

NEWPORT'S COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

ALBACORE TUNA usually arrive off the Oregon coast in the early summer, following the warm water current from Japan. To catch tuna, trollers tow artificial lures (jigs) on the surface of the water at speeds of three to six miles per hour. The fishermen will travel offshore 50 miles or more to find the tuna—a distance that forces boats to stay out several days.



Jim Haron photo provided by the Lincoln County Historical Society

TUNA FISHERY MANAGEMENT

Albacore tuna are managed by many different countries. In the United States, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) manages the commercial and recreational albacore tuna fisheries.

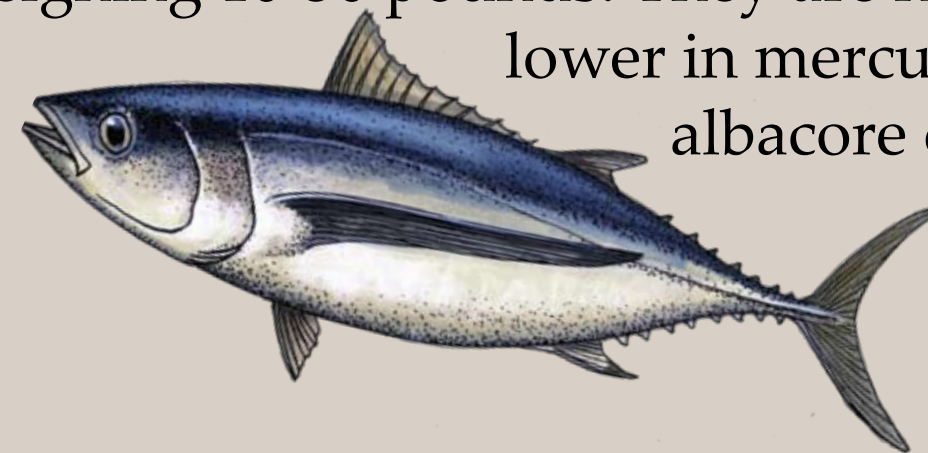
The Pacific albacore tuna troll fishery is certified as a sustainable fishery by the Marine Stewardship Council. Because tuna trolling targets fish found near the surface, and albacore rarely school with other species of large fish, bycatch is exceptionally low.

A good day's catch might be 300 tuna with individual fish weighing up to 30 pounds. The fish are brought onboard, bled, and preserved at sea using ice or refrigeration.

Back at port, the fish are delivered to the seafood processor. The processor will either can the tuna, freeze it, or ship it fresh to seafood markets in the United States and overseas.

During the annual harvest from June through October, many fishermen will also sell tuna to the public right off their boat. In addition, some fishermen will can their own fish for retail sale, which is called microcanning. On average, Oregon fishermen catch 7.5 million dollars worth of albacore tuna every year.

ALBACORE TUNA, *Thunnus alalunga*, are highly migratory and travel in large schools. Fully grown they can weigh over 130 pounds. Albacore caught by Oregon fishermen are younger fish (3-5 years old) weighing 10-30 pounds. They are higher in omega-3 fatty acids and lower in mercury content than the large (older) albacore caught in the central Pacific Ocean.



TUNA TROLLER

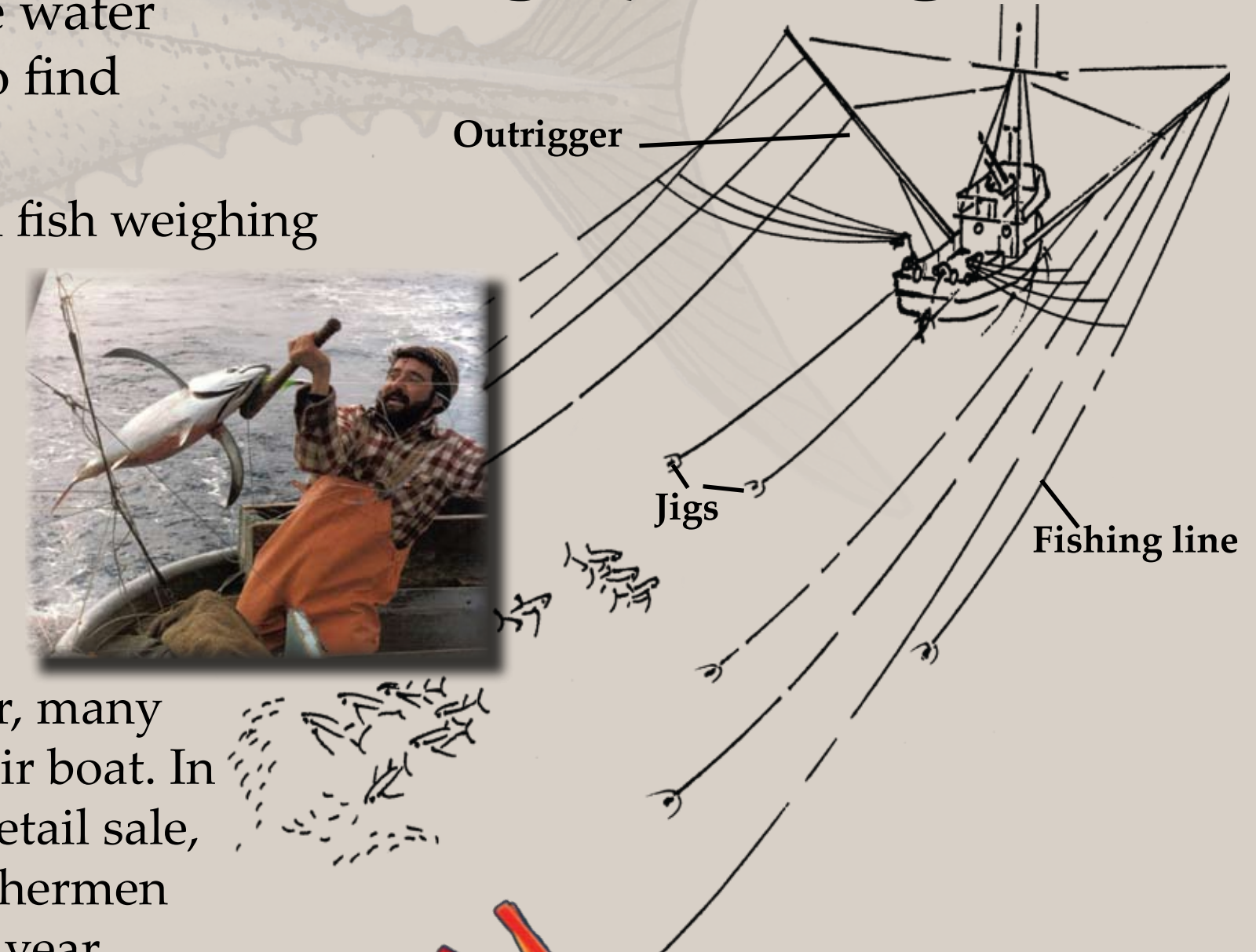


Photo and illustration by Herb Goblirsch

