



## Newsletter of the Oregon Albacore Commission

March 2008

### Welcome!

Welcome to the Oregon Albacore Commission newsletter. We hope that this newsletter will have items of interest and be useful for you. You will notice that we are using our albacore logo (used on letterhead and envelopes) as our masthead. We are open to suggestions for a logo and name for this newsletter – let those creative juices flow. Send all ideas to the office and one will be selected at the next commission meeting.

Also, if you want information on a certain topic, let me know and it can be included in the next newsletter, or you can submit an article for inclusion. This is your newsletter for your albacore industry, so please send your ideas.

### OAC Meeting Update

The following items were discussed at the October 30, 2007 OAC meeting in Charleston.

The Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association (OCZMA) is producing an [ocean film](#) to tell the stories of our coastal fisheries. We want the public to know who we are and how we fish. The production crew has gone out on vessels getting film footage of our fisheries.

The OAC is actively involved in attending [Wave Energy](#) meetings, and [Marine Reserve](#) meetings. The Marine Reserve outreach meetings have been completed and a report will be submitted to the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC). The current timeline will have open nominations for Marine Reserves beginning in April. Questions are still being asked by coastal communities, “Why do we need them?” “Why the rush?” “Where are the economic studies?” Even without adequate answers, the process continues to move forward.

[Diane Moody](#), Director of the Seafood Consumer Center in Astoria, talked to the commission about marketing and opportunities. She also offered to assist the commission in creating a web page that will help fishermen who sell directly from their vessels. We will keep you posted on the progress.

[Mark Whitham](#), Product Development Specialist at the Seafood Consumer Center, talked about retort pouches for albacore, and also treated everyone to samples of value-added albacore products he is working on – tuna ham and tuna jerky. A current study is putting ground albacore carcasses into a sausage-type of sleeve that can be used as crab bait. Mark will continue to provide the OAC with updates on his work.

### WFOA Annual Meeting in Astoria

WFOA will hold their Annual General Meeting March 31–April 2, 2008 in Astoria at the Holiday Inn Express (888-898-6222). Agenda items include: market and price 2008; public education campaign; management and regulatory issues (including U.S./Canada Treaty); tagging 2008; selenium research – guest speaker Dr. Laurie Raymond. The WFOA web site ([wfoa-tuna.org](http://wfoa-tuna.org)) will have meeting updates.

### 2007 Albacore Landing Summary

The 2007 commercial fishery recorded its third highest year of the past twenty years. Landings into Oregon ports totaled 10.4 million pounds, just shy of the 10.6 million pounds landed in 1998 and 2004. Ex-vessel revenue totaled \$9.4 million, about 10% of the ex-vessel revenue of all marine fish and shellfish landed in Oregon during 2007. Compared to 2006, landings in 2007 were 22% higher and ex-vessel revenue was up 17%. The number of deliveries also increased 47% but they were 15% lower in weight, on average. The estimated number of deliveries into Oregon ports totaled 1,368 and the average landing weighed 7,540 pounds in 2007. The top delivery port also switched from Astoria in 2006 to Newport in 2007. Newport accounted for 46% of the landings, followed by Astoria with 27% and Charleston with 21%. In 2006, Astoria received 46% of the landings followed by Newport with 34% and Charleston with 14%.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s sampling results show two distinct age groups of albacore were landed in 2007. The younger group, roughly 3.5 years of age, averaged 12 pounds and the older group, about 4.5 years old, averaged 20 pounds. In 2006, sampling showed only one distinct size group, averaging 13.5 pounds. Most of these fish were nearly 4 years old.

### Letter from WFOA to the Albacore Fleet

U.S./Canada Treaty: Bilateral meetings scheduled for January 2008 have been moved to sometime in April or early May in British Columbia. There has been a lot of activity behind the scenes between governments after receipt of the WFOA letter requesting treaty termination. WFOA received a communication from the U.S. Department of State very late in December 2007 stating that there was not enough time to consider such an action, but would pursue the other issues we expressed concern about including license transferability by the 94 permitted Canadian vessels. We have heard that there are pressures in Canada by some who have not made the cut to have the government open it up to as many as 80 plus new vessels. This would be done by dividing the months up into smaller increments, such as 2 months each. One suggested solution to this in the short term would be if the U.S. made a permit required of Canadian vessels fishing in U.S. waters at 94 vessels or whatever number was agreed to. Also, suggestions of limiting months to two instead of four have been floated. However, all items agreed to by two governments would most likely have to be reciprocal and the U.S. would also have to be prepared to have to obtain a permit from Canada to fish in Canadian waters. This is an issue we will be asking members at upcoming district and membership meetings. This potentially affects all albacore fishermen and we would like to hear from members as well as non-members on this issue. Contact: [WFOA@charter.net](mailto:WFOA@charter.net)

## ODFW's Albacore Landing License

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's "Albacore Tuna Landing License" is a special license that allows a boat to commercially land albacore tuna only. This license acts in lieu of all other **Oregon** commercial fishing licenses for a boat landing only albacore, therefore a vessel is not required to have an Oregon commercial boat license or crew licenses. The "Albacore Tuna Landing License" does not eliminate other federal permit and logbook requirements. Any vessel fishing under an "Albacore Tuna Landing License" is a commercial fishing vessel and must also meet all commercial vessel requirements as prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Some common questions about the Albacore Tuna Landing License include:

**Q: Do I have to purchase crew member licenses if I have an "Albacore Tuna Landing License" and only land albacore into Oregon?**

*A: No. The "Albacore Tuna Landing License" replaces both the commercial boat license and individual commercial fishing license requirements as long as only albacore tuna are landed.*

**Q: Can I still sport fish on my boat if I purchase this license?**

*A: Oregon law permits a commercial vessel to be used for sport fishing, but only on separate trips. You cannot sport fish and commercial fish on the same trip from port, and you must determine your trip type prior to leaving port. You also need to use only sport fishing gear, and must have all required sport angling licenses and tags for the fishing that you will be doing.*

**Q: Is the "Albacore Tuna Landing License" the only license needed?**

*A: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has additional permitting requirements for boats commercially fishing for any Highly Migratory Species (HMS) including albacore tuna. Boats fishing for HMS species must have an appropriate NMFS HMS permit, logbook (kept up to date and submitted per NMFS rules), and provide for observer ride-alongs on trips. Applications for the HMS permit are available at ODFW offices at Newport, Charleston, Astoria, Brookings, and Salem, and are available on-line at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov> or call NMFS at 562-980-4000 to request a copy.*

**Q: If I only catch a few albacore on a commercial trip, can I take them home for personal use?**

*A: All fish caught under the landing license are required to be sold to a licensed commercial fish dealer, and recorded on a fish receiving ticket. If you want to keep some of your catch, Oregon law allows for a "buyback" of your catch from the dealer. You will likely have to reimburse the fish dealer for the tax on the landing, and the fish dealer may charge an additional handling fee.*

**Q: Can I sell my albacore catch to the public?**

*A: Separate licenses and regulations are required for commercial boats selling to the public. Contact ODFW licensing at (503)947-6112 for details. It is illegal to sell any sport caught fish.*



## HMS Permits and Logbooks

An application for a Highly Migratory Species permit, can be electronically download at: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov>

Electronic copies of commercial albacore logbooks can be downloaded at: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/logbooks.htm>

Fishermen can also get logbooks from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Region Office or from ODFW offices in Newport, Astoria, Charleston and Brookings. Albacore fishermen must turn in completed forms to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Science Center. ODFW does not accept completed logbook information.

**To request an Albacore Logbook from NMFS, email** [rick.deering@noaa.gov](mailto:rick.deering@noaa.gov) **or write:**

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southwest Region  
501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**To turn in an Albacore Logbook, mail completed forms to:**

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southwest Fisheries Science Center  
8604 La Jolla Shores Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92037

All information specified on the logbook forms must be recorded on the forms within 24 hours after the completion of each fishing day. The original logbook form for each day of the fishing trip must be turned in within 30 days of each landing or transshipment of Highly Migratory Species. Each form must be signed and dated by the fishing vessel operator.

---

## MSC Certification for Pacific Albacore

The American Albacore Fishing Association (AAFA) has received MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) certification of the North and South Pacific pole & line and troll/jig fishery. In October 2007 a letter was sent to Pacific albacore fishermen telling about the opportunity to participate. Upon sending in this first letter, fishermen received a more in-depth letter explaining the process.

Participation in the MSC program is available to all qualifying vessels, and membership in AAFA is not required. Minimum requirements include: U.S. registered vessel; HMS permit (current and accurate); "pole & troll" gear for fishing albacore; HACCP plan; refrigeration (a program for iced fish may not be available for the 2008 season) capacity to deliver high quality frozen fish.

In order to participate in the 2008 season each vessel must qualify; RSVP (by March 15) and attend the April 15th MSC Certificate & Program information meeting in San Diego (mandatory and required); and complete and submit the program application.

A one-time program participation fee of \$1,000 is required for each qualifying vessel with a subsequent annual renewal fee. In addition a landing fee will be assessed on a per pound basis for the program.

If you wish to participate or want more information, contact: Natalie Webster, AAFA Administrator 619-941-2307, cell 619-559-1340, [nataliewebster@americanalbacore.com](mailto:nataliewebster@americanalbacore.com)

## 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 or fill out the form below, cut and send to the office.

Also, to save costs, the OAC would like to send this newsletter electronically.

Please fill out the form below or email us (njf@class.oregonvos.net) so that we can add you to our email database.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address: If different from the label on the other side of this newsletter. \_\_\_\_\_

---

### Health Care for Fishermen

Washington, D.C.---On February 13, 2008 Senators Edward Kennedy and John Kerry and Representatives Barney Frank, John Tierney, and William Delahunt introduced bipartisan legislation to provide low-cost health coverage to fishermen and their families in Massachusetts and other coastal states.

Senator Kennedy said, "This is a unique opportunity to provide good coverage to the nation's fishermen. The Massachusetts Fishing Partnership Plan is a proven success in covering the state's fishermen, and federal funds have contributed significantly to that success. This bill will enable fishermen in other states to get good coverage as well."

Congressman Frank said, "Finding and keeping affordable health care coverage has often been difficult for fishermen. It is time to take the next step by establishing a national program that can help keep the Massachusetts plan strong and also give other states the chance to adopt their own plans. I had hoped that we would be able to include legislation along these lines in the Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization bill passed by Congress in late 2006. When that didn't happen, this health care proposal became one of the key unfinished items on the fishing agenda."

The bill introduced would authorize funding to replicate the Massachusetts Fishing Partnership Health Plan in other coastal states, while allowing states to tailor their plans to their own circumstances and types of fishing. It authorizes \$50 million over five years for program planning, implementation and continuation grants in states with commercial fishing industries.

Also co-sponsoring the bill are Senators Ted Stevens (R) and Lisa Murkowski (R) of Alaska, and Representatives Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), Don Young (R-AK), Tom Allen (D-ME) and Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD).

You may wish to contact Oregon federal legislators about the Commercial Fishing Industry Health Care Coverage Act of 2008, which would, if passed, have the Secretary of Health and Human Services establish a grant program under the Health Resources and Services Administration for establishment of health care coverage programs for the commercial fishing industry.

### Oregon Congressional Delegation & Local Staff

#### Senator Gordon Smith

Terri Moffett 541-465-6750

E-mail: [terri\\_moffett@gsmith.senate.gov](mailto:terri_moffett@gsmith.senate.gov)

#### Senator Ron Wyden

Fritz Graham 503-589-4555

Email: [fritz\\_graham@wyden.senate.gov](mailto:fritz_graham@wyden.senate.gov)

### Mercury and Selenium Studies

As we have all heard through various forms of media, tuna has been receiving negative coverage directed at the mercury content in seafood.

We know that albacore is low in sodium and contains the highest concentrations (2.1g per 3.5 oz. serving) of heart-healthy Omega-3 fatty acids in the tuna family. Regular consumption of Omega-3-rich fish such as albacore has been linked to reduced risk of heart attack and stroke, reduction of depression-related symptoms, relief from arthritis pain, and a lowering of blood pressure.

But our Pacific Troll-Caught Albacore is continually linked with the larger tuna in mercury discussions. In 2003 and 2004, the Oregon State University Seafood Lab, funded by the WFOA and the Oregon Albacore Commission, conducted a study to determine mercury levels in samples of North Pacific troll-caught albacore tuna harvested from May to November. These tuna were relatively low in mercury (0.14 ppm and 0.17 ppm respectively) and were well below the FDA level of 1.0 ppm. The report says, "The lower levels of mercury in the North Pacific troll-caught albacore may be due, in part, to their smaller size."

Current studies conducted by Laura Raymond, PhD and Nicholas VC Ralston, PhD are stating that, "Measuring the amount of mercury present in the environment or food sources may provide an inadequate reflection of the potential for health risks if the protective effects of selenium are not also considered. Likewise, numerous studies indicate that selenium, present in many foods (including fish), protects against mercury exposure."

The OAC will continue to follow these studies and the research.

---

#### Representative Earl Blumenauer

Julia Pomeroy or Hillary Barbour 503-231-2300

Email: [hillary.barbour@mail.house.gov](mailto:hillary.barbour@mail.house.gov)

#### Representative Peter DeFazio

Ron Kreskey 541-269-2609

E-mail: [ron.kreskey@mail.house.gov](mailto:ron.kreskey@mail.house.gov)

#### Representative Darlene Hooley

Jennifer Wagner 503-588-9100

E-mail: [jennifer.wagner@mail.house.gov](mailto:jennifer.wagner@mail.house.gov)

#### Representative Greg Walden

John Snider 541-776-4646

Email: [john.snider@mail.house.gov](mailto:john.snider@mail.house.gov)

#### Representative David Wu

Stephen Marx 503-326-2901

E-mail: [stephen.marx@mail.house.gov](mailto:stephen.marx@mail.house.gov)



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

### **Commissioners**

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

### **Two Positions Vacant on the OAC**

Two positions are currently available on the OAC – a handler/processor position and a public member. To qualify each applicant must be a citizen of the U.S., an Oregon resident, and demonstrate an active interest in the development and economic growth of the albacore industry in Oregon. The handler must have collected the albacore assessment during each of the three preceding calendar years. The public member must be a member of the public not associated with the production (fishing) or handling of albacore. If you are interested, please contact the office for an application.

### **Staff**

Nancy Fitzpatrick, Administrator

### **Office**

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

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

### **Photos Needed**

When the albacore materials were brought to their new office, I noticed that we are lacking photos of your boats and albacore. In order to show the public how you fish for albacore and your vessels, and of course the albacore themselves, we need pictures. At the Boston Seafood Show a DVD player ran a constant loop with the limited photos that I could find. The public was interested in your boats and how you fish. If you have photos that you would like to share, please send them to the OAC office where they will be scanned and returned to you, or email digital photos. If you have a larger digital collection, you can put them on a disk and mail it. Thank you for your help to expand our visual presentation.