

NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON TROLLERS ASSOCIATION

November 2016

Report of the President and Executive Director

Welcome back. As there have been many issues concerning WTA and the commercial fishing industry while the fleet was trying to make money this season, it's difficult to know where to start. First and foremost is the disappointing North of Falcon 2016 troll season. It was not for lack of effort on the part of the ocean troll managers or your troll representatives as the low Coho abundance boxed the ocean fishery into a corner, forcing us to try to make something out of nothing. Then, the chinook did not show as forecast and that led to the disaster relief declaration. We are still working on that project.

Like we say, you can't catch last season's fish this year but, hell, we couldn't even catch last season's fish last season! Everything runs in cycles and one needs to be prepared, especially in the fishing business.

Adrienne Jones WTA's Executive Secretary for the past year, has submitted her resignation, which the Board accepted. WTA will miss her energy and enthusiasm, plus marketing skills, and wish her much success in her new business. She has agreed to stay on through the end of the year to work WTA's booth at the Pacific Fisheries Expo, and to train her replacement. The WTA was very fortunate to have Mary Toal, wife of WTA member Rich Toal, F/V Jetstream based in Westport, show interest in our open position. Mary is retired from BECU (Boeing Employees' Credit Union), and did everything we need and more in her professional working career. She will be a valuable asset in moving WTA forward. The Board hired Mary at a special meeting in Westport on October 28. Mary will be present at the Expo on Thursday and Friday.

WTA'S booth at Fish Expo will have a new look this year as we will be sharing our space with Wefish, represented by their President, Molly Bold. This joint marketing partnership will generate increased interest in our booth. For those members that have not been involved with Wefish, it is an
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November 2016

WTA DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT:

GREG MUELLER

1ST VICE PRESIDENT:

JONATHAN MOORE, F/V OCEAN
BELLE

2ND VICE PRESIDENT:

KIM REISBICK, F/V HIGH HOPE

SECRETARY/TREASURER :

MIKE ZIARA, F/V OCEAN HOME

ILWACO:

RICHARD LYONS, F/V BERTHA J
KIM REISBICK F/V HIGH HOPE
JOHN ALTO, F/V SPRING PERSUADER

PORT ANGELES:

MIKE ZIARA , F/V OCEAN HOME
JONATHAN MOORE, F/V OCEAN
BELLE
GEOFF LEBON, F/V HALMIA

WESTPORT:

GREG MUELLER
DOUG FRICKE, F/V HOWARD H
BUTCH HENRY, F/V EVENING
RYAN JOHNSON F/V DOVE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

GREG MUELLER

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

MARY TOAL

Web Site:

www.washingtontrollers.org

org

Email:

washingtontrollers@gmail.com

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educational and outreach group that many believe to be the best thing that has happened to the commercial fishing industry in a very long time. Their board is composed primarily of the wives of commercial fishermen based in Westport. WTA, along with many of our individual members, are also members of Wefish. I can't say enough good things about the direction of this group. (For more information, please go to www.wefishwa.org.)

My focus is to represent WTA in the most professional manner possible and that responsibility is taken seriously. WTA is recognized on the State and Federal levels and we are on a first-name basis with our elected representatives. Our membership growth is strong and with about 140 members and Associate members, WTA is the largest pure salmon troll association on the coast. WTA must remain strong in good years and not so good years to ensure our industry and the resource is here for future generations. It is an honor taken seriously to represent the membership of WTA and lead this association forward.

I invite your ideas and comments.

Greg Mueller, President and Executive Director

2016 Troll Season In Review

In one word: disappointing. It was, however, not for lack of effort on the part of WDF&W ocean troll managers Doug Milward and Wendy Beeghly, and your troll representatives. The 2016 ocean troll season will go down as one of the more challenging seasons to set and manage as we were forced to literally make something out of nothing. With a Coho forecast bordering on collapse being the limiting factor, trollers were forced to forego Chinook encounters in the spring and the Chinook fishing opportunity in the summer.

With a troll allowable catch of just 35,000 Chinook, compared to a TAC of 67,000 Chinook in 2015, the North of Cape Falcon troll fishery still left 44% (15,400) of their Chinook quota in the water. With the exception of a couple of spurts, the Chinook just plain did not show up as forecast. About the only redeeming factor was the season-long strong demand and price, which started out in the spring at around \$11.00 a pound and, with the exception of the Fathers Day through 4th of July slow marketing period, held steady.

The lack of Chinook numbers also forced the troll fleet to leave 8,369 incidental halibut troll pounds in the water. All this has meant an economic disaster for the ocean salmon industry, Treaty Tribes included, and the coastal communities which depend on salmon to drive the economy. Please refer to newsletter article on "DISASTER RELIEF" to see what your association is doing to assist the fleet through these tough times.

2016 WTA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Anderson Attorney-at-Law, Paul Anderson	206-467-0237
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
Downes, Chris	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
Harbor Marine Supply, Westport	360-591-9270
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
MASCO Petroleum, Westport	360-537-9744
New Day Fisheries, Inc., Scott Kimmel, Port Townsend	360-384-4600
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
Port Townsend Shipwrights	360-385-6138
Sampo Inc. (Manufacturing Terminal Tackle/Fishing & Marine Supplies), Barneveld, NY	315-896-2606
Seafood Producers Cooperative, Bellingham & Sitka	360-733-0120
Seattle Marine and Fishing Supply Co. (Commercial Gear & Marine Hardware	206-285-5010
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

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING THESE NEW WTA MEMBERS:

Michael McFarland
Jason Salvato
Randy Harper
Justin Jones
Tim Quandt
Adam Miller
Michael Clausen
Mark Portin
Kevin Halbert

DISASTER RELIEF 2016

The process that secures disaster relief funding for the ocean salmon industry has been set in motion. The process started with the industry leaders urging WDF&W to supply information that there had been a collapse of the salmon stocks on the coast via the Governor's office. The Governor's office, after reviewing the information and determining there had been economic harm done to the industry which was beyond their control, then forwarded it to the United States Secretary of Commerce, which is where the declaration sits as of now.

If the Secretary of Commerce agrees with the findings, she then forwards the declaration to Congress for funding. The facts make a strong case for a declaration of disaster relief as landings for the 2016 ocean season ended up being less than 2008, the last time a disaster was declared. The Makah and Quinault Treaty Tribes have also filed for disaster relief. In order to move the process along, our congressional delegation, Senators Murray and Cantwell, plus Congressman Kilmer and Congresswoman Herrera Buetler, are drafting a joint letter on our behalf to the Secretary of Commerce. As there probably not be any action taken until after the election, the earliest we might see some monetary relief would be December and if not then, February, 2017. Any questions can be directed to Greg Mueller.

PROPOSED LICENSE FEE INCREASES

As most of you have probably heard, WDF&W is proposing license fee increases for 2017. The increases would cover all of the commercial fisheries with substantial increases of \$150 to your basic salmon troll permit, plus a new required crew license. This a proposed increase of 25.6% on top of the 24% increase WTA agreed to in 2011. As Washington is the only state that does not presently require crew to be licensed, that will be tough to argue, however the 25.6% increase is a different story. At the renewal cost of \$735, Washington salmon troll permit would become the second most expensive on the West Coast. As we do not have any control over the price of our product nor our access to it, there is virtually no way for the fleet to recover the added expense. WDF&W has met with the user groups to explain their position and it is industry's position that we will work with the Department to fine-tune the proposal. Again, at this point, it is just a proposal as the Department cannot arbitrarily raise fees. Any proposal to do so must go through the legislative process. It is WTA's position that rather than continue to raise license fees with little or no increase in production, we explore a salmon stamp program similar to California's. The salmon stamp would be on top of the basic troll permit fee and be based on the salmon poundage landed by the troll fleet. Proceeds would go into a dedicated fund for salmon production. The fishermen would have some control over where this money was distributed. Your ideas and comments on this issue are encouraged.

Your Dollars @ Work

Representing Your Business Interests

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

1. May 3; Ilwaco, meeting with Rep. Brain Blake.
2. May 10; Ilwaco, meet with Sen. Murray's and Sen. Cantwell's staffs.
3. May 20; Olympia, Meet with Dept. Natural Resources, derelict vessel law.
4. May 21; Westport, Guest Speaker, Puget Sound Anglers.
5. May 23; Port Townsend, halibut catch sharing plan.
6. May 31; South Bend, meet with Pacific County Commissioners.
7. June 8; conference calls, in-season management.
9. June 14; Aberdeen, address Grays Harbor Port Commission on 2016 ocean troll season.
10. June 24; Tacoma, PFMC, halibut catch sharing plan.
11. June 25; Westport, Puget Sound Anglers, guest speaker.
12. June 29; Westport, Meet with Westport Shipyard, Port of Grays Harbor, about haul-out facility.
13. June 30; Hoquiam, meet with Danille Turissini, Running for Sen. Hargrove's 24th District seat.
14. Aug. 5; Olympia, WA Fish & Wildlife Comm., halibut catch sharing plan.
15. Aug. 5; Olympia, DNR, derelict vessel law.
16. Aug. 11; South Bend, WDF&W.
17. Aug. 12; Westport, meet with Sen. Cantwell's staff.
18. Aug. 26; Aberdeen, meet with Congressman Kilmer's staff.
19. Aug. 31; Westport, meet with Sen. Murray's staff.
20. Sept. 1; meet with Teresa Purcell and Jim Walsh, running for 19th Legislative Dist. House seat #2.
21. Sept. 1; Montesano; halibut catch sharing plan.
22. Oct. 9; Westport, WEFish meeting.
23. Oct. 14; Westport, derelict gear meeting with Congressman Kilmer, Sen. Takko, & Rep. Blake.
24. Oct. 20. Long Beach, meet with Teresa Purcell, again.
25. Oct. 24; Montesano, WDF&W license fee increase.
26. Nov. 5; Westport, Mitchell Act Hatcheries.
27. Nov. 4; Olympia, WDF&W Comm. NOF policy.
28. Nov. 4; Olympia, DNR, derelict vessel legislation.

A note of interest: At most of these meetings, with very few exceptions, the Washington Trollers Association was the only troll association representing the industry.

WTA SPOON PROJECT

Another Huge Success In 2016

WTA's annual spoon project, under the direction of Kim Reisbick, has been a huge success in delivering value to the Association and to the fishermen. The 2016 spoon was a big hit with the Alaska trollers. There are 3 dozen of the 2016 WTA spoons left and if they are not sold before the Pacific Marine Expo November 17-19, they will be available there. The new spoon for 2017 will be a #6, S2B from Silver Horde in a "cookies and cream" pattern, copied from member Geoff Lebon. As the 2014 and 2015 WTA spoons are still very popular with the troll and sport fisherman and are hot sellers at Englund Marine Supply, Kurt Englund has agreed to donate 10% of his sales back to WTA. This year's donation was nearly \$1,000.00! WTA thanks the Englund family for their continued support of our industry.



REMEMBERING FRANCIS CALDWELL

April 29, 1927 - February 22, 2016

WTA's Fall newsletter would not be complete without remembering a pioneer in the commercial trolling industry, Frank Caldwell. Frank started his career trolling a small boat out of Port Angeles, Washington, soon migrating to Alaska. Frank's first venture into big boat trolling came with his purchase of the F/V Laverne II, which is the vessel depicted in WTA's logo. After troller F/V Donna C built and took advantage of a multitude of fisheries. Frank's passions soon became his interest in photography and his writing skills. He authored books such as "Pacific Troller," which many of us keep by our bedside, and "Land of the Ocean Mists," which is a written and pictorial history of the Fairweather Coast in Alaska, plus others. Frank died at home in Port Angeles of age related causes. He was 88.



BOUY #5 WESTPORT, WA

Thanks to long time WTA member Ted Beese, F/V Scooter, Buoy #5, Westport, Washington, is back on station. Ted started the campaign with phone conversations WITH the United States Coast Guard, which he served in during the 60's. WTA followed with letters supporting his position, which was that there was no sight line between buoys #3 and #9, especially when the ocean was rough. This presented a navigational hazard that needed to be corrected and was a safety issue. The Coast Guard concurred and a buoy tender put buoy #5 back on station. Thanks to Ted and his years of commercial fishing experience that enabled him to identify a safety issue to the fleet and get it corrected.

WTA'S 1% PROGRAM

Although the 2016 salmon troll season did not turn out as we had hoped, the 1% Program that funds the WTA and its many activities got back on track. WTA's Board of Directors thanks the fishermen who participated and our Associate member fish processors, especially Dean Ancich of South Bend Products, and Bill Weidman and Cathy Whitney of Washington Crab Producers, who not only collected the 1% from the fishermen but also matched that amount! Thank you again for your support of WTA and the ocean salmon troll industry.

A FRIEND RETIRES

Thirty years ago, who would have thought that WTA would someday call Mark Cedergreen a friend, let alone recognize his retirement from fish politics? Thirty years ago we were at each other's throats, fighting over the last fish in the ocean. Then the proverbial light bulb went off, and we realized we were fighting for the same things: more opportunity and more fish for the ocean. Mark and then WTA President Doug Fricke started working together to the benefit of both groups and the ocean fishery.

To list all of Mark's accomplishments would not be possible in this limited space. We will name just a few: troller; charter office owner; Executive Director of the Westport Charter Boat Association; 40-year involvement in fish politics, working his way through the Pacific Fisheries Management Council process to become Chairman. And, graduate of the University of Washington in rocket science. (Yes, sometimes it does take a rocket scientist!) Westport was once a town divided at the four-way stop on Dock Street which brought about Mark's most notable accomplishment; he set the foundation in place to bring the Westport community together again.

Happy retirement, Mark, and thank you for what you've done for the ocean fishing industry and the community of Westport.

PACIFIC MARINE EXPO

November 17-19, CenturyLink Field Event Center, Seattle

The Pacific Marine Expo is the largest commercial marine trade show on the West Coast, serving commercial mariners from Alaska to California. In addition to seeing the latest gear, there will be industry education on safety, management, regulatory matters, and technological advancements. On the fun side, there will be live demos, contests, the Fisher Poets, and daily happy hours.

This year, WTA and Wefish are combining efforts and will have a booth at the Expo. This is a natural partnership with the organizations' mutual interests in raising awareness of the commercial fishing industry. In addition to providing educational materials to attendees, we will have WTA merchandise available for sale, including the new sweatshirts pictured below. Come see us in Booth #328.

Please register TODAY, as registration is free through November 16th. During the show, the entrance fee is \$30 per person. Online registration is available on the event web site, which is: www.pacificmarineexpo.com

Attendee Registration Hours

Thursday, Nov 17, 2016	8:00am - 5:00pm
Friday, Nov 18, 2016	9:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday, Nov 19, 2016	9:00am - 1:00pm

Exhibit Hall Hours

Thursday, Nov 17, 2016	10:00am - 5:30pm
Friday, Nov 18, 2016	10:00am - 5:30pm
Saturday, Nov 19, 2016	10:00am - 2:00pm

SEE YOU IN SEATTLE!

WTA MERCHANDISE – SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

To order yours, complete this form and mail it to WTA along with your check (payable to WTA).

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
Hooded sweatshirt – heavy weight (choose L or XL)		\$50
Hooded sweatshirt – lightweight (choose L or XL)		\$40

Proceeds benefit the work of the WTA.

WTA SWEATSHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE!



Heavy Weight Hooded Sweatshirt (Black)



Light Weight Hooded Sweatshirt (Black)

