



News of the Washington Trollers Association

November 2018

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Since WTA's last newsletter, much water has passed under the bridge. First of all, the 2018 salmon troll season turned out to be somewhat of a success because of record high prices and strong demand. Thanks to Kyle Adicks, Wendy Beeghley, and the rest of our ocean salmon management team that helped make a season possible, even with extremely low numbers. A special "thank you" goes to the Quinault Indian Nation, who agreed to drop the floor on Queets Coho for the second straight year. Those fishermen who stuck it out and ground on salmon were able to make a season. WTA is working with other salmon dependent groups to find ways around the wild fish fanatics' lawsuits and ramp up hatchery production, plus control the predation problem. Without increased hatchery production, and actually getting a return on that investment by controlling the predation problem, we are all out of business. Sport, charter, the net fishermen, trollers, and the salmon-eating Orca whales will be a thing of the past.

We have some hurdles to clear, however, but with the Governor's office on board, and a large group of salmon dependent groups involved, there is a pathway to success. WTA will continue to build on the alliances we have established and build new alliances with user groups that will align for a common cause. In the last few months, I have met with Senator Cantwell, Congressman Kilmer, Congresswoman Herrera Beutler, Representatives Blake and Walsh trying to get our story across, that being the need for increased hatchery production and controlling the predation problem. One without the other will not work.

During the 2018 season setting process, WTA appeared somewhat disorganized as I took on more issues than time allowed. For that, the membership has my apologies. Some of the problem is being solved as I will pass the scheduling and organizing of the meetings to Mary Toal, Executive Secretary. There are many issues of importance concerning your business that WTA has been involved in so please read on for more news.

- Greg Mueller, President and Executive Director

WTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Greg Mueller

1st Vice President

Jonathan Moore, F/V Ocean Belle

2nd Vice President

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Ilwaco

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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

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BUDGET AND POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

Representing WTA, Greg Mueller is a sitting member of the Legislatively mandated Budget and Policy Advisory Group. This group is tasked with finding funding sources to bridge a \$31 million shortfall to WDF&W during the 2019-2020 biennium.

As the commercial salmon industry agreed to a 24% increase in license fees in 2011 and a 22.3% increase in 2017, any further increases to our industry are off the table. What is being discussed is having the non consumptive users pay their fair share for services rendered by the Department. At the moment, it appears we will be going back to the general fund to solve the problem. Full funding for WDF&W through general fund distributions is not a sustainable revenue source. An increase in the state sales tax or a dedicated portion of the sales tax would have been preferable, as just 1/10th of one penny would have solved the problem.

There were a couple of other avenues for sustainable fund discussed as a millage on property taxes, however WDF&W is going back to the "wishing well." Testifying before the House Appropriations Committee a couple of months ago three Representatives questioned how much the commercial salmon industry was contributing to the system and they were informed of the increase we had agreed to and our efforts to have our license and landing fees go directly to the department (at the moment, only our license fees and 1% of our landing fees are dedicated to WDF&W.) We have tried on numerous occasions to have this changed, to no avail.

An interesting fact: At last season's price of \$13.00 per pound for Chinook, a 10 pound troll Chinook returned \$8.45 to the state with the current 6.5% landing fee! More 10 pound or larger=more money to the state.

PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

The PST is comprised of the states of Alaska, Washington and Oregon, plus Canada. Its main function is the management of Pacific Ocean stocks of salmon that transit the West Coast and the states and countries involved.

Greg Mueller was invited to a presentation on the final draft of the negotiations to renew the treaty. It is important to note that with former WDF&W director Phil Anderson, retired NOAA Assistant Administrator Robert Turner and WDF&W Special Assistant Jim Scott, Washington interests could not have been better represented. Under the new PST treaty, which is still being reviewed by government attorneys, Alaska will be required to cut back on SE Chinook by 7.5% and Canada 12.5% on down years. Alaska will have to pay back overages on the SE troll harvest (SE troll went over by 100,000 Chinook in 2016), and those overages will be based on the preseason forecast only. In absence of a negotiated treaty, the burden of conservation would fall totally on the State of Washington, and the that would severely restrict if not eliminate all salmon fisheries on the Washington Coast.

As Washington salmon fishermen and the stocks they harvest are dependent on "pass thru" to provide economic opportunity and salmon stock stability, WTA acknowledges Phil, Bob and Jim for their dedicated representation on behalf of the salmon resource returning to Washington State.

INTERESTING FACTS: Just some interesting facts that might help one understand how the ocean salmon industry got to this point . Since 1992 there have been **160,000,000** Chinook and Coho smolts taken out of production by the state and federal governments. Figuring a 2% return, that would have meant an extra 3,200,000 adult salmon swimming around in the last 25 years. Also, out of the 60,000,000 smolts released in Puget Sound, only 900,000 can be accounted for. Best guess for the discrepancy: a polluted Puget Sound and harbor seal predation.

WTA ANNUAL MEETING

WTA's annual meeting was held at McCausland Hall in Westport on October 6, 2018. During the business portion of the meeting WTA attorney Daniel Foe was engaged to do an update of our bylaws, and members voted to make a generous donation to WEFish to aid in their hosting of what has become an annual event to show appreciation for the Westport-based Coast Guard members and their families.

Lunch was provided and then our guest speakers took the floor. Those in attendance were able to meet and hear new WDF&W Director Kelly Susewind and his vision for the Department going forward. The rest of the guest speakers included Retired Deputy Chief of Enforcement Mike Cenci, Sargent Kit Rosenberger of WDF&W Enforcement, Becky Bennett with WDF&W Community Outreach, Ocean Troll Manager Wendy Beeghley, Former WDF&W Director Phil Anderson, and 19th Legislative District Representative and Chairman of the House Agriculture, Parks, Recreation and Fisheries Committee, Brian Blake. From the comments received this may have been the best and most informative annual meeting WTA has held. Thank you to all the guest speakers for donating your time and being available to answer members' questions.

**WTA WILL BE IN BOOTH #328 AT
THE
PACIFIC MARINE EXPO
NOVEMBER 18-20, 2018**

**Stop by for some of Granny
Hazel's Saltwater Taffy!**

COAST GUARD APPRECIATION DINNER

In October our sister organization, WEFish, organized a wonderful event for Coast Guard members who are based in Westport, and their families. Thanks to support from Aloha Alabama, WTA, the Westport Charter Boat Association and others, over 70 guests — coasties, their families, and others — were treated to a barbecue dinner with all the trimmings. The event was very well received and there were many positive comments made about the supportive community here in Westport.



WEFISH UPDATE

Earlier this Fall, WEFish founding leader Molly Bold resigned her position so she could spend more time with her family. Vice-President Jody Pope has stepped in to guide the organization through this transition period. In the meantime, the organization continues to do good things in our community as evidenced by the success of the Coast Guard Appreciation Dinner.

WTA would like to thank Molly for her dedication in building the WEFish organization, bringing together so many local groups and businesses to support the Westport community. We will see Molly around as she continues her work for the Port, working out of the Westport office where she is Marina Business Manager. Thanks, Molly!

WTA continues to support WEFish as a member, and we encourage you and your families to be involved. WEFish is run by volunteers, and that means all of us!

WESTPORT MARINA USERS MEETING

Greg Mueller, Doug Fricke, and Mary Toal represented WTA at the Westport marina user meeting on November 15, 2018. Molly Bold, Westport Marina Business Manager, led the meeting, which was also attended by representatives of the Port of Grays Harbor, the City of Westport, marina users and other interested parties. Upcoming long- and short-term projects to be aware of include:

- Channel deepening , to be completed by the end of 2018
- North Jetty maintenance
- Environmental work on the South Jetty
- Marina dredging, to begin in July
- Major revamping of the boat ramp parking area, including paving and installation of a boat wash station and fish cleaning stations
- Installation of restrooms with showers across from Float 7, for exclusive use of marina tenants
- “Proximity cards” will be issued to marina users to allow access to the restrooms, as well as the soon-to-be re-vamped dumpster and recycling area.
- The Port is working with the City of Westport on ways to alleviate some of the parking issues commercial fishermen face during the busy summer weeks.
- The last marina master plan was created 10 years ago; a new demand study is about to get underway and there will be opportunities for marina users to provide input.

Greg raised the issue (again) of a haul-out facility and boat yard for Westport, and it became clear in the discussion that those who use the marina will need to be very vocal in their support of such a facility.

The topic of filleting fish in the marina was on the agenda. The Port credits this practice with the presence of sea lions in the marina. Many creative solutions were offered, and this is a discussion that will continue at upcoming marina users meetings.

The marina staff reported on a few ways in which they are working to solve operational issues. One success is the recent launch of an online moorage reservation system, which will be helpful to the transient fleet. Marina users were encouraged to let the staff know of issues that arise so the staff can look into potential solutions.

The next marina user meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 27, 2019.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2018

Nov. 18-20 **Pacific Marine Expo, Seattle**

2019

January 26 **WTA Board of Directors Meeting**, McCausland Hall, Westport

February 25 **Legislative Seafood Day in Olympia.**

February 27 (Tent.) **Westport Marina Users Meeting**, McCausland Hall, Westport

February 27 (Tent.) **Westport Port Meeting (WTA)**

March 5-12 **PFMC Meetings**, Vancouver, WA

April 9-16 **PFMC Meetings**, Rohnert Park, CA

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:
Navy Blue hat (adjustable) NEW!		\$20
Red hat (adjustable)		\$20
WTA mug (travel-mug style)		\$20
Black Hooded sweatshirt – heavy weight (M, L, XL-3XL)		\$50
WTA Hat and Mug Combo. Buy both for the discounted price.		\$35
Gray Hooded sweatshirt – light weight (M, L, XL, 2XL)		\$40
NEW! WTA Logo Jacket – two styles to choose from, fleece-lined “Bomber” or hooded Rain jacket. Mary Toal has samples available for sizing.		\$100 (custom-ordered)

Proceeds benefit the work of the WTA.