

February 2014

Washington Trollers Association

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www.washingtontrollers.org

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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 political season has arrived. As your Board of Directors strives to deliver a superior level representation on multiple fronts, it is imperative that the general membership pass your ideas and comments to your Board. As we start the North of Falcon process, the Board will be particularly interested in comments concerning the 2013 troll season and improvements to the 2014 ocean troll fishery.

WTA's next Board meeting is February 28 starting about 6:00 pm. We have moved the board meetings to Hawks Prairie as to be more accessible to our members from Westport and Ilwaco. You are encouraged to attend. This is always one of the longest and most informative meetings of the year. Details are available on the WTA web site: www.washingtontrollers.org.

The GOOD news: Preliminary ocean forecasts for 2014 North of Falcon (NOF) appear to offer the ocean troll fleet an above average to excellent season depending on fishing effort in Southeast Alaska and the West Coast of Vancouver Island. Preseason forecasts call for 1,602,100 Chinook into the Columbia River as compared to an actual return of 1,266,400, (686,900 forecast), in 2013. This would represent the largest Chinook run into the river since 1938! The all important Lower River Wild Chinook expects a return of 34,200 versus an actual return of 25,800, (14,200 forecast) in 2013. It remains to be seen what effect Mid Hood Canal Chinook will play in ocean harvest in areas 3 and 4. That stock was responsible for the caps in Areas 3 and 4 in 2013.

The coho forecast appears equally as strong calling for 964,100 coho into the Columbia River as compared to an actual return of 301,500, (501,100 forecast) in 2013. Total ocean abundance NOF for 2014 is for 1,213,700 as compared to an actual return of 445,300 in 2013.

The forecast meeting with WDF&W staff is set for March 3, 9:00 AM, Dept. of Natural Resources Bldg, room 172, same as last year. WTA will be well represented. You are welcome to attend.

On the halibut front, harvest poundage will be little changed from 2013 in area 2A, Washington, Oregon, and California. **Halibut permits must be submitted no later than March 17, 2014.**

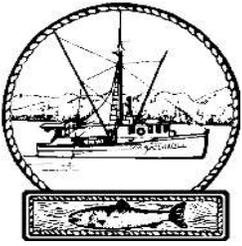
WTA's PFMC North of Falcon team (consisting of Mike Ziara, Gene Fisher, Joe Dazey and myself) will be in Sacramento, CA. at the PFMC meetings March 6 -13.

You probably received a 2014 troll survey similar to the one last year. This time around your Board of Directors has asked individual WTA members NOT to participate. WTA will give one response from comments received from our members and hand deliver to WDF&W staff. The main reason for this course of action? WTA was not asked to participate in the composition of the survey nor were we privilege to the original results of the 2013 survey as requested! Enough said.

In WTA business matters, the board still needs to find a sustainable income stream to fund WTA's activities and responsibilities to its members. The 1% program is currently falling short of the income needed to carry out increased responsibilities. Raise the dues? WTA's dues structure is at the extreme low end of other commercial fishing organizations. Member comments are welcome.

On a final note, chairperson of the WDF&W Fish and Wildlife Commission, Miranda Wecker's conformation hearing was attended by WTA. The Senate Natural Resources Committee took her testimony, March 20, in Olympia and a vote by the committee will be scheduled in the next week or so. Comments are still being taken by the committee. She is opposed by all commercial fishing organizations and at least one charter association. Under her lead, the F&W Commission has undertaken one of the largest reallocations of resource in recent history while failing to open constructive lines of communication with commercial entities. WTA strongly opposes her confirmation.

Greg Mueller, President



Albacore News – Doug Fricke

The government bureaucracy is finally moving forward on a decision about how the US/Canada albacore treaty will be handled in 2014 and beyond. There was a meeting in Vancouver Canada in January for the two Countries' delegations to discuss potential considerations on how to move forward. We want to thank Rodney McVicker for attending the meeting on behalf of WTA. About all they decided was to meet again in the first week of April to get to substantial discussion on how to proceed in 2014 and beyond. As per our discussion at the WTA Annual Meeting, the WTA position remains to push the US Government to go for elimination of any mutual fishing opportunity for albacore in each other's EEZ ASAP. Since our WTA Annual Meeting in November, I have heard some member comments that maybe we might want to reconsider our WTA position and suggest something that would allow US access to the Canadian EEZ to fish albacore in the future. Unless heard otherwise I will be representing the position to eliminate mutual access as soon as possible. This will likely be a major discussion at the PFMC meeting in the second week of March in Sacramento, CA.

My report in the fall 2013 newsletter follows:

“Since our last WTA meeting, the PFMC made an aggressive attempt to get the international managers to design potential harvest control rules if the North Pacific albacore biomass becomes depleted below a determined level. Industry is very opposed to the actions by the PFMC and fortunately at the international meetings this summer, the PFMC initiative was basically ignored. Industry's position is that it is premature to design harvest control rules when the international scientist haven't agreed to a biomass level that will threaten sustainability (called limit and target biological reference points. Industry is really concerned about the increase in Chinese vessels that are harvesting albacore and dumping on the Europe market. The Chinese production appears to be the reason for the low brine price this year.”

The only new development is that it has become more apparent this winter that the Chinese fleet is definitely increasing in numbers and catch of albacore. This is a clear violation that countries are not to increase their effort on albacore beyond the 2002 to 2004 level as agreed to at the international RFMO (Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission) We will know more how this is going to be handled by the US Government as it will be a major topic at the March PFMC meeting.

WEfish – Molly Bold

WEfish, a new non-profit based out of Westport, WA, is hosting a kick-off event set for March 23rd, 4:30pm at the Westport Winery. The event will serve as an open house & sign-up opportunity for those inquiring about the goals of WEfish. The kick-off will host a guest speaker, Michele Longo Eder from Newport, OR. Michele is a commercial fisherman's wife, and an attorney, who represents fishing families and their interests. She is also the author of the award-winning book, *Salt in Our Blood: The Memoir of a Fisherman's Wife*

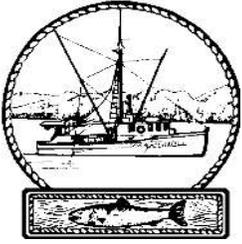
WEfish started in the fall of 2013, when group of individuals began meeting to discuss their interest in supporting the local commercial fishing community in the Westport, WA area. What began as an effort to form a traditional fishermen's wives association in Westport, quickly transformed into an effort to support fishing families & community through promotion, education, outreach, and service. The name “WEfish” is designed to represent all associated with the fishing industry- families, businesses, and fishermen. WEfish is a collective effort to serve the fishing community on a social level. Our goal is to promote the economic value of this massive industry of which we hear so little, and to refresh and regain the sense of community pride that comes from generations of hard work and heritage.

WEfish is a fishery-wide, non-political group. Both men & women are welcome. Whether you are interested in reviving a lost-fishermen's fund, finding opportunities to educate people on the value of commercial fishing, representing commercial fishing at local community events, or simply putting a family face on commercial fishing- this is the organization for you!

As a brand new organization, the goal of the kick-off event is to invite the community to join our efforts of supporting, promoting and serving the commercial fishing industry. We hope to generate membership, get people excited about their heritage, and create an easy, fun opportunity for people to both support and become involved in the industry.

WEfish is registered with the state as a non-profit, is working on their 501c status, and is lead by a board of directors and standard by-laws. Joining WEfish is \$50 for individual/ family, \$100 for a business, and \$500+ for a corporate sponsorship. All funds go toward support the goals of WEfish.

For any further information, contact Molly Bold 360.581.5658, Laura Roehrich 360.589.1440, or email wefish.washington@gmail.com



Coalition Report – Doug Fricke

We now have 16 seafood harvesting groups in the Coalition of Coastal Fisheries (Coalition) to include crabbers, charters, longliners, seiners, oystermen, trollers, etc. The Coalition has been working to show a united front on issues that affect our industry. Some of the issues that we have been working on in 2013 include influencing the WF&W Commission to treat commercial and recreational fisheries equally, support the gillnetters to maintain their fishery on the Columbia River, and get more flexibility in the Magnuson Act renewal. However, the biggest current issue for the Coalition is the zoning of the EEZ for purposes other than fishing such as wave and wind energy, reserves, and oil exploration. These proposed federal actions are called Marine Spatial Planning and are part of the President’s Ocean Management Initiative. Oregon is on the verge of losing many square miles of fishing grounds to wind and wave energy projects in some of our prime fishing grounds. Through individuals in the Coalition and our lobbyist in Olympia, we have been able to prevent losing fishing grounds off of WA. Last year, the Coalition was able to get legislation passed that set up an advisory group to the Governor on coastal issues. Now we are fighting to make sure the Governor’s advisory group is not taken over by the Olympia Agencies.

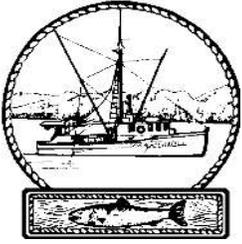
The Coalition has been very active in the issues noted last fall. In addition the renewal of the Magnuson Act and the Vessel Discharge Exemption Permit have become very pressing issues. On the Magnuson Act Renewal, not only is the Coalition working with fishing groups all around the nation to get more flexibility for species recovery and more consideration for coastal fishing economies, Joe Dazey went to DC and advocated for changes helpful for our fishing industry. (See Joe’s Report.) It will not be easy to get the changes as the environmental community has come out opposing most of our suggested changes. On the vessel discharge permit exemption, a favorable Bill to permanently give the exemption to commercial fishing vessels has been attached to the Coast Guard Re-authorization Act which I think gives this a good chance to become law.

Lastly, the Coalition has added supporting members to include Ports of Grays Harbor and Ilwaco, Englund Marine Supply, Westport Seafood Inc., Masco Petroleum, and Ocean Gold. This gives the Coalition that much more influence in Olympia and DC.

WTA Hats and Mugs

Blue Hat		_____	\$20	_____
Green Hat		_____	\$20	_____
Red Hat		_____	\$20	_____
Tan w/ blue Bill		_____	\$20	_____
WTA Mug		_____	\$20	_____
WTA Hoochies	Blue& White 5 per pack	_____	\$10	_____
			Total	_____

Mail to: WTA
PO Box799
Kingston, WA 98346



COLUMBIA RIVER FALL CHINOOK

• 2014 PRESEASON FORECASTS

Stock Group	2013 February Forecasts	2013 Actual Returns	2013 February Forecasts
Lower River Hatchery - LRH	88,888	103,200	110,000
Lower River Wild - LRW	14,200	25,800	34,200
Bonneville Pool Hatchery - BPH	38,000	86,600	115,100
Upriver Bright - URB	432,500	784,100	973,300
Bonneville Upriver Bright - BUB	35,200	35,600	49,500
Pool Upriver Bright - PUB	70,000	207,800	310,600
Select Area Bright - SAB	9,000	23,300	10,200
Columbia River Total	686,900	1,266,400	1,602,900

2014 Forecasts

LRH – Similar to the 5-year average (95,500) and 2013 actual return.

LRW –Largest return since 1989. More than double the 10 year average (13,600)..

BPH – About 40% greater than the 10 year average (80,700).

URB –Nearly 1 million fish:)

BUB –About 35% greater than the 10 year average (36,500).

PUB – Record high forecasted return. Highest actual return on record was 207,800 in 2013.

The total forecast of 1,602,600 Columbia River Fall Chinook would be the largest return on record since 1938.

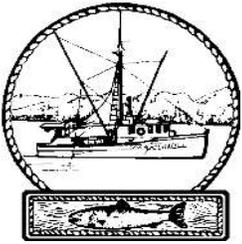
February 13, 2014

•Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee Sub-group

Coho

	2013			2014
	Pre	Post	Pre/Post	Forecast
Columbia River Early	331.6	190.9	174%	526.6
Columbia River Late	169.5	110.7	153%	437.5
Columbia River Subtotal	501.1	301.5	166%	964.1
Coast Subtotal	24.3	15.4	158%	19
Total (OPI-H)	525.4	316.9	166%	983.1
OCN Rivers	165.1	113.9	145%	213.4
OCN Lakes	25.9	14.5	179%	17.2
OCN Total	191.0	128.4	149%	230.6
Grand Total	716.4	445.3	161%	1,213.7

OPITT February 5, 2014



Director's Notes – Sue Dazey

We are now into a new financial year and have been both wrapping up 2013 and gearing up for the 2014 season. Specifically, we have now collected all the 1% contributions from both buyers and individuals. We note that the trend is for less matching from buyers and since 1% contributions from both members and buyers is a key income element of our budget, the board will be reviewing the whole 1% program this spring. Also, we have now received and paid out all GSI funds for the 2013 season. Since this all happened in 2014, members will receive their 1099 tax statements on funds they received for their 2014 taxes along with whatever they receive for samples done in the 2014 season. Watch for more information on the 2014 GSI program as we get closer to the season. It looks like funding will be in place although this year WTA will be working directly with NOAA and the State will not be a part of the process as in the past.

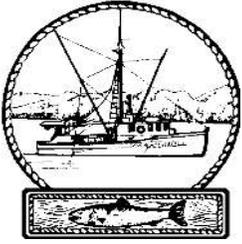
Elsewhere, at the request of the Board, WTA sent a donation of \$250 to the Seattle Fishermens' Memorial Scholarship Fund in the memory of long-time member Gary Graham. We received a thank you card from his daughter Karen Graham Dennis expressing appreciation from the Dennis family.

This past month the Board sent Joe to Washington DC to testify to the Senate Committee on the re-authorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act on behalf of WTA. This presentation went well, and they also have his written presentation in the records..

Regarding dues for 2014, you will note an added line on your renewal form asking if you want to continue your complimentary subscription to Fishermen's News or Pacific Fisherman. This is a great perk WTA offers, with the cooperation of those publications each of which gives us a very low rate on subscriptions for members. However, we want to be sure we're not paying for something you don't want or need, so please just indicate your preference when you renew. You can receive both if you wish by adding \$7 to your dues. Please be aware that in order to vote in port meetings and to be eligible to run for the board, your dues must be current. "Anniversary dates" are set at the first day of the month due, which is reflected in your receipt. You should receive a reminder just before your anniversary date comes around, but should you want to renew ahead of time, the date won't change, and your membership will continue into the next year with the same date (i.e. you don't lose anything by paying ahead).

North of Falcon Schedule

February 28	WTA Board meeting River Ridge Covenant Church, Olympia starting at 6:00pm
March 3	Preseason Forecast Meeting starting at 900am Room 172, Natural Resources Bldg 1111 Washington St SE Olympia, WA
March 7-13	PFMC season options meeting Double Tree Hilton, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA 95815
March 19	First North of Falcon meeting starting at 9:00am Room 172, Natural Resources Bldg, 1111 Washington St SE, Olympia, WA
March ?	WTA local port meetings. Date and time to be determined.
March 24	PFMC Public Hearing starting at 7:00pm Chateau Westport, 710 W Hancock, Westport, WA 98595
March 27	WTA Board meeting River Ridge Covenant Church, Olympia starting at 6:00pm
April 3	Second North of Falcon meeting starting at 9:00am Room 172, Natural Resources Bldg, 1111 Washington St SE, Olympia, WA
April 4-10	PFMC season setting meeting Hilton Vancouver Washington, 301 W 6th St, Vancouver, WA 98660



MSA Re-authorization – Joe Dazey

On January 30, I had the opportunity to testify before the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard (long title). This subcommittee has held a number of hearings to get expert testimony on regional perspectives on MSA re-authorization. With only five minutes to make my presentation, I focused on four points:

1. Get more flexibility on stock rebuilding programs.
2. Change the misleading term “overfishing” to “depleted”.
3. Change the requirement for annual catch limits so that our negotiators to international treaty discussions aren't overly constrained.
4. Encourage more collaborative research.

Doc Hastings, chairman of the House Resources Committee has a draft “discussion” re-authorization bill that has been circulated to interested parties. I took the parts from his bill most pertinent to salmon and albacore fishermen on the West Coast and checked with the OR Salmon and Albacore Commissions and the California Salmon Council to make sure my views were generally shared.

I also attended an MSA Re-authorization workshop in Seattle put on by the Center for Sustainable Fisheries. The main thrust was to generate support for rewriting the ten national standards. Brian Rothschild has impressive credentials (PhD, had a hand in writing the original act, former head of SWRSC and deputy head of NWRSC, etc.) and had good arguments for his proposed changes. He supports collaborative research. He doesn't think changing “overfished” to “depleted” will affect how fisheries are managed. I agree with this, but it would help change public perception. He did have proposed language in his new national standards that would change how stock status is evaluated and would allow something similar to abundance-based management.

OK, he made some good points and has me rethinking my position. His approach constitutes a major re-write of MSA, an approach that to this point has gained more sympathy on the East Coast than here. He proposed reducing the national standard from 10 to 5 or at least giving them all equal priority. At the moment NMFS is using NS1 to make harvest shoulder the burden. He would like to take more time and get it “right” rather than just push something through. Hastings would like more of a fast track (he's retiring soon) while I think Cantwell would prefer a more deliberate approach.

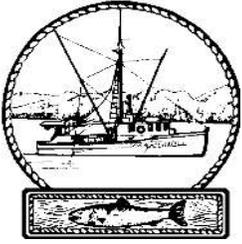
Rothschild's plan does not address the blanket exemption to EPA that Hastings is proposing. As I've said before, I don't expect that part to get through. The environmentalist groups would prefer to minimize the changes to MSA, particularly with exemptions to ACLs and rebuilding programs, things Rothschild supports.

I want to thank Senator Cantwell for inviting WTA to testify before the subcommittee. She has been supportive of fisheries and a leader on ocean acidification issues. You can find a video of the hearing at this web site:

<http://www.c-span.org/video/?317504-1/hearing-federal-fisheries>

WTA Retired Associate Members

Steve Spleen, George Walden, Steve Norwood, William Sipila, Gerald Brummond
Larry Engblom, Richard Ramsey



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
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 - suppliers of Talbor troll floats	((360) 652-4200
F/V Snapper Products	(360) 268-0342
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
Icicle Seafoods, Lew Warner, Dillingham, AK	(907) 842-5204
Ikes's Fish, WH. & 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	(866) 233-1422
Sampo Inc., Manufacturing Terminal Tackle/Fishing and Marine Supplies, Bameveld, 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
WFM 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 - Troll salmon 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

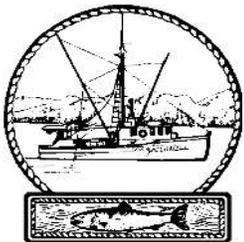
WTA Membership Application Form

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 (choose 1):	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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Kingston, WA 98346

February 2014