



April PFMC Meeting Report - Rick Goche

A new stock assessment is scheduled to be completed in 2011. A meeting of the ISC Albacore Working Group (Model Subgroup) was scheduled for March 14 – March 18 in Shimizu, Japan. However, because of the recent earthquake in Japan the meeting has been rescheduled to April 18 – 30. This means the next time the PFMC will have an opportunity to respond to the assessment will be at their June meeting. This stock assessment has the potential to affect all of us if it turns out that the stock is shown to be in decline (Read: triggering some sort of catch limitation scheme). The Oregon Albacore Commission will be monitoring the situation closely.

For those who fish west of 150: This year, not only is a WCPFC area endorsement required, but so is a VMS. The endorsement can be acquired by calling Tom Graham at [808-944-2219](tel:808-944-2219). Try as we might we were unable to get an exception to this rule but we were able to get a concession where the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission has been funded to reimburse up to \$3100 of the cost of the unit. Once turned on this unit is required to transmit “for the rest of your life” whether you are tied to the boards, fishing tuna, fishing anything else or whatever.

Also, if you fish west of 150, you will need to put ‘USA’ in front of your document numbers on the vessel.

If you catch a shark don’t deliver it with the fins or tail detached. Your buyer cannot buy it. He could be fined. You could be fined. This is either a terribly misguided effort to stop shark finning or it is a very effective backdoor to stopping all legal U.S. driftnet fishing as it is virtually impossible to swordfish without taking incidental sharks and equally impossible to take the shark without at least cutting off the tail. I know we catch almost no shark in the albacore fishery but be aware of this new regulation and that it applies to everyone in every fishery.

OAC Meeting May 20 in Charleston

The OAC will hold its annual budget meeting on **Friday, May 20, 2011** from 10-4 at the **Charleston Marina RV Park**. Plan on attending to learn what your commission is doing for you and to provide input for our activities this next year. Door prizes (2 packs of Zuckers and a Mustang working vest) will be given out throughout the day.

Pacific Albacore Tuna Safe from Radiation

As information about radiation from Japan’s Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant emerge, concerns about our Pacific albacore have been raised. The OAC in concert with WFOA, National Fisheries Institute and AAFA have written the below statements:

The Albacore tuna caught by the U.S. troll & pole fleet are migratory warm water fish. They journey widely across the Northern Pacific Ocean following patterns of warm water and feed. 10 years of tagging data show that these fish do not come anywhere close to the cold waters of Japan at this time of year and it is believed that these albacore tuna stocks are currently many hundreds if not thousands of miles away from Japan at this time.

The area where contaminated water was discharged into the sea is along the Japanese shoreline and that water has not transited far off-shore.

This diminishing radioactivity will likely dilute to undetectable levels along the Japanese coast and the migratory off-shore albacore tuna are expected to be completely unaffected by this event.

“The Fleet Is In” Commercials

Once again, the two 30-second commercials that the OAC produced were shown around the state for two weeks in July, two weeks in August and two weeks in September in 2010. Fishermen selling directly off their vessels have taken advantage of this opportunity by listing their vessels on the OAC website (oregonalbacore.org) “The Fleet Is In.”

These commercials generated great response from the consumers who could now visit the web page and/or phone line, to find vessels selling albacore from each port. They appreciated being able to find this information and contact a fisherman for availability before driving to the coast.

Those fishermen who called in were excited about the additional sales and contacts generated from the commercials and the web/phone listings and thanked the commission for a great use of the commission’s promotional budget. The commission is very pleased with this positive promotional effort and looks forward to this year.

If you are a limited fish seller and wish to participate, contact Nancy at the OAC office (info on page 4).

U.S.Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010

These rules will affect every commercial fisherman, so it is important to be aware and provide comments. The OAC will have an informational workshop on what this means and how to prepare for it once the details of the rules are finalized.

Section 604 of the “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010,” signed into law on October 15, 2010, makes numerous significant changes that will affect the commercial fishing industry. Town hall meetings were held along the coast with many fishermen attending to provide their input and their frustration at the additional levels required for compliance. Now that Congress has enacted the legislation, the Coast Guard must write the regulations to implement the new laws. When that process is done, the regulations will be printed in the Federal Register and then available for public comment for 90 days. For complete information visit (www.fishsafe.info).

Parity for all Vessels: There will be uniform safety standards for all vessels and there will no longer be different standards for federally-documented and state-registered vessels operating beyond 3 nautical miles.

Replacing Boundary Line with 3 Nautical Miles for operating area and equipment standards. The words ‘boundary line’ were not a uniform definition around the U.S., therefore wherever the law says ‘boundary line’ will be replaced with ‘3 nautical miles.’

Survival Craft: On commercial fishing vessels operating beyond 3 nautical miles, lifefloats and buoyant apparatus will no longer be accepted as survival craft. The new performance standard for primary lifesaving equipment requires “a survival craft that ensures that no part of an individual is immersed in water.” There could be a phase-in period for this requirement to become effective.

Records: A new provision requires the individual in charge of a vessel operating beyond 3 nautical miles to maintain a safety logbook which records equipment maintenance and required instruction and drills.

Examinations and Certificates of Compliance: By October 15, 2012, a dockside safety examination will be mandatory at least once every two years for vessels operating beyond 3 nautical miles and a certificate of compliance will be issued upon successful completion of the exam.

Construction Standards for Smaller Vessels: Vessels built after Jan. 2, 2010 and less than 50 feet overall in length must be constructed in a manner that provides the same level of standards as for recreational vessels established under Title 46 USC 4320.

Load Lines: Assignment of a load line will be a requirement on fishing vessels 79 feet or greater in length and built after July 1, 2012.

Training for Operators: Individuals in charge of the vessel operating beyond 3 nautical miles will be required to pass a training program covering seamanship, navigation, stability, fire fighting, damage control, safety and survival, emergency drills, and more. A certificate will be issued, with refresher training required every 5 years.

Classing of Vessels: Alternative safety compliance programs are to be developed in cooperation with the industry, and may be developed for specific regions and fisheries.

Canadian Study on Raft Repacking Intervals

A Canadian study on life raft repack intervals reveals that certain rafts don’t need to be inspected annually.

Summary: Current international and national regulations require inflatable SOLAS liferafts to be inspected annually. Allowance has been granted in the national regulations of a service inspection of 24 months for seasonally operated vessels and 30 months for liferafts designed specifically for extended service.

The objective of this project is to investigate the effects of increasing the time interval between service inspections without compromising the safety and reliability of the liferaft. In addition, the increase in the inspection interval will benefit the ship owner by dispensing with the cost and inconvenience associated with annual inspections.

Historical inspection statistics indicate that the probability of a liferaft being condemned is ~1% below 4 years of age, ~10% between 4 and 16 years and increases rapidly thereafter. The statistics also show that the probability of a critical problem occurring is minimal below 4 years and increases rapidly to a maximum at 16 years, with an average age for liferafts with critical problems of 13.5 years.

The results provide guidance for a suggested revision to the service interval schedule:

Liferaft 0-4 years – service interval of 4 years

Liferaft 4-16 years – service interval of 2 years

Liferaft 16 years and up – service interval every year

Redefining the inspection interval schedule would reduce the number of required inspections. This would benefit the industry in a number of ways. It would reduce the cost and inconvenience to shipowners, which would in turn increase the adherence to the regulations. It would also minimize shipping and repacking, thereby reducing opportunities for the liferafts to be damaged during this process. Marine safety would, therefore, be increased in two ways: liferafts would be less likely to be damaged through shipping and repacking, and more shipowners (especially small operators) would comply with the regulations and carry liferafts.

Can the USCG review this Canadian study to relax our liferaft inspection regulations? The Oregon Albacore Commission will be asking that question of our legislators and the U.S. Coast Guard.

OAC Participates in Trade Shows

Seafood Oregon, comprised of the Albacore, Dungeness Crab, Salmon, and Trawl commissions, participated in the International Boston Seafood Show (IBSS) during March and the NW Foodservice Show in Portland in April.

Commissioner Mark Schneider joined both shows and brought samples of 6 oz and 4 lb pouches of custom “canned” albacore tuna. The pouches use the same once-cooked process as our custom cans.

Our troll-caught MSC certified albacore tuna was well received at both shows with attendees enjoying the taste of our tuna and asking where they could find more. Some were interested for themselves, while many more expressed interest in purchasing for their retail store, restaurant, deli, etc. The OAC has sent them our suppliers’ list, so that they can make that connection. Hopefully our tuna will find its way to new markets.

Oregon’s Custom Cannery

Commercial fishermen – Oregon has many facilities ready to process your quality albacore tuna into quality cans or pouches for individual sales, retail, or food service.

Bell Buoy of Seaside

Terry & Jon Hartill 503-738-6254
bellbuoy@pacifier.com
Custom canning

Chuck’s Seafood – Charleston

Heath Hampel 541-888-5525
sales@chucksseafood.com
Custom canning

Oregon Seafoods – Coos Bay

Mike Babcock 541-266-8862, cell 541-913-1050
mike@oregonseafoods.com
Custom canning

Custom pouches – small retail up to food service size

Skipanon Brand Seafoods – Warrenton

Mark Kujala 503-861-8277
mark@skipanonbrand.com
Custom canning

Sportsmen’s Cannery – Winchester Bay

541-271-3293
winbayfisheries@charter.net
Custom canning

Tillamook Bay Boathouse

Darus Peake 503-322-3600
boathouse@oregoncoast.com
Custom canning



Canada Eliminates Albacore Consumption Limits

More news from Canada:

After nine years of collecting data and chemical analysis of Canadian Albacore Tuna the British Columbia Ministry of Health and the BC Centre for Disease Control have developed NEW recommendations for the consumption of Canadian Albacore Tuna due to the results that Canadian Albacore Tuna consistently tests lowest for Mercury among all tested tuna.

Specifically: **Albacore Tuna, fresh, frozen, canned, from B.C. or Canada**

Children 6 to 24 months No limit

Children 2 to 12 years No limit

Girls and Women of childbearing age, including pregnant and breastfeeding women No limit

Men (ages 12 and older) and Women after childbearing years No limit

The official link on this is:

<http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile68m.stm>

Maybe this will help set a precedent that we can take to the FDA to address the mercury issue and our albacore.

Fisheries Film Ready to View

The fisheries film, “Oregon’s Ocean Fisheries: A Conservation Story” funded through the four seafood commissions and others is now complete and ready for viewing. The Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association (OCZMA) will send copies to key leaders in Oregon and select public access TV stations in Oregon and will post it on their website (oczma.org) after re-developing the site.

This is your commercial fishing story. Thank you OCZMA and Pacific Media for finishing the film and making it available.

OAC Developing Marketing Plan

The OAC has contracted with Watershed Communications in Portland to develop a new marketing strategy that will help guide our promotional efforts for the next few years. The creative brief and plan will be presented at the May 20 meeting. Join us to learn the exciting new ways we will be promoting our albacore tuna.

Canned Albacore Labels

For our trade shows, the OAC has a display of canned albacore showing the various microcanned labels. We travel to various locations for these shows and want to save some shipping costs. Therefore, we would like to have empty labeled cans. If you would like your brand of albacore displayed in our booth, please send an air can with your label, or just send a label. The OAC address is on the last page.



Oregon Albacore Commission
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Help Us Build an Albacore Email Database

This newsletter is mailed to Albacore fishermen and buyers with landings in Oregon, interested industry individuals, coastal ports, Sea Grant Extension agents, state agencies, and other interested parties. If you would like your name or others you know to be added to the list, please contact the OAC.

Also, to save costs, the OAC is sending this newsletter electronically. If you received a paper copy and would like to be added to the email list, please let me know. Those on the email list will receive industry updates that come out between publications of this newsletter.

Commissioners

Rick Goche • Chairman • Coquille (Fisherman)
Mark Schneider • Vice Chairman • Yamhill (Handler)
Tom Pfister • Sec/Treas • Newport (Fisherman)
Brenda Crow • Public Member
Larz Malony • Clackamas (Handler)
William Manning • Brookings (Fisherman)
Shawn Ryan • Charleston (Fisherman)
Christa Svensson • Astoria (Handler)
Timothy Thomas • Garibaldi (Fisherman)

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The Oregon Albacore Commission is an industry-funded state commodity commission under the Oregon Department of Agriculture.