

February 2010

Washington Trollers Association

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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*

President's Message

In a little over two months, we should be able to start our 2010 salmon troll season. With the nice weather that we have had in February, I am anxious to get out on the ocean. The troll opportunity South of Falcon is really "iffy" this year. The 2009 returns to the Sacramento River system were at a record low last fall, but the 2010 predictions indicate a few harvestable chinook for this season. The troll opportunity South of Cape Falcon depends on harvestable chinook out of the Sacramento River system.

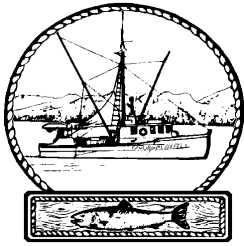
For North of Falcon we are looking for a significant increase in chinook harvest opportunity over the 2009 season. The lower Columbia chinook stocks which supply the biggest percentage of our catch are predicted to be considerably higher in 2010 than 2009. The coho prediction is down considerably from 2009, and we don't expect much opportunity on coho in 2010. We might even have to use our 6 inch plug gear restriction in July and August in order to avoid coho.

The other big issue going into the 2010 season is the F&W Commission directing the WDFW staff to make as many chinook and coho fisheries as possible into marked select harvest where we would only be able to keep the chinook that are marked with a missing adipose fin indicating that the chinook is hatchery raised. WTA is **not** in favor of mark select fisheries. We have a letter forward to the F&W Commission explaining why we oppose the chinook marked select harvest restriction for the ocean troll fishery.

At the January Board meeting,, WTA 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 2010. When you see the prices we have received for our troll salmon the last couple of years, this marketing program seems to be helping. 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 the budget deficit is the big issue. Issues like our off shore fuel tax exemption, license fees, and combining WDFW into DNR are keeping Ed busy. One non-budget issue that is progressing in WA and DC is called marine waters spatial planning. I have been involved in trying to protect fishing from being displaced by ocean reserves, wave energy, ocean aquaculture etc which the marine waters spatial planning will try to accomplish.

WDFW presents the 2010 salmon stock status on March 2, and that is the official start to the process of determining the 2010 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 2010 options. Anyone with opinions or the desire to participate is encouraged to attend our WTA Board meeting in Puyallup on the evening of March 5.



Season Forecast – Jim Olson

The 2010 troll season for Chinook looks to be better than the last couple of years. The reason is a strong 3yr class from Spring Creek Hatchery. Coho will be down from last year. The runs returning to the Columbia River are way down. We will have better numbers on March 2 when we meet with the state. This meeting is open to the public, and I hope we can have a number of trollers attend.

Chinook Stock Group	2010 Feb Forecasts	2009 Actual Returns	2009 Feb Forecasts
Lower River Hatchery—LRH	90600	76700	88800
Lower River Wild—LRW	9700	7500	8500
Bonneville Pool Hatchery—BPH	169000	49000	59300
Upriver Bright—URB	310800	212000	259900
Bonneville Upriver Bright—BUB	30300	39000	50000
Pool Upriver Bright—PUB	42300	34100	44400
Columbia River Total	652700	418300	510900

2010 Chinook Forecast

LRH - Best return since 2004 and slightly better than the 10-year average.
 LRW - Slightly improved over the last three years, but below 10-year average.
 BPH - Best return since 2004 and much greater than the 10-year average. 2009 return of jacks was record high. Age 3 fish are 91% of forecast.
 URB - Best return since 2004.. Strong return and greater than 10-year average. 2009 return of jacks was the highest in 23 years. Age 3 fish are 42% of forecast.
 BUB -Slightly less than 2009 actual return and 69% of the 10-year average.
 PUB - Similar to 10-year average.
 Total forecast of 652,700 Columbia River Fall Chinook is greater than the 10-year average and much greater than the 2009 actual return

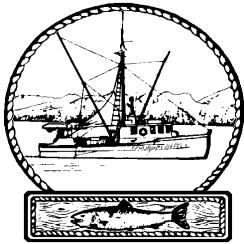
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 US v Oregon Technical Advisory Committee Sub-group

February 19, 2010

2009 Coho Abundance and 2010 Forecast

	2009			2010
	Pre	Post	Pre/Post	Forecast
Columbia River Early	672.7	681.4	99%	245.3
Columbia River Late	369.7	374.1	99%	144.2
Columbia River Subtotal	1042.4	1055.5	99%	389.5
Coast Subtotal	30.7	10.7	287%	18.7
Hatchery Total	1073.1	1066.2	101%	408.0
OCN Rivers	191.4	237.8	80%	131.4
OCN Lakes	20.2	19.2	105%	16.6
OCN Total	211.6	257	82%	148.0
Grand Total	1284.7	1323.2	97%	556.0





Letter on Marked-select Fisheries

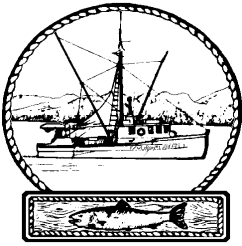
WFDW Commission
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear commissioners:

The Washington Trollers Association (WTA) represents the commercial salmon trollers that sustainably harvest salmon off of the WA Coast. We are the hook and line ocean commercial salmon harvesters that provide fresh ocean harvested salmon to the citizens of WA State. The WTA has been involved in the salmon recovery efforts for many years through our involvement with Recovery of the Columbia River Salmon Stocks, Regional Fishery Enhancement Groups, Hatchery Reform and other efforts. We have worked closely with WDFW and NMFS staffs in the Pacific Fishery Management Council process to sustainably manage our allowed harvest.

About 10 years ago, the WA salmon trollers along with the ocean recreational salmon fishermen, started a harvest management technique for our allowed coho fishery called marked select coho harvest. We have found out through the years that marked select coho harvest technique has dramatically increased the time available for the recreational fishermen to catch coho salmon. With the hooking stress and mortality, we are not convinced that the wild coho runs have really been helped. For the commercial salmon troller, our goal is to have an economically viable opportunity as well as provide fresh local salmon to the market. WTA has found that by retaining only the fin clipped hatchery coho, our retained catch per unit time is so slow that it is not economical for us to target only on hatchery coho. The last few years we have targeted ocean chinook as we have been able to retain all of the chinook that we hook. We have used various techniques such as closed areas to avoid listed chinook stocks such as listed Puget Sound Chinook. Our fishermen are very concerned that the Commission directive to manage all the salmon fisheries including chinook as a marked select fishery will make the ocean troll chinook fishery uneconomical for us to pursue.

Last year, WTA and WDFW initiated a pilot program using real time Genetic Stock Identification (GSI) to identify the wild stocks on the ocean that we are actually harvesting. We are hoping that by using real time GSI that we will be able to identify which wild stocks we are catching with the idea that we can avoid the listed stocks. Obviously, if we are required to release all fish with an adipose fin, we will not be able to continue the real time GSI project. The project last year showed that many of the chinooks that we caught were from healthy wild stocks or from hatchery production that originated from Coastal States facilities or Canadian facilities that we understand do not intend to mass mark their chinook production for harvest management. Canada, Alaska, Oregon, and California all have ocean salmon trollers harvesting similar ocean chinook stocks and we understand there is no foreseeable intent to utilize marked select chinook harvesting management regulations. Off the North WA Coast, the WA Trollers harvest significant Canadian chinook salmon from healthy Canadian stocks that are not marked for marked select fisheries. Obviously, we would be denied that portion of our harvest opportunity.



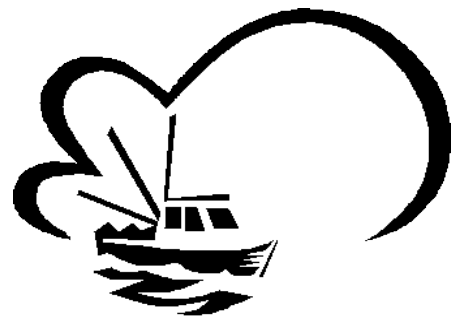
Marked-select Fisheries (cont'd.)

Another factor that is different in the chinook hooking versus the coho hooking is the multiple hooking that can occur with the chinook. Chinook are exposed to the multiple hooking because they stay in the ocean for 2 to 3 years longer than the coho. Right now the Pacific Fishery Management Council is going through an exercise to determine how much additional hooking mortality needs to be applied to reflect the harvest mortality for the marked select chinook fishery. Obviously, any additional hooking mortality will reduce the potential gains of a marked select chinook fishery requirement.

In conclusion, based on our marked select coho fishery experience, we feel a marked select chinook harvest requirement will create a situation where it will cost us more to harvest the chinook than we will make from the sale of the chinook. We understand that we need to remove as many of the hatchery fish from the biomass as possible and ask that you allow us to continue with the real time GSI program to see if we can further avoid the endangered listed chinook stocks in the ocean.

Sincerely,

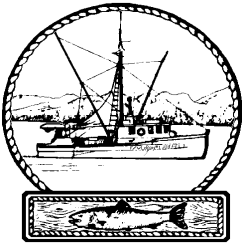
Douglas H. Fricke
President
Washington Trollers Association



Upcoming WTA Board Meetings

Friday, **March 5**, to discuss options for submittal to PFMC
Friday, **April 9**, to discuss results of March PFMC meeting
Meetings are held at the Puyallup Nazarene Church
1026 7th Ave. SW
Puyallup, WA 98371

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.



WTA Associate Members

Anderson Attorney-at-Law, Paul Anderson	(206)467-0237
Ballard Sheet Metal Works, Inc., Custom Fabrication for Fishing and Processing, Seattle	Fax:(206)784-0545
D & M Live Crab – Dave Wolfenbarger	(360)268-9319
Dyno Battery Co., Mfg. Electric Storage Batteries Seattle	(206)283-7450
Englund Marine Supply Co. Complete Marine Service, Astoria & Westport	(800)228-7051, (5360)268-9311
Fisherman's News, [Philips Publications] Fisherman's Terminal, Seattle	(206)282-7545
High Tide Seafoods, Buyer,Ernie Vail, owner; Port Angeles, Neah Bay, LaPush	Fax: (36360)452-8488
Hingston, Phil, of Jones, Kushman, Hingston Certified Public Accountant, Seattle	Fax: (2206)285-2777
Howard Moe Enterprises, Inc. Little Hoquiam Boats	(360)538-1622
Ikes's Fish, W.H. & Kiyoko Kendall	(360)697-6781
Islander Charters	(360)268-9166
Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Co., Inc.—Salmon Buyer; Pierre Marchand, owner/manager	Fax: (36360)648-3773
J & G Marine Supply, Don and Harold Jacobson, Tacoma	(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	F(360)385-4600
Pacific Fishing Magazine, Jon Holland, Editor www.pfmag.com	Fax: (206)324-8206 (206)709-1840
Pacific Net and Twine, Ltd., Richmond, BC, Frank Nakashima, Mgr	1(604)274-7328
Redden Net Co. (Steveston) Ltd., Richmond, BC, Canada	Fax(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)733-0120
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, Jnkai Monofilament Trolling Line and Gear, Mukilteo, WA	1(8425)347-7770
United Trollers Fund, Phil Hingston, Mgr., Seattle, WA	(206)285-4341
Washington Crab Producers, Bottom fish fillets, salmon, crab, shrimp, Seafoods-Wholesale-Retail, Westport, WA	(360)268-9161

WTA Retired Associate Members

Steve Spleen, Rick Andries, Richard Haugen, Ron Wawworth, Diane Jones, Louis Miller, Ragnar Nergaard, Augie Roehr, Sandy Sanquist, Sig Sela, Harm VanSlyke, and Jack Warren.

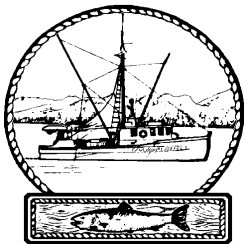
WTA Membership Application Form

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"/>	Seattle <input type="radio"/>	Tacoma <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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Association
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