

February 2015

Washington Trollers Association

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President's Message

Where to begin, so let's start with the very good news. WE WON! Not the Super Bowl, darned, but we defeated another attempt at sport priority by the "for fun fishermen." This the fifth time in my thirty years of fish politics that this has occurred, 1987 and 1989, in the legislature and initiatives 640 and 696 in the late 1990's. Senate Bill 5844 and House Bill 1660 had they passed would have stopped all commercial fisheries until the "for fun fisheries" had been satisfied. Scary thought for the commercial fishers, their families and the coastal communities they support. The commercial fishing industry pulled together and was able to bottle this bill up in committee where it died. Make no mistake, the sporties put extreme pressure on our Representative Brian Blake to give this bill a hearing in the House Fish & Wildlife Committee but he held fast and refused to give HB 1660 a hearing. He will need commercials utmost support in his next re-election bid. Although sport priority is dead for this session of the legislature, it will rear it's ugly head again next year. We need to remain strong! SB 5818 which would have reconfigured the makeup of Fish & Wildlife Commission to give commercials better representation also died in committee. However, the plan is to reintroduce it next session with improved language. Next session we go on the offensive in the legislature!

Another big win was brought on by concerns WTA brought to the Department of Natural Resources attention surrounding the Derelict Vessel legislation which became law January 1, 2015. The Ports of Grays Harbor,(Robin), and Ilwaco,(Guy), were also instrumental in getting DNR to hold off implementing the mandatory liability and pollution insurance portions of the law for commercial fishermen until a solution can be found for uninsurable vessels. Also of concern to Matthew Randazzo of DNR was the fact the added costs associated with law had the potential to put many hard working people out of business which in turn would impact the coastal communities. So, as it stands now, you will NOT need to carry insurance if you moor on the coast. WTA and the ports will be working to find a solution that satisfies all affected parties, and the time frame is one to two years down the line. The genuine concern shown by Matthew Randazzo of DNR on this issue is greatly appreciated.

On the not so good of news front, there will be some form of commercial,(and sport), license fee increase. WDFW calls it a surcharge and as it stands now, it will consist of a 50% increase in the current permit fee and a 50% increase in the landing tax. A new John Doe crew license will also be added. As former Director Phil Anderson explained at our annual meeting, this is to keep staffing, enforcement, and hatchery production at current levels as the Department's budget has been reduced by 15% in general fund money. Those in attendance at our annual meeting voted to support the Department's position on this surcharge. WTA has been involved in discussions with the Fish & Wildlife in finding an equitable solution to this funding problem.

The board meeting scheduled for March 3. WTA's North of Falcon team will be seeking input from the membership concerning our up coming 2015 NOF ocean troll season. There is a possible problem on the horizon in that we went over on tulle impacts last spring during that bite below the Columbia River. Our ocean troll manager Doug Millward brought this to WTA's attention with the possible side effect being NMFS shutting our season down and that's a real possibility. We don't want that so in case NMFS makes an issue out of this, we need to have a plan in place and not have NMFS dictate a plan for us. We need to control what we can control. This is an important meeting, please set the day aside and plan to attend.

The amount of support shown for WTA especially since the dues increase has been gratifying to say the least. WTA has a strong membership base, we are gaining new members and is in a very strong financial position. We will need strong resources in members and finances to fight the battles on the horizon. The membership needs to know that they are receiving their money's worth in representation and your Board of Directors works to assure you do.

Greg Mueller

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*

Jonathon Moore *F/V Ocean Belle*

Westport:

Kory Murphy *F/V Gallows Point*

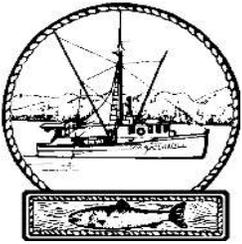
Butch Henry *F/V Evening*

Executive Directors:

Sue and Joe Dazey

Editor:

Joe Dazey



Executive Director's Notes

We are going along pretty smoothly at the moment, as we look towards important meetings coming up, such as port meetings, WTA Board meetings, North of Falcon meetings, and the two rounds of PFMC. We encourage any WTA members to attend whichever of these you possibly can. Numbers count! Joe and I will be attending the second round of PFMC meetings in April. We need support from the fleet. The importance of these meetings cannot be overemphasized. Decisions at these meetings are at the very core of how the troll fishery continues to exist (or not) in our state. If you're unsure of times and dates, just give us or Greg a call and we'll point you the right direction.

Following the last Board meeting, I went ahead and sent an annual donation to the Coastal Coalition as in previous years. They continue to be a very strong advocate for our fisheries and coastal communities. The Board also voted to join WEFISH, a new non-profit based in Westport, supporting trolling families and the well-being and image of trolling families and communities. I sent them a check for a membership for WTA for the year. The Board also encouraged members to become individual members. For information find WEFISH online (<https://www.facebook.com/family.community.legacy>) or contact Molly Bold in Westport.

Regarding GSI, all the 1099's have been sent out. Again, we were pleased to be able to distribute \$42,480 of NOAA grant dollars directly to fishermen for a total of 2124 at-sea samples in the 2014 season. This grant also covered WTA's annual insurance premium so while there was no other monetary gain for WTA, it did have that benefit. Preparations for the coming season, including distribution of kits will likely happen in April. It will all run about the way it did last season, with Joe managing the program. Check with him for any questions.

Our new dues process is going well, and after this year everything will run on a calendar year with the new dues schedule. We have had virtually no complaints and many have donated a little something extra. We'll continue the 1% program, as it contributes about a third to our budget income. Thanks to all who continue to support WTA, both with individual memberships, retirement memberships, and our many associate business members. Be sure to check those out in your newsletter and remember they would appreciate your patronage. Tell them you're a WTA member too!

Watch for notice of the local port meetings in this newsletter. If your dues are up to date (as of Feb. 1, 2015) this is your opportunity to voice your opinion on issues, seasons, and vote for your WTA Board representatives from your port.

And just one last note—Joe and I will continue as Executive Director until a replacement is found this year. However, our retirement plans are developing, and we do hope a serious search is on.

Now, other than attending meetings, most of us need to get back to getting our boats ready for the next season.

Best regards, Sue Dazey

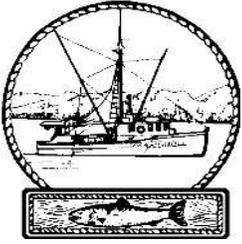
The early pre-season forecasts for Chinook and Coho are included in this newsletter. It is conditionally good news for trollers. In addition to the tables, early indications are that the Tule returns will allow us to fish at the 41% exploitation rate. Problems could and probably will arise from Puget Sound stocks like Hood Canal. So far there is no news regarding Thompson River Coho, but given the poor condition of the river, this may be the limiting stock on North End coho fishing. I mention this because these topics will come up at PFMC meetings. The season-setting process is complicated, and it takes a while to get up to speed, but several of our PFMC team members are retiring soon, very soon in some cases. It's critical for the survival of our fishery that some new members step up, attend meetings, and learn the process. If you have strong feelings about trip limits, area closures and sub-quotas, Spring/Summers splits and other issues that affect your fishery, now it the time to start getting involved. We need members to attend the first PFMC meeting in Vancouver even if only for a day or two. The second PFMC meeting is in California and takes a full week of our representatives time, but if we're not there, someone else will call the shots. WTA will help with expenses. And the meeting ends on April 16. Those planning to fish Oregon, won't need to miss much if any time.

The 2015 GSI sampling program has been funded. I have 16 sampling kits available for use. We'll pay \$20/sample, the same as the last two years. It isn't difficult, and doesn't take much extra time. Samplers from past years have found it financially rewarding. If you're interested, get in touch with me, and I'll put you on the list. Last year I assigned kits to individual boats so that it was easy to keep track of where the kits were. This worked well. Everyone who wanted a kit got one, and while not everyone used their kit, we got enough samples to make the project a success.

This will likely be the last year for GSI sampling under the current funding source. I, along with other representatives of the west coast salmon industry, made a trip to DC to lobby for an additional three years of funds. If we're successful, the sampling could continue through 2018. If that's the case, I'll be looking for a replacement GSI coordinator.

The next Board meeting is on March 3 in Westport. You're welcome to attend.

Cheers, Joe



COLUMBIA RIVER FALL CHINOOK

• 2015 PRESEASON FORECASTS

Stock Group	2014 February Forecasts	2014 Actual Returns	2015 February Forecasts
Lower River Hatchery - LRH	110,000	101,800	94,900
Lower River Wild - LRW	34,200	25,800	18,900
Bonneville Pool Hatchery - BPH	115,100	127,000	160,500
Upriver Bright - URB	973,300	684,200	500,300
Snake River Wilds - SRW	64,600		20,900
Bonneville Upriver Bright - BUB	49,500	33,900	26,800
Pool Upriver Bright - PUB	310,600	169,900	86,500
Select Area Bright - SAB	10,200	16,500	12,300
Columbia River Total	1,602,900	1,159,000	900,200

2015 Forecasts

LRH – Similar to the 5-year average (100,700).

LRW – Similar to the 5-year average (18,000).

BPH – Highest since 2004.

URB – Third highest return and similar to the 5-year average (482,300)

BUB – Similar to the 5-year average (27,900).

PUB – Third highest return on record.

The total forecast of 900,200 Columbia River Fall Chinook would be the third largest return since 1938 and greater than the 5-year average.

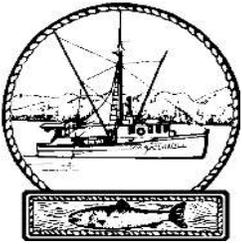
February 13, 2015

•WDFW, U.S. v Oregon Technical Advisory Committee Sub-group

Coho

	2014			2015
	Pre	Post	Pre/Post	Forecast
Columbia River Early	526.6	760.5	69%	515.6
Columbia River Late	437.5	480.3	91%	261.8
Columbia River Subtotal	964.1	1,240.8	78%	777.1
Coast Subtotal	19.0	22.8	83%	31.3
Total (OPI-H)	983.1	1,263.6	78%	808.4
OCN Rivers	213.4	377.9	56%	188.4
OCN Lakes	17.2	25.4	68%	18.2
OCN Total	230.6	403.3	57%	206.6
Grand Total	1,213.7	1,666.9	73%	1,015.0

OPITT February 5, 2015



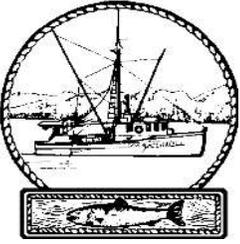
WTA Hats and Mugs

Blue Hat		_____	\$20	_____
Green Hat		_____	\$20	_____
Red Hat		_____	\$20	_____
Tan w/ blue Bill		_____	\$20	_____
WTA Mug		_____	\$20	_____
WTA Spoons	2014 style or New style. 1 doz.	_____	\$60	_____
			Total	_____

Mail to: WTA
PO Box 799
Kingston, WA 98346

North of Falcon Schedule

March 2	Preseason Forecast Meeting starting at 900am Room 172, Natural Resources Bldg 1111 Washington St SE Olympia, WA
March 3	WTA Board meeting, Lunch at Noon, Meeting starts at 1:00pm Islander Restaurant, Westport, WA
March 6-12	PFMC season options meeting Hilton Vancouver Washington, 301 W 6th St, Vancouver, WA 98660
March 18	First North of Falcon meeting starting at 9:00am Office Bldg 2 Auditorium, 1115 Washington St SE, Olympia, WA
March 30	PFMC Public Hearing starting at 6:00pm Location to be determined.
April 1	Second North of Falcon meeting starting at 9:00am Embassy Suites Hotel, 20610 44 th Ave W. Lynnwood, WA
April 2,3 & 4	WTA local port meetings. Date and time to be determined. Check the web site for updates.
April 7	WTA Board meeting, Lunch at Noon, Meeting starts at 1:00pm Islander Restaurant, Westport, WA
April 4-10	PFMC season setting meeting Doubletree Hilton Sonoma, Rohnert Park, CA



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) 268-0342
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 – 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
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, Richard Ramsey, Bill Wilson, Richard Ramsey

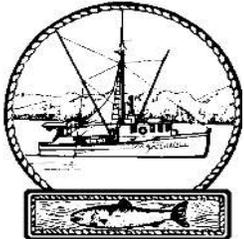
WTA Membership Application Form

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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