. The lower Columbia River wild tule forecast is for about 65,000 fish. That puts the ocean at a 38% exploitation rate, where in past years the forecast has been at or above 85,000 wilds, allowing the ocean a 41% exploitation rate. That is a major difference, considering the tule stock as a whole is the major contributor to the ocean Chinook harvest.
2. Queets Coho, again was a problem to be solved by the ocean fishery. As the Queets wild Coho have failed to meet escapement goals for 3 consecutive years, it is now in the over-fished category. Thankfully, with the line of communication that has been developed between some of the ocean users, plus former WDF&W Director Phil Anderson's relationship with the Quinault Treaty Tribe and intimate knowledge of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, the Quinault Indian Nation was a major player in this solution.
3. Grays Harbor Coho was a new problem to solve. The ocean only impacts 5% of these fish, plus they are a late returning run. This problem needed to be solved in-river, and again the Quinault Indian Nation stepped up to be a major player in the solution.
4. Mid Hood Canal Chinook, after disappearing from the scene for a couple of years, again presented a problem that needed to be solved. As non-treaty troll was responsible for 2% of the impacts on this stock, we were asked by the state managers to "help out." By lowering the sub area cap in area 1, and changing our spring-summer split from 75% spring, 25% summer to a 60%-40% split, our troll fishery was able to reduce our impacts .46%. Again, we did not have much to give. The Makah ocean troll reduced their impacts by going from a 50%-50% spring, summer split to a 40%-60% split. If the Chinook do not show up in the summer fishery as the last couple of years, we will be leaving much economic opportunity in the water.

Hopefully, most WTA members were able to follow the day by day happenings at the Portland council meetings with my nightly emails. Any questions can be referred to me. Thank you for your continued support.

-Greg Mueller, President and Executive Director
gregmueller@centurylink.net or 253-381-9713.

PFMC REPRESENTATION

Rather lump this information in with the PFMC recap and dilute the content, WTA feels it is important to give credit where credit is due. WDF&W'S management team members, who WTA works with during the year and especially during the PFMC process, is second to none. From Salmon Program Manager Ron Warren, Inter-Governmental Affairs Representative Kyle Adicks, Ocean Salmon Manager Wendy Beeghley, her assistant Kyle Van de Graff, Michele Culver, and the rest of the number crunchers, WTA thanks you for your dedication to the resource and fishing industry that depends on your leadership and educated experience to guide us through these difficult times. For those who were not in attendance during the season setting process to see, their genuine concern for the fishing industry that depends on salmon for their livelihoods, leaves little doubt where their alliance lies. This was a very difficult process for all involved, commercial, sport, and the Treaty Tribes. The outcome of the process was not anything anyone could have anticipated. This was not on WDF&W, but on unrealistic exploitation rates and escapement goals that we must live under, set by NOAA Fisheries. So, again, thanks to everyone involved in trying to make something out of nothing.

2016 DISASTER RELIEF

The number one question from WTA members is, "where do we stand on disaster relief for the 2016 season?" Well, here is where it stands as of now. Congress approved \$200 million in the budget passed in January, and the House added another \$20 million, making the total dedicated to disaster relief \$220 million. The affected that were impacted include: Alaska pink salmon, Washington coastal treaty and non-treaty salmon, California crab, and Florida and Texas marine losses. The funding is now in the hands of NOAA Fisheries as they determine how to divide the money. Once that has been determined, the funding will be distributed to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission which will determine the requirements needed to qualify for the funding and distribute it as was done in 2008.

This has been a long and trying process for our members affected by the 2016 season. On behalf of WTA, I and Butch Smith of Coho Charters in Ilwaco, have kept this issue at the forefront of our congressional delegation's attention. Sen. Cantwell and staff, our Congressional representatives Kilmer and Herrera Beutler and their staffs, have been the champions for our cause here in the state. With some financial support from WTA, Butch Smith went to Washington, DC, and did a very effective job of lobbying for the disaster relief funding and increased hatchery production of salmon. The best guess now is in about 45 days, we should have an idea of the funding Washington coastal salmon fishermen are entitled to receive. There is some talk between our Congressional representatives and the fishing industry to turn this process into a program as crop insurance. That would be an insurance program where the federal government covers 80% of the premium and the industry is responsible for the other 20%. This type of program would obviate the political discord that plagues the current process. All questions on this topic can be referred to Greg Mueller.

PFMC HALIBUT AND LINGCOD

Halibut—As the halibut long line survey showed a dramatic decline in halibut abundance for the 2018 season, the incidental troll portion of the TAC was reduced by about 4,000 pounds. So, in setting the incidental troll season and landing limits, WTA negotiated with Oregon, for a similar ratio and landing limit as the 2017 season, that is a 1 for free, 1 halibut for every 2 Chinook and a landing limit of 35. WTA's rationale revolved around the significant reduction in forecasted Chinook numbers. Oregon, on the other hand, held tight on their position of a 25 halibut landing limit as their halibut traditionally do not show up in any numbers until July. A 30 halibut landing limit seemed a rational compromise, however Oregon held tight to 25. WTA agreed to 25 with the stipulation that if the halibut poundage landed falls behind, Oregon will agree to a conference call increasing the landing limit. WTA ran this by ODF&W's Chris Kern and he was agreeable to the stipulation.

Incidental Ling Cod— This was a special project undertaken by WTA and CTA to take advantage of a rebuilt stock which has an economic value currently underutilized. Currently, trollers equipped with VMS are allowed 1 ling cod for every 15 Chinook with a landing limit of 10. What WTA asked the PFMC to consider was some flexibility in the ratio and landing limit similar to that for our incidental halibut. In a season like this, with Chinook numbers being down significantly, a 1 for 15 and a landing limit of 10 will likely be impossible to attain. This incidental ling cod fishery needs to be economically viable to attract participation and with the monthly subscription to the VMS program, currently it is not. WDF&W's Michele Culver offered an amendment on the council floor to change the ratio to a 1 ling cod for every 5 Chinook. The Ground Fish Management Team (GMT) will now analyze the proposal and we will continue to work on this project as ground fish management changes will come before the council in the 2019-2020 session. It might be added that the GMT gave our proposal enthusiastic support and guidance, which is encouraging going forward.

SALMON TROLL TAKE-HOME FISH

After recognizing problems with the previous regulation on take-home salmon for personal use, WTA entered into discussions with WDF&W Deputy Chief of Enforcement Mike Cenci, Captain Dan Chadwick, Ocean Troll Manager Wendy Beeghley, and others to clarify the existing law.

What came out of these discussions was not what any of us expected. A couple of anti commercial sport groups, the CCA and Tim Hamilton's Twin Harbors Alliance, fought our contention that the salmon we account for on a WDF&W fish ticket are our fish and are allocated to the NOF troll fishery through the Framework Management Plan and the PFMC process. What we do with them, as long as they are accounted for is our business. According to Deputy Chief Cenci, there is no current law that says a troller must sell his salmon to anybody!

Anyway the long and short of this is, after testifying before the WF&W Commission a couple of times, the Commission passed the current WAC on a 8 to 1 vote. So, WAC 220-354-030, Sale and Purchase of Commercial Caught Salmon, allows a troller to take home 3 salmon that are in season per delivery. This was a long drawn out process that was not anticipated and time consuming for all involved.

Please welcome these new WTA members:

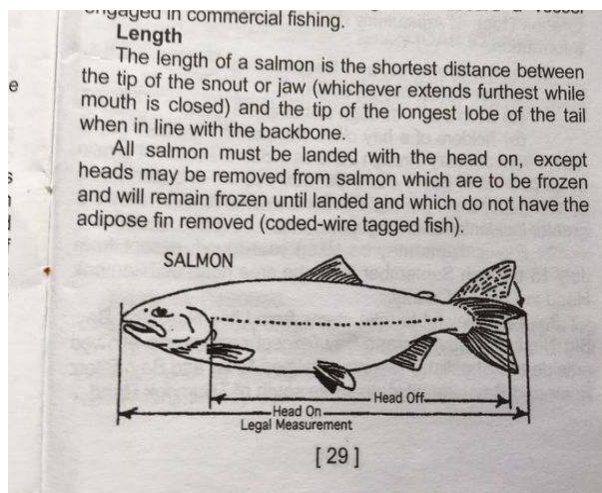
Andy Anderson, F/V Old School
Dana Smith
Richard Hagel, F/V NeahKahnie
Louis Javete, F/V Spencer
Erik Johnson, F/V Redeemer
Charles Wilson, F/V Kathy Ann

BILGE WATER DISCHARGE EXEMPTION

Sen. Maria Cantwell has sponsored a bill in congress, S1129, to permanently exempt fishing/small vessels from the EPA National Pollutant Discharge law, while still protecting our waterways from the threat of invasive species from ballast water discharges. There has been a stand alone bill languishing in congress that she sponsored to help our industry avoid having to obtain individual vessel exemption permits, however Carnival Cruise Lines had the bill stalled in congress wanting the same exemption for their ballast water, as the small (under 79 feet) fishing vessels. If passed it then goes to the President's desk for his signature and into permanent United States Coast Guard regulations. As our industry has been operating on 2-year exemptions with no guarantee of an extension, this is a big win. Senator Cantwell and her staff's responsiveness to the commercial fishing industry's concerns can not be overstated. She is always there when we need her.

Update: Just before this newsletter was printed, we learned that this bill failed to pass in a congressional vote. What this means is unclear at this time. There is a chance, depending on the level of Coast Guard enforcement, that each individual vessel owner will have to apply for an EPA exemption. We will update the membership as more information becomes available.

HOW TO MEASURE A SALMON



ENGLUND MARINE & INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY OPENS NEW WESTPORT STORE

Longtime supporters of WTA and the commercial fishing industry, the Englund family has made a major investment in not only the commercial fishing industry but also Westport and the surrounding community by opening a new store directly across from the Westport Chevron gas station, aka the "Hungry Whale." The new store is staffed by the 3 regulars — manager Paul Foster, Billy Burns, Jennifer Forbes — and new hire, Skip, who manages the warehouse. As the new store has a large warehouse, there will be little waiting for a truck to arrive from Astoria to fill your order. Also, the much larger store has an expanded product line to fill your every need to complete a project. No more running to Aberdeen for a tool or specialty item.

As you may have noticed, WTA's display rack with hats, mugs and current information is missing for the display floor. Paul wanted something somewhat classier for the new store, so retired WTA member Dick Good volunteered his time and cabinet making expertise to build a new display rack. His only request? A new WTA hat! Thank you, Dick.

Pulling a pot or boat trailer? There is a large gravel parking lot behind the store. Use the alley way against the chain link fence at the south end of the building to access the parking lot for additional parking.

Thank you again to the Englund family for their commitment to the fishing industry and Westport community.



ALBACORE UPDATE

Issues are moving slowly in the albacore world. As those who fish for albacore found out last summer, catches were very slow, but the late season price was very good. Approximately 8000 metric tons were delivered into the West Coast ports. That is down from an average of approximately 10,000 tons.

Last fall there was a workshop in Vancouver, BC, to start the process of developing a computer model called Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE). The MSE is designed to help the international managers to compare different international management harvest control rules (HCR) that will be used to develop national quotas for the countries that harvest North Pacific Albacore (NPA). Right now, the international scientists indicate the NPA is healthy and the only current control rule is not to let each country's effort increase over an average of the years of 2002 to 2004. Effort is currently undefined!! The first MSE model is currently being run and the results will be available this summer. With the NPA healthy, this process could take many years. However, if the NPA biomass should take a dip, this process will probably determine the available quota for the US Fishery. Also, the NMFS South West Science Center is just starting a NPA MSE model for the Eastern Pacific. I am not sure if we will live long enough to see the results of the above NPA MSE models. I sort of hope not, as we all know how inaccurate the salmon models work and we can count the number of spawning salmon!

There are a few bad rumors of cheap China albacore loins on the market that are driving down the prices of NPA. I hope there are a lot of hungry fish this summer. Last, the latest new regulation is that any vessel that has an HMS license is supposed to be registered with the IATTC. I have not yet found out how to register, and will get the word out to the membership when I do.

Doug Fricke

COHO ENCOUNTERS

To maximize our Chinook numbers with a very low Coho TAC, please avoid Coho encounters so as to not run out of Coho and thus leave very valuable Chinook in the water.

Having said that, again this year we will make available Coho logs, for tracking Coho encounters in May and June. WTA members who turn in their logs at the end of the summer will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Englund Marine gift card. WDF&W's Wendy Beeghley is interested in reviewing the data our members collect to help prove that we do not have the impacts the models "think" we have.

Please call or email Mary Toal if you would like a set of logs for this season.

2018 SEASON REGULATIONS

To save on paper and mailing costs, this year WTA is not mailing the final season regulations to all members, as we have in the past. If you do not have an email address, you will receive a hard copy with this newsletter. If you find this to be a hardship for you, please be in touch with Mary Toal, who will mail you a copy.

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/northfalcon/#ocean>

2018 HOOCHIE FUNDRAISER

This year's gear fundraiser will be a Silver Horde hoochie, SA22R, in an ultraviolet faded green color. WTA will not have the exclusive on these this year, as they will also be available at Englund Marine and Seattle Marine. At \$12.25 for a packet of 5, WTA will make a modest profit on those we sell directly to our members.

The hoochies will be available the first week of May. Supplies are limited, so please contact Greg Mueller or Mary Toal, either by phone or email, to reserve yours. If you are not in Westport, they can be mailed to you.

Thank you to Kim Reisbick for making this project happen again this year.

HEIDI & KIM REISBICK



FOR SALE

Faria WatchDog VMS unit. Touch screen monitor, antenna, cables, reference guide. Make an offer!

Inmarsat satellite phone, Pro Model. External antenna, cables, hard case. \$750/obo.

Rich Toal 206-459-3755

FISH PROCESSORS IN WESTPORT

With the recent addition of Mike Cornman, Owner/Manager of Westport Seafood Inc., the three major fish processors in Westport now support WTA as Associate members. Washington Crab Producers and South Bend Products are long-time Associate members and also participate in our 1% program. Both matched the 1% donated by our fishermen, and Dean Ancich at South Bend Products went so far as to donate 1% for every salmon he bought from WTA members, whether the fisherman donated a percentage or not. He called it “an investment in the future.” WTA is thankful for the support through the years from all our processor Associate members and their participation in the 1% program. In 2017, WTA received \$2741 from members participating in the program, and \$9119 from the processors. It is our hope that the representation you receive fits the investment in WTA. Thank you all!

STATE BUDGET AND POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

Greg Mueller was named as a member of the Budget and Policy Advisory Group in Olympia. The goal of this group is to find a sustainable funding source for Washington's Department of Fish and Wildlife. This group was mandated and funded by the legislature in an effort to solve a \$30 million budget shortfall for the Department in the next biennium. At the present time license fees that go directly to the Department and commercial landing fees that go into the general fund are not providing the income stream that ever increasing demand on the Department services requires. A couple of ideas that are being discussed are either a dedicated portion of the current sales tax or increasing the sales tax portion going to Department funding. Another thought is using a special millage on the property tax as a new funding source. Greg has made a 2 year commitment to be a voice in this process. In order for our industry to remain viable, we need a strong, well funded Department of Fish and Wildlife.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2018

- May 5 **Fishermen's Memorial Cleanup in Westport**
- May 26-27 **Weekend with the Fleet in Westport.** Volunteers are needed to staff the WTA booth. Please contact Mary Toal for further information.
- Late Sept. (TBD) **WTA Annual Meeting**
- Nov. (TBD) **Pacific Marine Expo, Seattle**

2019

- February 25 **Legislative Seafood Day in Olympia.** WTA members are asked to participate in this first-ever event on the grounds of the Capitol in Olympia by donating salmon, to be processed by Mike Cornman and Westport Seafood and frozen until the February event. Please contact Greg Mueller for further information.

WTA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – 2017-2018

We thank the following businesses for their support:

Ballard Sheet Metal Works, Inc. (Custom Fabrication for Fishing & Processing), Seattle	206-784-0545
Bill's Lead Balls, Bill Murray	360-262-9695
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
Dave's Diesel Repair, Dave Wall	360-268-6348
Englund Marine Supply Co. (Complete Marine Service), Astoria & Westport	360-268-9811
F/V Snapper Products	360-268-0294
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)	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 Fishing Magazine	206-324-5644
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
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
Wesmar Western Marine	425-481-2296
Westport Seafood, Inc. *	360-268-0133

*New in 2018

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.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

ITEMS:	QUANTITY:	COST:
Blue hat (adjustable)		\$20
Green hat (adjustable)		\$20
Red hat (adjustable)		\$20
Tan hat (adjustable)		\$20
WTA mug (new travel-mug style)		\$20
2018 WTA Hoochies Limited supply!		\$12.25 for 5
Black Hooded sweatshirt – heavy weight (M, L, XL-3XL)		\$50
Gray Hooded sweatshirt – light weight (M, L, XL, 2XL)		\$40
NEW! WTA Logo Jacket – two styles to choose from, fleece-lined “Bomber” or hooded Rain jacket. Mary Toal has samples available for sizing.		\$100 (custom-ordered)

Proceeds benefit the work of the WTA.

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 at 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 Individual and Business \$300 \$ _____

Retired \$50 \$ _____

One-percent (1%) Season donation, if not contributed through 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 \$12 \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Please complete this form and return it with your check payable to WTA, and mail to PO Box 1821, Westport WA 98595. Dues for individuals must have been paid by February 1, 2018, for members to be eligible to vote in 2018 port elections.

WASHINGTON TROLLERS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1821 Westport WA 98595

PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE