



OAC Meeting Update

Oregon Albacore Commissioners and other attendees welcomed Christa Svensson of Bornstein Seafoods as a new commissioner at the reception held May 19 at the Seafood Consumer Center (SCC) in Astoria. Chef Eric Jenkins, Jennifer Chapman, and staff prepared delicious appetizers that were enjoyed as we talked and got to know each other better.

There was good attendance at the May 20 OAC meeting for discussion of the following:

- Mark Whitham of the SCC shared the results of his project to develop a cook time sheet for albacore retort pouches. If processors wish to use the time sheet, Mark will address letters specifically to those processors. Since the cook time depends on the thickness of the albacore, the piece can be any size, as long as it remains the same thickness.

- Mark was also involved in the albacore carcass crab bait project. The carcass was ground up and put in a casing to fit a standard crab bait holder. The pilot study found that it basically fished the same as regular crab bait. This year the carcasses were put in 10 kilo boxes and fishermen put this through their own bait choppers and then into the bait holders. There are questions still to be answered such as will ports or private entities do this. Also the cost has yet to be determined. The carcasses are free, but there are boxes, freezer costs, people to do the processing, etc.

- Bill Carvalho of Wild Planet thanked the commissioners for being on the OAC and volunteering their time for the industry. Bill attended the European Tuna Conference in Brussels last April and gave a report. He also shared a summary of his presentation "Pros and Cons of MSC Certification in Daily Business."

- Natalie Webster of American Albacore Fishing Association (AAFA) explained about AAFA and that they have received Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification.

- Cyreis Schmitt of ODFW gave a summary of the 2008 Oregon Albacore Report telling that 2008 landings were about 8.9 million pounds, which was an 18% decrease from the almost 10.5 million pounds landed in 2007, but 7% higher than the ten-year average of 8.2 million pounds. (The entire report is available through ODFW or the OAC.) She also reported that NMFS has expressed concerns about albacore management and will coming out with a white paper.

- Gway Kirchner of ODFW reported on the taking of anchovies in the bays. (See article on page 2)

- Mike Griffith, who is retiring from the OAC when his term ends on June 30, was honored and thanked by the commissioners for his years of service.

- Commissioners approved the Fiscal Year 2009/2010 budget which includes continued promotional activities, some of which are described in this newsletter.

"The Fleet Is In" Commercials

Once again, the two 30-second commercials that the OAC produced last year are being shown around the state for two weeks in July, two weeks in August and two weeks in September. Some fishermen selling directly off their vessels have already taken advantage of this opportunity by listing their vessels on the OAC website "The Fleet Is In."

The commercials have been successful in that consumers are visiting the website, calling the automated phone line, or emailing for information about vessels selling albacore.

The OAC sent laminated cards to limited fish sellers that included the OAC call in information to be listed on the site.

As the albacore come back in, we hope that more fishermen will take advantage of this marketing opportunity. The commercials are working, we just need to be sure that we can tell the consumer where and when they can purchase albacore directly from the fishermen.

Fishing in Canadian Waters

Below is a reminder list of things to be done by a U.S. vessel before fishing in Canadian waters in 2009:

- Get on the NMFS list 7 days prior – call 562-980-4024
- Check in with Tofino Coast Guard 24 hours prior to entering Canadian waters on VHF 26, HF 4125 or call 250-726-7716
- Have documentation number followed by the letter “U” on each side of the vessel and on top of the pilot house
- Have your U.S. HMS logbook and HMS permit
- Be sure to check passport requirements before entering Canadian ports
- No fishing inside of 12 miles

Tuna Forecast and Data Products

Craig Risien of OSU’s College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences (COAS) has developed a webpage that focuses on tuna oriented forecast and data products. These are available at http://agate.coas.oregonstate.edu/data/ocs_tuna_nowcast.html. The model forecast fields update daily at about 1 pm. The satellite fields update daily at about 8 pm.

He is also archiving the nowcast figures at <http://agate.coas.oregonstate.edu/gallery2/roms/>, the 8-day composite CHLA figures at <http://agate.coas.oregonstate.edu/gallery2/chla/> and the 8-day composite SST figures at <http://agate.coas.oregonstate.edu/gallery2/sst/>. As these galleries begin to fill up, the thumbnails will be listed in chronological order. The most recent plot will always be labeled SST Plot 1, CHLA Plot 1 and ROMS Plot 1. This is a temporary set up and Craig hopes to have a more sophisticated webpage that allows a user to more easily click through the archived images in the not too distant future.

OFWC to Discuss Anchovy Seining in Bays

The Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission (OFWC) will be asked to review and adopt regulations allowing commercial harvest of anchovies as bait by albacore tuna vessels, and bait harvest in the Umpqua estuary at its August 7, 2009 meeting in Salem at the ODFW office. The packet for the anchovy seining issue is on the ODFW web site at (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/09/08_august/index.asp).

Current permanent regulations do not allow for harvest of bait fish (also known as forage fish) in Oregon inland waters for commercial purposes, with the exception of the Columbia River and a small herring fishery in Yaquina Bay.

Interest in delivering albacore tuna into Oregon has been expressed by the albacore tuna live bait fishery. The barrier to doing so for this portion of the fleet is the inability to harvest their own bait in Oregon inland waters.

A temporary rule allowing the activity was filed in 2008 and again in 2009. This rule, specific to anchovy harvest, contains gear and time specifications, as well as reporting requirements.

The options for the OFWC are: 1) to allow anchovies taken in inland water (Tillamook, Yaquina, Umpqua and Coos) to be used for live bait on the catching vessel; 2) do not allow (status quo).

Also, the rules as currently written do not accommodate the activities of Umpqua Bait, Inc., a long-term small volume bait dealer in Winchester Bay. ODFW indicates that changes to the OARs as proposed by staff will bring existing bait fishing operations within Winchester Bay into compliance and result in limited risk to existing salmonid populations within the Umpqua Basin. Again, the OFWC has two options, to allow or to not allow.

This is the last agenda item, so it will be up sometime in the afternoon. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the meeting to give testimony.

Pacific Commercial Fishermen’s Festival in Astoria

The Oregon Albacore Commission as part of *Seafood OREGON* will have a booth at the Pacific Commercial Fishermen’s Festival at the Port of Astoria, Pier 1 on September 19 & 20. The festival was created to promote the commercial fishing industry, showcase the heritage of the fishing communities, and honor those who risk their lives to bring fresh seafood to our tables.

All four of our seafood commissions will be present to answer questions, explain our fisheries, and support our commercial fishermen.

The festival has many activities planned including a Coast Guard rescue, fishermen explaining aspects of their fishery, demonstrations of fish filleting, oyster shucking, net mending, crab pot knitting and more. There will be live entertainment, food, craft vendors, and activities for kids.

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.

.....

Promotional Activities

Timberline Lodge Brunch

Timberline Lodge is featuring Farmers Market Brunch for their Summer Culinary Series with each week featuring a different food that is produced in Oregon. Our Oregon coastal seafood will be well represented for three consecutive weeks. The Oregon Trawl Commission will feature shrimp from July 29 – August 4, followed by Oregon Dungeness Crab from August 5 – 11, and Oregon Albacore Week from August 12 – 18.

Not only will our seafood be prepared by their chef, but information on our industry will be presented along with take home promotional material.

According to Timberline, these brunches, which started July 1, have been well attended. This is a great opportunity for additional exposure for our Oregon Albacore.

Oregon Fisheries Day - August 16, 2009

Oregon Sea Grant and the Oregon Coast Aquarium are planning a collaborative event, "Oregon Fisheries Day", to be held at both the Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC) and the Aquarium on Sunday, August 16, 2009 with events happening from 12-4pm. The purpose of the event is to highlight the conservation efforts made by Oregon fishermen, and to provide the public an opportunity to learn about specific fisheries from the fishing community.

Salmon, albacore, and black cod will be highlighted at the HMSC with fishing gear, displays, grilled fish, videos, handouts and other activities. Dungeness crab and pink shrimp will be at the Aquarium.

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 would like 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 back of this newsletter.

OAC Website in Newspaper

The July 15, 2009 Statesman-Journal included an article about "Classic tuna recipes." The writer went to the OAC website and copied two of the recipes listed there and wrote, "And what better source than chef-submitted winners on the Oregon Albacore Commission online recipe pages?" They included our website at the end of the article. Hopefully the public will not only view our recipes, but other information about our Oregon Albacore.

We will be adding more recipes to this site from the Oregon Albacore Challenge hosted by the Oregon Coast Culinary Institute in Coos Bay. This event was August 1 and the albacore for the chefs was provided through the OAC.



*** Seafood Recipes Wanted ***

Seafood Oregon, a consortium of the Albacore, Dungeness Crab, Salmon, and Trawl Commissions, will again have a booth at the Oregon State Fair August 28 through September 7, 2009.

This is a special year for Oregon as we celebrate its 150 years as a state (1859). Events have taken place throughout the year and will culminate at the Oregon State Fair.

To acknowledge our coastal and fishing industries heritage and contribution to our state, Seafood Oregon will hand out its own cookbook of 150 ways to enjoy/prepare Oregon seafood. We have some recipes, but would love to add to our collections, so please send us your favorite recipes for any of the following Oregon seafood: albacore, bottomfish, Dungeness Crab, salmon, pink shrimp. Types of recipes can include appetizers, main dishes, salads, sandwiches, sauces, soups, stews, etc.

You can send or email your recipes to any of the four commissions. (My email is on the back of this newsletter.) We will compile them and have them copied and ready for State Fair on August 28.

Thank you in advance for your contributions.



Oregon Albacore Commission
P.O. Box 983
Lincoln City, OR 97367

Commissioners

Rick Goche • Chairman • Coquille (Fisherman)
Jerry Bates • Vice Chairman • Newport (Fisherman)
Tom Pfister • Sec/Treas • Newport (Fisherman)
Mike Griffith • Brookings (Fisherman)
Larz Malony • Clackamas (Handler)
Shawn Ryan • Charleston (Fisherman)
Mark Schneider • Yamhill (Handler)
Christa Svensson • Astoria (Handler)
Public Member • Vacant

Staff

Nancy Fitzpatrick, Administrator

Office

P.O. Box 983
Lincoln City, OR 97367
Phone/Fax: 541-994-2647
Email: njf@class.oregonvos.net
www.oregonalbacore.org

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