

American Fishermen's Research Foundation News ©

At the end of another season, AFRF activities will consist mainly of following up on ongoing projects and getting material to distribute to the members. These will include archival tagging data and reports, selenium research, and stomach content research. Also, In the next newsletter we will include an extensive update on regulation and management on all levels, and AFRFs activities in those areas both at the federal and international levels.

The AFRF board will be meeting on November 5th in San Diego for its' Fall Meeting. The agenda is as follows:

- Call to Order
- Introduction of Members and Guests
- Approval Minutes of Spring 2008 Meeting
- Changes / Additions to Agenda
- Financial Update, Budget 2009
- Ongoing Research Projects Conclusions and Reports
 - Selenium / Mercury Research
 - Archival Tagging - 2008
 - Stomach Content
 - On Board Measuring
 - Coastal Survey 2008
- Update on International and Federal Management
- Future Research Funding
- Update on Certification Programs and Issues
- Other New Business
- Adjournment

Archival Tagging: AFRF in cooperation with NOAA/NMFS and Southwest Fisheries Science Center resumed tagging in 2008 and conducted an early tag trip on the F/V Nightwind. Fifty Eight tags were deployed off coastal Washington in the second week of August. The second tagging trip which was to take place onboard the F/V Seadler. Unfortunately, many of the tags received by SWFSC from the suppliers had defects. Since these are \$1,500 each the best course of action was not to try to deploy them after a quick fix. Instead the defective tags will be replaced and deployed early in the 2009 season. Only one previously deployed tag was recovered this year by an Asian longliner in out of Samoa. There has been no delivery of the tag yet to SWFSC thus no information. A \$500 reward is given for tag recoveries.

Selenium: The report on selenium attributes to diet and health has again been delayed until December 31, 2008 by EERC from University of North Dakota, thus we have nothing to update or distribute at this time.

One of the issues concerning AFRF is the lack of followup on three ongoing projects. The selenium project as mentioned above, the tagging as we yet to have any concrete report out of SWFSC promised in April despite the fact that they have hired a person to do the work, and we are still awaiting the stomach content report from Sarah Glaser. AFRF will be trying to wrap these up as soon as possible.

On-Board Measuring: AFRF also is donating \$200 to any of the vessels with measuring troughs who did measuring this season. We will pay the vessel owner as soon as SWFSC receives the data.

Management & Regulatory Activities: AFRF also has Dr. Wespestad on retainers and he has been attending the Internatinal Scientific Committee (ISC) meetings, international albacore workshop of the ISC,

AFRF DIRECTORS '2008- 2009'

Mike McGowan
Bumble Bee Seafoods

Kevin Bixler
Chicken of the Sea

Eddie Bensen
Star Kist Seafoods

Anthony Vuoso
Tri-Marine
International
(Vice President)

Pierre Marchand
Ilwaco Fish Company

Bill Carvalho
Wildplanet, Inc.
(Secretary)

Larz Malony
Pacific Seafoods

Wayne Moody
WFOA

Paul Pellegrini
WFOA

John LaGrange
WFOA
(President)

Stan Davis
WFOA

Lewis Hill
WFOA

Karl Johnson
WFOA

Mark Halvorsen
WFOA

has a seat on the PFMC Statistical & Scientific Committee (SSC), and attends other scientific forums on AFRF's and albacore pole and line fishermen's behalf.

AFRF counsel Peter H. Flournoy has been attending all international and federal management meetings concerning albacore and related issues. More and more talk of effort restrictions and controls have come into play and attending all these meetings are important as ever.

Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC): The PFMC will be meeting in San Diego on November 3-7, 2008 at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, California 92108. For more information go to <www.pcouncil.org/events/future.html#2008>. There will be some HMS issues on the agenda, as well as the agenda of the HMSAS and HMSMT that will be meeting on Sunday, November 2, 2008.

The following is from the PFMC Newsletter - <http://www.pcouncil.org/newsletters/currentnews.pdf>

"...Albacore tuna: U.S. west coast vessels catch 17% of the north Pacific albacore tuna catch. They are also caught by Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Taiwan. Albacore tuna are not considered overfished. They are a very productive stock, and their spawning stock biomass is growing. However, there is some concern that albacore may be too aggressively fished; the International Scientific Committee, which assesses albacore, has called for a precautionary approach to harvest..."

General Issues from Northern Committee of WCPFC 4th session - Tokyo , Japan, September 6-9, 2008:

North Pacific Albacore:

The Northern Committee (NC) considered a U.S. proposal on the interim management objective and measures for North Pacific albacore to achieve the interim objective. With appreciation to the U.S. for their effort, the Committee discussed about the revised U.S. proposal through an informal discussion group, and adopted the revised proposal (Attachment J). The NC recommends the Commission to endorse it.

(Attachment J) An Interim Management Objective for North Pacific Albacore: Adopted by the Northern Committee September 2008 -

At its third regular session, the Northern Committee considered the concept of an interim management objective for North Pacific albacore that would, in essence, maintain the spawning stock biomass in the range of its historical fluctuation until reference points are established. It is proposed that the following be adopted as an interim management objective for the stock:

For this purpose of formulating, and recommending to the Commission, conservation and management measures for the North Pacific albacore stock, the Northern Committee agrees to adopt and achieve an interim management objective for the stock, as described in the following paragraphs.

1. The interim management objective for North Pacific albacore is to maintain the spawning stock biomass (SSB) above the average level of its 10 historically* lowest points (hereinafter referred to as "the Level").
2. In the case that current fishing mortality rate would likely** cause SSB to fall below the Level, the Northern Committee shall formulate conservation and management recommendations to reduce the fishing mortality rate as needed to attain the interim objective, taking account of social and economic factors.
3. Achievement of the interim management objective will not preclude the Northern Committee from formulating and recommending conservation and management measures that would achieve

additional objectives, particularly those stipulated in the Convention or otherwise adopted by the Commission.

4. The Northern Committee will develop more permanent objectives for recommendation to the Commission, specifically reference points that fulfill the provisions of Article 6 of the Convention.

5. The ISC is requested to conduct its assessments of the North Pacific albacore stock, and to express the results of its assessments, such that they include the information necessary to achieve this interim management objective.

* *“historically observed SSB” here means the time series of annual SSB levels from 1966 through 2005, as estimated in the latest formal stock assessment of the ISC.*

** *“likely” here means greater than 50% probability.*

Also adopted by the NC:

Driftnet Fishing on the high seas in the Convention Area:

36. The USA and Japan reported that many illegal driftnet fishing are conducted on the high seas in the Convention area. The USA also mentioned that target species of the illegal fishing shifts from salmon to highly migratory species such as albacore. Some members noted the importance of the collaboration among members and of avoidance of duplication on programs to eliminate illegal fishing.

37. The NC discussed the continued occurrence of, and potential recent increase in, illegal high seas drift net fishing in the Convention area. A number of members noted that these vessels appear to be shifting effort from salmon to highly migratory species, such as albacore and swordfish, that are under the jurisdiction of the Commission. National and international initiatives to eliminate high seas drift net fishing were recognized, as were coordinated enforcement efforts among a number of WCPFC members, including the 1st Tripartite meeting in Canada that brought together representatives from the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum and the WCPFC.

38. In an effort to further deter and eliminate high seas drift net fishing in the Convention Area, the NC encourages the Commission to draw attention to the prevalence of these illegal fishing activities and the potential harmful impacts of high seas drift net fishing on WCPFC fisheries resources. Further, the NC recommends that the Commission adopt a CMM prohibiting high seas drift net fishing in the Convention area.

39. The United States intends to present a proposal regarding high seas drift net fishing at the fifth annual Commission meeting and welcomed participation from other members in the development of such a proposal.

For more information and reports of all issues go to:<<http://www.wcpfc.int/>>

HMS Logbooks: These are required and need each page signed prior to sending them in at the end of each trip. Failure to send in a logbook may result in not receiving an HMS permit application in 2008. If you did not land albacore in 2006/2007 you may/will need to call NMFS 562.980.4198 and request the logbook and permit for 2008 as they will only send them to vessels that landed over one metric ton. The logbook is mandatory for all waters and species included under the PFMC - FMP.

USCG: The Coast Guard will hold public meetings to let members of the public present comments on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) for commercial fishing industry vessels and reopen the previously announced public comment period. Two public meetings will be held at the Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle, WA, on November 21 and 22, 2008. This proposed rulemaking would consider several changes to the current regulations.

DATES: The Coast Guard will hold the public meetings on Friday, November 21, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and Saturday, November 22, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, except that the meetings may close early if all business is finished.

CALIFORNIA MLPA: The California Marine Protected Areas Monitoring Enterprise and California Department of Fish & Game are beginning the development of a draft North Central Coast MPA Monitoring Plan. As a first step, a workshop will be held in Pacifica on 22 and 23 October to gather input from scientists, stakeholders, and resource managers to inform development of a draft overarching framework for baseline and long-term monitoring for the north central coast regional component of a statewide MPA network.

Workshop outputs will guide subsequent analyses by scientific working groups of possible monitoring methodologies, which will be presented for review at a second workshop, provisionally scheduled for 8 and 9 December 2008, also in Pacifica. After the workshops, a draft North Central Coast MPA Monitoring Plan will be prepared for scientific and public review, likely in the spring of 2009. The focus of both the October and December workshops will be on invited scientists, stakeholders, and resource managers. Members of the public are also welcome to observe the workshop. Public comment periods will be provided. The workshop will be held on 22 October from 1000 to 1730 HRS and 23 October from 0800 to 1300 HRS at the Best Western Lighthouse Hotel, 105 Rockaway Beach Ave, Pacifica, CA 94044. For more information go to www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/northcentralhome.asp.

=====

AFRF Fees: We want to remind WFOA members that with a mix of new markets this season, AFRF fees still are required to be paid at the rate of \$20/st by the vessel unloading at any Non-AFRF buyer. All AFRF buyers are listed at the end of this newsletter. **WFOA members are required by WFOA By-laws to adhere to this.**

SECTION 2.10 OBLIGATIONS TO AMERICAN FISHERMEN'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION. Members are encouraged to deliver their catch only to buyers and/or processors who have an existing contract, or its equivalent, with the Western Fishboat Owners Association (WFOA) and an existing contract, or its equivalent, with the American Fishermen's Research Foundation (AFRF). Members who deliver to buyers and/or processors who do not have such contracts are responsible for, and legally liable to WFOA, for the AFRF assessments on any troll or bait caught albacore landed. Members who process their own albacore for sale shall pay AFRF fees. Members who receive no compensation for albacore landed shall not be liable for AFRF fees. WFOA shall publish at the beginning of the North Pacific season and the South Pacific season, and update periodically, a list of buyers and/or processors with existing WFOA and AFRF contracts.

AFRF Contracted Buyers: Arrowac Fisheries, Bluewater Fisheries, Bornstein Seafoods Inc., Bumble Bee Seafoods, Carvalho Fisheries, Chicken of the Sea International, Driscoll's Wharf, Interocean Fisheries, Island Trollers Inc., Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Company, Ilwaco Landing LLC, Mary-Lu Seafoods, New Day Fisheries, Pacific Seafood Group, Papa George Gourmet Albacore, Pelican Packers Inc., Seafood Producers Co-op, Shamrock Fisheries, Star Kist Seafoods, Starvin Marvin Seafoods, Trident Seafoods, Tri-Marine International, Whole Foods Select Fish, Wild Planet Inc

© All material in this newsletter is copyrighted and may not be used, copied, or reprinted without specific written permission of American Fishermen's Research Foundation.

