

March 2013

Washington Trollers Association

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Attachment

Season NoF Troll Options

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*

Port Angeles:

Joe Dazey *F/V Diamond Lil*

Ilwaco:

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

Westport:

Kory Murphy *F/V Gallows Point*
Butch Henry *F/V Evening*

Executive Directors:

Sue and Joe Dazey

Editor:

Joe Dazey

President's Message

Greetings.

The first step in the Pacific Fisheries Management Council process has been completed (March 6-11), and three options for the 2013 commercial salmon ocean troll seasons have been adopted and put out for public comments. After contentious negotiations with the same small group that attempted a hostile takeover of WTA, the vast majority prevailed, and all three options contained an historic 2/3 Spring – 1/3 Summer split at current harvest levels. WTA had six representatives attending these Council meetings, and as power comes through numbers, we were able to prevail over a small minority trying to present their personal agendas as representing the view of the majority of the fleet.

Option I has a troll total allowable catch (TAC) of 50,000 Chinook and will only be attainable if Washington receives some relief from other sources. Exploitation rates on Lower Columbia River Tules are at 43.3%, and managers need to get that down to 41% or less. Canada's harvest regime on the West Coast of Vancouver Island will be a big player in the 50,000 Chinook harvest level. WTA thanks the salmon mangers lead by WDFW Director Phil Anderson, Pat Patillo, Doug Milward, and Wendy Beeghley for their dedication to the Washington salmon industry and diligent work toward securing a profitable season.

The halibut front is less encouraging. Starting in 2014, Oregon will be able to start keeping incidental halibut on April 1. Oregon fishermen will be able to retain halibut a full month before the rest of Area 2A. This is neither fair nor equitable. In order to prevent Oregon from over harvesting, WTA is pushing forward with a proposed cap of 1500lbs on Oregon's April fishery through the PFMC process.

Halibut permit renewals must be submitted by March 31, 2013. These are automatically mailed to fishermen who landed halibut in 2012. Applications are also available on both from WTA (email jdazey@centurytel.net) and the IPHC web site (www.iphc.int).

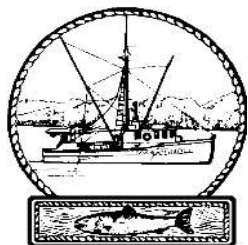
Doug Fricke was elected chairman of the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel of PFMC. WTA is the only association to vote to terminate the US-Canada Albacore Treaty. Negotiations with Canada are ongoing. However, WTA's concerns last Spring that the federal government would impose an agreement could still become a reality as albacore fishermen are termed "small potatoes" by the State Department. Doug's background and continued interest in the albacore fishery serve WTA and the fleet well.

WTA was founded to give representation to the professional fleet. Through the years WTA has provided not just representation, but a superior level of representation. As WTA's base interests have have increased from salmon troll to include halibut and albacore, so have expenses. (continued on Page 2)

Local Port Meetings

Ilwaco – March 22 at the Port Office, 6:00PM

Port Angeles – March 28 at Doc's Marina Grill, Port Hudson Marina, Port Townsend, 11:00am-1:30pm



President's Message – (cont'd)

When it used to take \$20,000 to operate the association, the operating budget is now over \$28,000. This is with all volunteer help except the Executive Director's salary. Our Executive Directors received a vote of confidence from the Board of Directors for going above and beyond the scope of their job description. Make no mistake, WTA is on strong financial footing. However, in order to continue the superior level of representation and retain strong finances, we might have to discuss a dues increase. WTA is on the low end of commercial fishing association dues structures.

As you ready your boats and gear up for the salmon troll season, please remember to patronize those businesses that support WTA. We have an impressive list of associate business members who can fill your needs.

Finally, your participation and input are always encouraged. It is your association. Thank you for your continued support from the Board of Directors and myself.

Good Fishing,
Greg, Mueller

Upcoming WTA Board Meeting

Thursday, April 4, to discuss preferred options for submittal to PFMC
 The meeting will be held at the Puyallup Nazarene Church, 1026 7th SW, Puyallup, WA 98371. You can get a map at the following link:

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Puyallup&state=WA&address=1027+7th+Sw&zipcode=98371>






There will be a light meal served at 6:00pm. A **voluntary** contribution of \$5 is requested. 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.

Trolling Float Raffle

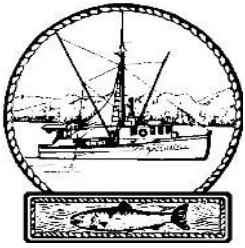
Talbot 60-70lb trolling floats courtesy of Evans Manufacturing. Tickets are \$10 each or 10 for \$80. The drawing will be held at the 2013 Annual Meeting. You do not have to be present to win. Get your tickets from Sue (jdazey@centurytel.net) or ask a Board member.



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	_____
	Total			_____

Mail to: WTA
 PO Box 799
 Kingston, WA 98346



Director's Notes – Sue Dazey

The main items of importance are highlights from the February 28th Board meeting and notes from the recent PFMC sessions, March 6 through 11.

MARCH BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Article II of the By-Laws (Local Ports), was amended to read as follows in Section 1: This organization shall, at its sole discretion, with a majority vote of the Board of Directors, grant charters to local ports within the state of Washington. A charter shall not be granted to any port with less than ten (10) members in good standing. Any Port falling below ten(10) members in good standing on March 15 in 2013 and February 1 thereafter shall have its charter revoked and it's members may register with a different Port." This change was reflected throughout the By-Laws to be consistent. You should have received either an e-mail or a letter with the By-Laws about a week ago. This was done to assure appropriate representation in each port.

GSI: Funding for the sampling program is held up at the moment by the Sequester

Talbot Float Raffle: Tickets will cost \$10 for one or 5 for \$40. (Value \$560). The raffle will continue all year with the drawing at the next Annual Meeting, Fall 2013.

Albacore: WTA's position is to not have Canadian albacore boats fish US waters. Doug will bring that to PFMC.

Troll Option Recommendations for PFMC:

Stay with the traditional 2/3/ and 1/3 Spring/Summer split.

Consider a different starting day for May.

Consider a longer initial July opening, like July 1-9.

Consider having more of the 5 on/2 off trips model for the summer.

Take the majority of Chinook by the third week in August; leave enough to maintain a Chinook/coho fishery until the end of the season.

Halibut: Propose a landing limit of 25 with one for free and a ratio of 1:3/trip.

Port Meetings:

Westport: Sunday, March 17, 7 pm Old Ferry Office

Ilwaco: March 22, 6 pm, Port Office

Tacoma: March 26 (if it remains a viable port)

Seattle: Pending

Port Angeles: Pending

April Board Meeting: Thursday, April 4, Puyallup Nazarene Church, 6:30pm

Vacant Board Positions: The Board voted to have Mike Ziara and Joe Dazey "backfill" the two vacant Port Angeles board positions until the coming election.

PFMC Public Testimony: Chateau, Westport, March 25 at 7 pm.

MARCH PFMC: IMPRESSIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS

This round of PFMC was held in Tacoma at the Murano Hotel. There were essentially three types of Salmon-related meetings consisting of daily (sometimes more than once) Salmon Advisory Sub-Panel sessions; Washington delegation sessions which included WDFW, reps from WA, OR, CA commercial and recreational, and WDFW staff including Doug Milward, Pat Patillo and Phil Anderson; and formal Council meetings.

Through these meetings we were able to work out a plan for our three Options to present to the Council. Our initial Option recommendations were refined until we arrived at the current version, which you have attached in this newsletter. At this

point the information goes out for public comment and review. (Note the Westport meeting March 25, above. Other than making public testimony at the Council itself, this is your best chance to voice your opinions to both the State and the Council. We urge you to be present, and visible even if you don't say anything. You will be noticed and your presence will be important. This is not the time to take anything for granted.)

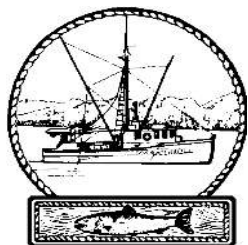
The first round of the Washington delegation meetings involved meeting between the Coastal Trollers Association representatives and WTA. Although it took some concentrated effort and compromise, the group was able to come to consensus on a Chinook ratio of 2/3 for Spring and 1/3 for Summer, or the same as many years past. The group brought that to the Washington delegation meeting and refined it into the three options, with the main differences being the quota numbers. While these numbers may well have to be slightly lowered, Phil Anderson feels comfortable going into the April meetings with the numbers as they are, pending more information from other areas, like Canada, inside coho fisheries, tribes, etc. The high Option (#1) is currently at or slightly above the requirement. Our other area of intense work was for the halibut ratio and trip limit. Last year the quota was exceeded by 5,000 lbs due a fluke in the form of a power outage over the 4th of July weekend so WDFW couldn't process tickets until several days after the quota had been reached. There was also concern about Oregon opening on April 1 and effectively having an extra month to fish before WA is on the ocean. Jim did bring the idea from the WTA Board of having a 1500 pound cap for halibut during this time, but it would require additional administrative changes in PFMC to do this and it could not be in place for this season. There is also the ongoing discussion about the meaning of "incidental" catch, which varies according to who's talking and where they're from. After a number of discussions with all three states (WA, OR, CA) Options were presented, all of which are lower than WTA's desired allowance. At this time the SAS recommendation is for Option I to allow 1+1:3 with a cap of 20; Option II allows 1+1:4 with a cap of 15 and Option III allows a 1+1:5 with a cap of 10. Oregon and California are trying hard to get more of the quota for their respective states. (Again, this is a good reason to show up at Westport to present testimony for your halibut quota desire.)

Also of note: The tribes presented strong public testimony in which they spoke out against any form of marked select salmon fishery, which has been their stand all along. It was effective in getting the Council to modify the language in one of the Options to include a non-marked select option.

Irene Martin also presented public testimony regarding salmon restoration efforts in the Columbia and shared the following synopsis of her assessment:

"Several salmon recovery plans exist in the Columbia Basin, developed by various local bodies and stakeholders, with public input and support. These include the Yakima Basin plan, the Oregon plan, and the Lower Columbia plan, among others. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is proposing to conduct an assessment ""to explore regional views about what the processes

(continued page 4)



Director's Notes – continued

for salmon and steelhead recovery in the Columbia river basin should look like over the long term,” according to a letter sent out in February. Of concern to the PFMC’s Salmon Advisory Subpanel at the March meeting is that fishermen will get left out of this process, and that this new process will deflect from the current recovery effort and reduce available funding. The SAS issued a report regarding its concerns, which will be taken up again at the PFMC April meeting.”

Overall, this very complex process went remarkably smoothly. WTA showed up with a strong delegation that outnumbered every other entity represented, including Coastal Trollers. We were able to present our position on issues with

clarity and strength. Many thanks to Tony and Barb Rouff, Greg Mueller, Mike Ziara, Dick Good, Doug and Barb Fricke for being with us and giving so much of their time for this. For most meetings we had six people present, which far outnumbered any other group. It turned out to be extremely important and effective.

Again, if you have an opinion you want to make known to PFMC and/or the State, your big chance is the Westport Public Testimony meeting, March 25, 7 pm at the Chateau in Westport. Last year some of that testimony was the main way the people in Olympia learned first hand about preferences and feelings. Be sure to contact us if you have any questions about specifics.

GSI Update – Joe Dazey

The GSI sampling project for 2012 was successful both scientifically and in return to the fleet. Sixteen vessels participated, and \$33,000 went directly to fishermen.

Prospects for 2013 initially looked good. While the grant for this year has been approved, the sequester on the federal budget has slowed up the distribution of funds to the point where they will not be in place for the start of the season. Paul Moran of NOAA's Northwest Regional Fisheries Science Center reports remains quite optimistic that the funds will eventually filter through the bureaucracy, but as with anything involving the government, there are no guarantees. The funds have to get to Paul, then sent to WDFW. We need to get a contract with WDFW approved before the funds become available to us.

The way the program is set up, fishermen can collect more samples than the weekly allotment. If there is money left over from paying for the initial sampling, it will be used to pay fishermen for the extra samples they collected.

With this in mind, we are considering starting the sampling on time using the same basic setup as last year with the expectation that when funds do become available, fishermen will be paid an amount similar to last year's \$20/sample. There remain some technical details to be worked out, and we need to see if there is any interest in the fleet.

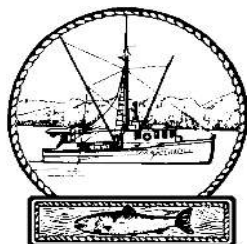
I'll be contacting the fishermen who participated last year to check the interest level. If you did not participate last year and are interested, let me know.

Albacore News – Doug Fricke

Since the last Newsletter, there was a bilateral discussion between the US and Canada on Feb 14 and 15 concerning the US/Canada Albacore Treaty (Treaty). Also, discussion of the Treaty was a big issue at the recently completed March PFMC meeting. At the bilateral discussion on Feb. 14/15, the US State Department representative, Dave Hogan, made it clear to the Canadians that the US Fishermen are clearly in favor of having no Treaty fishing exchange (fishing regime) in 2013. However, in his next sentence he told the Canadians that he is negotiating in “good faith”. Mr. Hogan had told the US Delegation (USG) prior to the negotiating session that the Canadians are still threatening to interfere in other US fisheries if they do not get access to the US EEZ for albacore in 2013. The State Department has been evasive as to whether or not they will force a 2013 fishing regime on the US albacore fishermen regardless that the industry does not want a 2013 fishing regime.

Flash forward to the March PFMC meeting where the 2013 fishing regime with Canada was a big topic. Many fishermen from all of the albacore fishing organizations including WTA testified that they did not want the competition of the Canadian albacore fleet in the US EEZ in 2013. Many of the fishermen went further and said it was time to terminate the Treaty which is the position of WTA. After all the testimony, the Council directed the State Department that they still supported continuation of negotiating with Canada for a 2013 regime at a significantly reduced level of Canadian access to the US EEZ. Also, The Council advised the State Department to give serious consideration to a complete phase out of Canadian access to the US EEZ in 2014 and beyond.

The State Department has scheduled another negotiating session with Canada on April 16/17. There should be a USG position prior to the April 16/17 session. For more details contact myself, Greg or Joe.



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
Bayview Building Materials, Westport, WA bayview@comcast.net	
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 – supplier of Talbot trolling floats	(360) 652-4200
F/V Snapper Products, Westport, WA	(360) 268-0294
Harbor Marine Supply, Westport, WA	(360)268-9166
High Tide Seafoods, Buyer,Ernie Vail, owner; Port Angeles, Neah Bay, LaPush	(360)452-8488
Hingston, Phil, of Jones , Kushman, Hingston Certified Public Accountant, Seattle	(206)285-2777
Hungry Whale Enterprises Chevron Station and Deli – Berkley Barker	((560) 628-6323
Icicle Seafoods, Lew Warner, Dillingham, AK	(907) 842-5204
Ikes's Fish, W.H. & 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	1(866)233-1422
Sampo Inc., Manufacturing Terminal Tackle/Fishing and Marine Supplies, Barneveld, 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
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
Ted's Red Apple Market, Serving Westport and the fishing fleet with their grocery needs	(360)268-9650
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
WESMAR—Western Marine Electronics, Woodinville, WA	(425)481-2296
Westport Diesel Service, Westport, WA	(360) 268-0669

WTA Retired Associate Members

Steve Spleen, Paul Johns, Geoff Grillo, Augie Roehr, Karl Kollen, George Walden, Steve Norwood, Bud Mathis, William Sipila

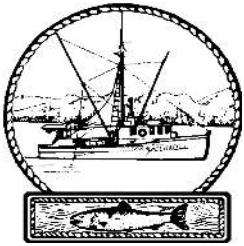
WTA Membership Application Form

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) <input type="checkbox"/> WA <input type="checkbox"/> OR <input type="checkbox"/> CA <input type="checkbox"/> AK <input type="checkbox"/> Albacore		
Port of Registration: <input type="radio"/> Ilwaco <input type="radio"/> Port Angeles <input type="radio"/> Westport		

- 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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