



March 2015

Washington Trollers Association

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President's Message

The first phase of the season setting process is completed. It began with the North of Cape Falcon forum. The good this season is Spring Creek and Bonneville pool tulle stocks are up by about 30,000 chinook and the lower river natural Chinook's abundance will allow an exploitation of 41%. These Chinook stocks contribute significantly to area 2 harvest. The bad is an old nemesis, Queets River coho which are an in river problem. In order to meet escapement goals on Queets River coho, we had to move Chinook opportunity in the spring fishery out of area 2, Westport, because the troll fishery impacts 60% of the Queets River coho in the May-June fishery and 44% in the summer fishery. Knowing that the troll fishery has not fished coho in the spring fishery in over 30 years and in fact was closed for the last 2 weeks of June for much of that time because of perceived coho impacts, those facts fell on deaf ears as this is the best available science, period. The ugly is Puget Sound Chinook impacts on Lake Washington and Nisqually Chinook which could spill out into the ocean. Trollers impact 10 Lake Washington Chinook in the entire North of Falcon fishery.

The North of Falcon process then began in earnest March 7 thru 12, with Doug Fricke, Dave Parker, Jeff Pedersen, and Greg Mueller representing WTA in the meetings in Vancouver, WA. Phil Anderson, Doug Milward, and Wendy Beegley are leading Washington State's ocean troll team with Jim Olson being the NOF ocean troll adviser to the Council. The objective here is to come up with range of harvestable ocean ranges for Chinook and coho that seem reasonable given the ocean impacts on critical stocks. Phil Anderson has a keen eye for find ranges to start with. The three ranges we started with for Chinook were 65,000 - 59,000 - 53,000 total allowable catch for the troll fishery. The troll advisers then write the language for three options, covering all possible scenarios because once they go out for public review the language cannot be changed. WTA has emailed the purposed options out to the membership and there are some significant changes. In order to reduce Queets coho impacts in the spring fishery, we were forced to go to a 60% spring 40% summer split on Chinook. It was the lesser of two evils, either that or reduce Chinook numbers until they fell within acceptable coho impacts, and lose those Chinook totally. This move will reduce Chinook opportunity in our highest impact area, area 2 in the spring and was the common sense way to go. If we go with option 1, that will still give trollers 39,000 Chinook in the spring, which is more than last spring. Because of a preseason trade we made with sport in area 1, (8,000 troll coho for 2,000 sport Chinook), trollers will have 28,000 Chinook to harvest in the summer fishery. As this is 11,000 more Chinook than we harvested in the summer last season there is some real concern if we can get the best economic return and harvest those numbers. Another purposed change is the delivery into a closed area rule. We are purposing the rule be changed from 96 hours after a closure to 48 hours. Stay tuned to see if it passes the Feds and state enforcement inspection. As Alaska and the West Coast of Vancouver Island have not reported their 2015 Chinook harvest levels yet and there are approximately half the up river brights returning to the Columbia River as in 2014, we are hoping for some relief.

WTA's troll team thanks Doug Milward and Wendy Beegley for the tedious work and long hours they put in during the Vancouver meetings. At one point they had made 1,502 model runs trying to get the numbers and impacts to fit.

As of this writing, IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO HAVE SALMON AND ALBACORE TUNA ON BOARD AT THE SAME TIME! They are working to fix this oversight and plan to have it done before our troll season starts. Stay tuned.

On the halibut front, with the poundage being about the same as 2014 it looks like status quo - 1 for free - \1 in 4 for a total of 12 halibut.

If you have any comments or questions before the PFMC meetings in Santa Rosa, CA., my cell number is (253) 381-9713 and email is gregmueller@centurylink.net

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:

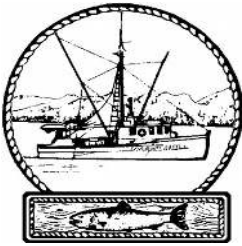
Kory Murphy *F/V Gallows Point*
Butch Henry *F/V Evening*

Executive Directors:

Sue and Joe Dazey

Editor:

Joe Dazey



Coalition Report - Doug Fricke

Dale Beasley, on behalf of the Coalition of Coastal Fisheries, has been working with the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Committee trying to make sure that the state agencies recognize the importance of commercial fishing to the coastal economy. The effort of the national program of Marine Spatial Planning is to find places along the coast for other uses such as wave and wind energy, aquaculture, mining etc. Dale has been leading the effort to emphasize that commercial fisheries utilize the entire coastal plane from the surf line out 200 miles. However, it appears that state agencies are going to move ahead and identify important fishing areas and target some areas outside important fishing areas for other uses. Currently, WDFW does not have any real knowledge where along the coast that we fish and is suggesting to use the charterboat locations as a proxy. Dale has finally convinced WDFW to have meetings with WDFW to show where our best places along the coast are to salmon troll. I understand that Michele Culver from WDFW approached the salmon trollers at the March PFMC meeting to get information on where we fish. There is a meeting set up in Ilwaco at 2 PM on March 24 to get information from the commercial fishermen as to the best places to fish along the coast. We need fishermen to come to this meeting. I am not sure if we will get another chance to protect some of our best fishing areas.

The Coalition Lobbyist, Tom Echols has been busy in Olympia lobbying for and against bills that affect our salmon fisheries. With the help of several salmon trollers and other fishermen, we beat a bill that would install sports priority in fish harvest for the State of WA. That bill is now dead for this year, but I am sure it will be back in the future. – Doug Fricke

Executive Director's Report - Sue Dazey

This is the season for meetings for sure, and we will be into it in earnest. Unfortunately much of this now overlaps the start of fishing time, so it puts a pinch on attendance. We just amended our bylaws to allow for e-board meetings, voting, election of officers, and other decisions to help us continue essential WTA work. Although this will help keep things running it still isn't a substitute for in-person discussions and having your input. In the state meetings and PFMC, having a physical presence counts for a great deal, so please give it some thought if you're available for any of them. They will be posted in this newsletter, or just give us a call/e-mail. Greg continues to carry the ball for us all with relentless dedication, and for that you might give him an "atta-boy" when you see him. Appreciation is about all the Pres. gets, so it counts for a lot.

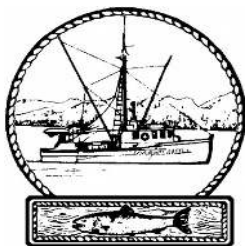
We welcome three new members so far this spring: Kurt Little, with the "Anchor"; Nicholas Ziakin, with the "South Side"; and Paul Mirante with the "Kristina". Give them a nod and a welcome if you see them, and hopefully they'll be wearing their new WTA hats.

We recently joined a new non-profit organization, WEFISH, which is dedicated to fishing families and communities. Molly Bold and Laura Roehrich made a presentation to the WTA Board, which voted to support it with our membership. They welcome individual members as well. If you're interested, their web-site, www.wefish.org, describes their goals and activities.

Otherwise, our bookkeeping and membership is going along, with most members renewing on schedule, including businesses and retirees. I'll be sending out another round of renewal notices for April, May and June in the next week or so. Be sure to check in with Joe if you want to participate in the GSI sampling this season, which will proceed much as last year. Beyond that, there is typically very little business activity over the summer with most of us out on the ocean, where we should be! Sue

North of Falcon Schedule

March 30	PFMC Public Hearing, 7:00pm, Chateau Westport, 710 W Hancock, Westport, WA 98595
April 2	Westport local port meeting. Islander Restaurant, 12:00pm lunch, 1:00pm meeting
April 3	Ilwaco local port meetings. Ilwaco Port Office, 6:00pm.
April 4	Port Angeles local port meeting. Marina Room at Pt Hudson, Port Townsend, 10:00am.
April 7	WTA Board meeting, Islander Restaurant, 12:00pm lunch, 1:00pm meeting
April 4-10	PFMC season setting meeting, Double Tree Hilton Sonoma, One Doubletree Drive, 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

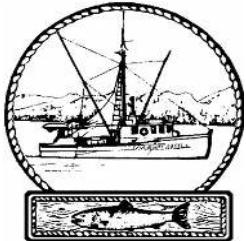
WTA Membership Application Form

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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