



News of the Washington Trollers Association

March 2017

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Washington Trollers Association prides itself in timely flow of accurate information and that is why the February newsletter is being published in March. As the 2017 salmon forecast meeting was not held until February 28, and the information from that meeting is of utmost importance to the members' business model, WTA delayed the newsletter until after the forecast meeting. This newsletter covers many subjects that are of great importance to your business. The most important issue that concerns WTA members is the Disaster Relief Declaration that Senators Murray and Cantwell moved off the Secretary of Commerce's desk and on to Congress for funding. As Congress is in turmoil over the cabinet appointments by the new administration, don't expect any movement on the funding part of the declaration until things settle down in D.C. With Senator Murray the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senator Cantwell on the Committee that oversees Fisheries, we will have a strong argument for funding. Furthermore, Senator Dan Sullivan from Alaska is the new Chairman of the Committee overseeing Fisheries, on which Senator Cantwell sits, and Alaska also has fisheries that have applied for disaster relief. Representatives Jamie Herrera Beutler and Derek Kilmer from Washington State are in full support of the disaster aid package.

The first leg of the PFMC meetings were held March 7th through the 14th in Vancouver, WA. As there will be new problems to solve, don't expect the pathway to more normal ocean fishery to be smooth sailing. WTA is the clear leader in delivering the most professional representation possible for its members and the industry and your Board of Directors' resolve is to make sure the membership gets its monies' worth.

This ends my fifth year leading WTA and the industry forward. It has been an honor to have your trust and represent the membership, most of whom I know on a personal basis. Your ideas and comments are always welcome. - *Greg Mueller*

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Executive Director

Greg Mueller

Executive Secretary

Mary Toal

EMAIL:

WASHINGTONTROLLERS@GMAIL.COM

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

WTA Port Meetings have been set for the following dates and times:

Tuesday, March 21st , 6:00 p.m., McCausland Hall, **Westport**. Contact Greg Mueller for information.

Friday, March 24, 5:00 p.m., Port Office, **Ilwaco**. Contact Kim Reisbick for information.

Saturday, March 25, 11:00-1:00, **Port Angeles** Port Meeting, Port of Port Townsend Commissioners Building. Contact Mike Ziara for information.

Monday, March 27, 7:00 p.m. Chateau Westport—WDFW Public Hearing. Public Comment on the three alternatives can be submitted online at <http://nof.wdfw-fish.us/> Additional information can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/salmon2017>.

Saturday, April 1, 10:00 a.m., McCausland Hall, Westport —WTA Board of Directors meeting; all members are welcome.

WESTPORT'S WEEKEND WITH THE FLEET: MAY 27-29

Friends, thank you for your continued support of WEFish! As we head into Spring, please mark your calendars for Memorial Day Weekend. In conjunction with Washington Trollers Association, the Westport Maritime Museum, the Coast Guard, the Chamber of Commerce, and several local entities, we are asking for your support of *Weekend with the Fleet* May 27-29th. On Saturday, enjoy the Commercial Fishing Festival. We will have Arts & Crafts for kids, informational displays, Seascout displays, vendors, beer garden, food & more from 10-4 p.m. Come back for Fisher Poets' poetry reading & live music at 7 p.m. The Light up the Dock Celebration — lighting luminarias in honor of loved ones — starts at 8 p.m. on the esplanade. On Sunday, join us for the traditional Blessing of the Fleet Ceremony at the Fishermen's Memorial on Neddie Rose Drive at 1 p.m. Rich Toal will be working in conjunction with the Coast Guard and local boaters to organize the parade of boats behind the Coast Guard for the annual dropping of the wreath during the ceremony. Please make a point to join in for this special afternoon. Join us after the Blessing of the Fleet for the WEFish Clam Chowder Feed at the Museum from 11:30-3:00. All proceeds go to our local Lost Fishermen's Fund. As always, we will need plenty of volunteer support! -Molly Bold

MEETING WITH SENATOR PATTY MURRAY

The Washington Trollers Association was again recognized on the Federal level by being invited to a private, by invitation-only meeting with Senator Patty Murray. The Senator was home for the Senate break, and WTA was invited to meet with her in Tacoma. The discussion centered around the importance of the disaster relief declaration to the salmon fishing industry and supporting communities for the 2016 season, the need for a stable funding base for the Mitchell Act hatcheries on the Columbia River and the importance to coastal salmon industry and economies those hatcheries support, and the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit against NOAA and the straying of hatchery tulle stock into natural spawning stocks in the lower Columbia River. The importance of the topics and to our industry is that Senator Murray is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee. In other words, she helps control the purse strings. This was truly an honor and WTA thanks Colleen Bryan, West Coast Director to Senator Patty Murray, for setting up this exclusive meeting with the Senator and for Senator Murray for giving up her personal time to meet with WTA (she had not been home for three weeks.)

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES LEGISLATION

So, what next? Before we get into the proposed legislation and the accompanying fees, just a little background. Aquatic invasive species were first traced back to ocean going freighters that dumped their ballast water inside state territorial waters. So states like Washington inherited water-borne species from their countries of origin, not native to Washington, such as zebra mussels, mud snails, etc., that caused ecological havoc with our environment. Although that was not our industry's fault, we were taking responsibility for it in the form of new legislation and a new license fee. The license fee was to start at \$20 annually and, as we all know, \$20 this year, \$50 next year, etc. Thanks to the quick action of Butch Smith, President of the Ilwaco Charter Association, and WTA, we were able to work with Raquel Crosier, Legislative Liaison for WDF&W, and limit the legislation to fresh water vessels only. As this legislation is blocked for now, WTA's alliance with other groups continues to pay dividends.

2017 FORECAST MEETING

The 2017 salmon forecast meeting between the user groups and WDF&W staff was held February 28th in Olympia. For those that have not attended a forecast meeting, the main body of the meeting is a presentation by WDF&W staff of the predicted salmon returns to the different rivers and streams by region: Puget Sound, Columbia River, Coastal, and Straits. After the forecast segment of the meeting, the different user groups break out into their areas of harvest interest with the trollers and charters being the ocean and Columbia River. Without getting hopes up too high, there is some room for optimization in the North of Falcon ocean fishery. Remembering that the forecast and actual return of coho was in the disaster mode in 2016, 2017 appears to be somewhat improved. Not great, especially the Columbia River, but improved for the most part in Puget Sound and the North Coast. The rivers of concern last year — the Queets, which should meet escapement goals this year, and the Quillayute, which is much improved — should not present the same problem factor that they were in 2016.

Puget Sound coho stocks are projected to be on the lower end of normal. As far as the Chinook forecast is concerned, the stocks of interest to the ocean fishery, Spring Creek Hatchery Falls, Lower CR River Falls, which are main players in the ocean fishery, appear to be similar to the 2015 forecasts and 2015 was a very good season for ocean troll. Plus, the Upriver Bright run, which is harvested in the SE Alaska and West Coast of Vancouver fishery, is down substantially, and this should free up tule impacts for NOF. Factor in a greatly reduced SOF fishery, and that should free up more tule impacts. As the Chinook forecast into the Klamath River is in the disaster range, Oregon troll is in between an April/May season only or no season at all. Oregon, for the most part, fishes on pass thru fish and with the disaster on the Klamath coupled with only a 230,000 Chinook run projection for the Sacramento index, season or no season, there probably will not be anything to fish on anyway. Trollers will need some help to access all the chinook and this is where our working relationship with the coastal Treaty Tribes will come into play. The coastal salmon industry has developed a working line of communication with the Treaty Tribes that greatly benefited the resource, the season setting process and the outcome. WTA will continue working on that relationship as it shows positive results.

LICENSE FEE INCREASE LEGISLATION, SHB1597

Because of budget short falls, license fee increases have been on the agenda for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for a couple of years or more. As nobody is in favor of seeing any fees increase, especially coming off a disastrous season, if you can gain a direct benefit from the increase, it becomes more palatable. The for-fun fishermen have been all over the commercial fishing industry for not financially supporting WDF&W in proportion to their catch, as they only give our industry credit for our license fees that go directly into the WDF&W account. The commercial fishing industry's landing fees that are directed to the state's general fund end up supporting the hatcheries system that provide harvestable fish to the sport and commercial fisheries. WTA, the Westport and Ilwaco charter associations and the coastal gillnetters, have been working with WDF&W to come up with a solution to the problem, unlike the CCA which has held the Department hostage and made threatening demands such as sport priority to justify any license increases. The Washington Trollers Association, in coordination with our umbrella group, the Coastal Coalition of Fisheries, has been working with our lobbyist and Representative Brian Blake, Chairman of the House Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee, in designing a bill that meets the Department's needs and has the support of the CCF members.

As there were many moving pieces that had to come together in formulating the end product, and after hearing from some of WTA's members, we supported a 1% increase in our landing fees, earmarked to WDF&W's account rather than the general fund. WTA also supported a crew license of \$35, with enough exemptions that one wonders why we supported a crew license to begin with. The reasoning behind the 1% increase in the landing tax, from 5.5% to 6.5%, was that it would encourage the WDF&W provide more fish to generate more revenue.

Where does SHB 1597 stand now? After testifying before the House Natural Resources and Appropriations Committees, certain members of the Appropriations Committee were unhappy with the provisions of the crew license requirement and there will have to be some bill re-writing before SHB1597 moves forward. The bottom line: WDF&W faces a \$25 million budget short fall because of unfunded Federal and State mandates, Treaty Tribe obligations, inflation, and general upgrades to an aging hatchery system. WTA and the rest of the commercial fishing industry need to be part of the solution not part of the problem in working with the Department. Members' comments are encouraged.



PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 2017

The PFMC meetings kicked off March 7-14, in Vancouver, WA. In this first industry get together of the year, we took into account all the possible scenarios of our ocean troll season and developed three alternatives. There were no hard harvest numbers to work with, only ranges. The language in the three alternatives is now out for public comment for 30 days. After the review process, no new language may be added, however we may mix language within the three alternatives. The public comment period includes the PFMC meeting on March 27, 7:00 p.m. at the Chateau Westport. The second part of the process will be conducted April 6-12, at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento, CA, and that is where we will start inserting numbers into the alternatives to see what fits into escapement goals and Federal requirements such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA .) With the assistance of WDF&W ocean troll manager Wendy Beeghley, WTA will work to create a troll season that harvests the available fish in the most economically efficient way possible, while maximizing the best economic value to the fleet. That is the only way it can be for a for-profit industry, not a hobby, that fishing dependent families can rely on. WTA will update members of the progress of the PFMC process as developments unfold. You can email Greg at gregmueller@centurylink.net with your questions or comments.

YOUR DOLLARS @ WORK

Representing Your Business Interests

The following documents meetings in the last several weeks where WTA members and their businesses were represented. Time in preparation is taken seriously so all issues can be properly addressed.

January 30, Olympia; met with Rep. Brian Blake, Chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

February 1, Olympia; testify before House Natural Resources Committee on SHB 1597(license fee increases.)

February 1, Olympia; met with Becky McRoberts, Community Liaison, WDF&W Law Enforcement Program.

February 13, Ilwaco; license fee increase meeting between the industry and WDF&W.

February 15, Aberdeen; met with Port of Grays Harbor and staff members representing Senators Murray and Cantwell, and Representative Kilmer.

February 20, Olympia; testify before House Appropriations Committee on SHB 1597 (license fee increase bill.)

February 23, Tacoma; by invitation only meeting with Senator Patty Murray.

February 28, Olympia; 2017 forecast meeting with WDF&W.

March 8-12, Vancouver, WA; PFMC meetings.

A note of interest: with the exception of the forecast meeting the Washington Trollers Association was the ONLY troll association representing the industry!

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADE ASSOCIATIONS

The Washington Trollers Association, Columbia River, Willapa, Grays Harbor Gill-net Associations, and the Westport and Ilwaco Charter Associations, along with our umbrella group, the Coalition of Coastal Fisheries, exist to represent your businesses interests in a very hostile environment. Whether it be the sport priority crowd or the environmentalists, there is always some group trying to limit your income-making potential. Most of the work that is done on your behalf is done by volunteers or done for little or nothing. Most of your representatives have a passion for your industry and want a future for the young guys coming up through the system. It is much easier to represent your industry when things are good and on the upswing than a season that presented the challenges that 2016 did. As your representatives, along with the state fisheries managers, we take our responsibility seriously and strive for your success. As Phil Anderson summed it up as one of the featured speakers at WTA's annual meeting the last two years, "There would be no trolling off the Washington coast without the Washington Trollers Association," and he added to that at WTA's annual meeting in February, by saying that the willingness to work together has enhanced our resilience. WTA would also like to thank Butch Smith, owner/operator of Coho Charters in Ilwaco and long-time Chairman of the Salmon Advisory Subpanel on the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, for being the catalyst that holds the group together. He was a linebacker in college, but he is the quarterback calling the plays with the ocean user group. Butch and WTA make a formidable team in representing the ocean salmon industry.

NEW BUSINESS MANAGER AT THE WESTPORT MARINA

Late last year, The Port of Grays Harbor created a new position in the management structure of the Westport Marina. After reviewing 83 applications for the position, Molly Bold, President of Wefish AND a WTA member spouse, was chosen to fill the new position.

Molly's enthusiasm, vision and marketing skills in leading Wefish to become a positive influence in the fishing industry and local community will serve her well in her new job. As WTA has worked closely with Molly and Wefish since its inception, we look forward to working with Molly in her new role and wish her much success!

WTA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

We thank the following businesses for their ongoing support. When using their services, please let them know their support benefits you and your family.

Ballard Sheet Metal Works, Inc. (Custom Fabrication for Fishing & Processing), Seattle	206-784-0545
Blue Sea, Inc., Jerry Lowe	360-738-8230
Boat Seafoods, Doug & Barb Fricke	360-580-3027
Caterpillar Marine Engines, Chris Downes	206-818-7546
D&M Live Crab, Dave Wolfenbarger	360-268-9319
Englund Marine Supply Co. (Complete Marine Service), Astoria & Westport	360-268-9811
Evans Manufacturing (Suppliers of Talbor Troll Floats)	360-652-4200
F/V Snapper Products	360-268-0294
Hightide Seafoods, Inc., Port Angeles *	360-452-8488
Hingston Fletcher & Associates, PLLC, CPA; Phil Hingston, Seattle	206-285-2777
J&G Marine Supply, Don & Harold Jacobson, Tacoma	253-572-4217
Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Co., Inc. (Salmon Buyer), Pierre Marchand, Owner/Mgr.	360-648-3773
Jolly Roger Seafood (Buyer of Crab, Salmon & Albacore), Sonny Peterson	360-593-0108
Lutz Seafood, Newport, OR*	503-267-1125
MASCO Petroleum, Westport	360-537-9744
Mullavey, Prout, Grenley and Foe; Daniel Foe*	206-789-2511
New Day Fisheries, Inc., Scott Kimmel, Port Townsend	360-384-4600
Pacific Fishing Magazine	206-324-5644
Pacific Net and Twine, Ltd., Frank Nakashima, Mgr., Richmond, BC	604-274-7328
Pacific Seafood/Washington Crab Producers (Bottom Fish, Salmon, Crab, Shrimp), Westport	360-268-9161
Philips Publishing – Fisherman's News	206-284-8285
Seafood Producers Cooperative, Bellingham & Sitka	360-733-0120
Seattle Marine and Fishing Supply Co. (Commercial Gear & Marine Hardware)	206-285-5010
Shipwrights Co-op, Port Townsend	360-385-6138
Silver Horde (Gold Star Sports & Commercial Fishing Lures & Supplies), Lynnwood	425-778-2640
South Bend Products (Fish Buyer)	360-875-6570
US Seven Oceans Inc. (Jinkai Monofilament Troller Line & Gear), Mukilteo	425-347-7770
United Trollers Fund, Phil Hingston, Manager	206-285-4341
Wesmar Western Marine*	425-481-2296

*New or returning member in 2017

WTA MERCHANDISE – SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

To order yours, complete this form and mail it to WTA
along with your check (payable to WTA). Mary Toal will contact you regarding delivery arrangements.

Name: _____
Phone: _____

ITEMS:	QUANTITY:	COST:
Blue hat (adjustable)		\$20
Green hat (adjustable)		\$20
Red hat (adjustable)		\$20
Tan hat w/blue bill (adjustable)		\$20
WTA mug		\$20
2016 WTA spoons (limited quantity available)		\$6 each
Black Hooded sweatshirt – heavy weight (M, L, XL, 2XL)		\$50
Gray Hooded sweatshirt – light weight (S, M, L, XL, 2XL)		\$40

Proceeds benefit the work of the WTA.



Left: Heavy Weight Hooded Sweat-shirt (black), \$50 each.

Above: Light Weight Hooded Sweat-shirt (gray), \$40 each.

WTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Your Name _____ Boat Name & Size _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone#_() _____ Home Phone # () _____

Email Address _____

Troll License(s) - Circle all that apply: WA OR CA AK ALBACORE
Port of Registration: Ilwaco Port Angeles Westport
New Membership Membership Renewal
Annual Membership Rates (full calendar year):
Individual membership \$250 \$ _____
Business Associate \$75 \$ _____
Combined Business/Individual Membership \$300 \$ _____
Retired \$50 \$ _____
1% Season donation, if not contributed thru season buyer \$ _____
Additional donation to help us represent trollers at meetings, with
marketing, and in season-setting \$ _____
I would like to receive my newsletter via email.
I would like a subscription to *Fisherman's News*
OR *Pacific Fishing* OR BOTH add \$7 \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

*Please make your check payable to WTA, and mail to PO Box 1821, Westport WA 98595
Dues for individuals must be paid by January 31, 2017, to be eligible to vote in 2017 port elections.*

WASHINGTON TROLLERS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1821
Westport WA 98595

PLEASE
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STAMP
HERE

