

American Fishermen's Research Foundation News ©

The American Fishermen's Research Foundation has supported research and education of the albacore and pole and troll fishery since 1971. More than six million dollars have been spent on projects and research related to this fishery. The industry by contribution pays most of the funds beyond dock price of albacore. AFRF supports the entire albacore fishery with its' efforts, not just individuals and association members.

AFRF Fall Board Meeting: The AFRF board of directors held its' spring directors meeting on March 31, 2010 at the Springhill Marriott in Roseville, CA. Dr. Gary Sakagawa and Dr. Usha Varanasi were in attendance from the SWFSC and gave an update on cooperative research initiatives. The AFRF board was disappointed in the new focus NOAA/NMFS and the SWFSC has given their answers to specific questions. However, since the meeting issues such as archival tagging funding and cooperation and increased research seems to be headed in the right direction.

AFRF wrote a letter to Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke in February 2010 expressing concern over the re-direction of research and science funding for HMS species and albacore, especially those funds marked for catch shares. The letter got the attention of some and it was cc'ed to all coastal members of congress. AFRF will be following up on this important issue.

2010 Officers: The Board elected John LaGrange - President, Larz Malony - Vice President, and Bill Carvalho - Secretary Treasurer for 2010.

Selenium Issues: Dr. Nick Ralston who spoke at the luncheon, and who AFRF contributed funding for in the past will be presenting "Selenium Health Benefit Value" and "Omega 3 Health Benefit Value" – two part educational outreach at a number of forums. The goal is to begin resonance with scientific community through paper presentations, pamphlets, physicians' materials, and education focus with additional contacts to regulators and public. Dr. Ralston wants to differentiate ocean fish from freshwater fish in the outreach. The board approved a YouTube production to create two versions, short and full. Of one of Dr. Ralstons presentations and link to the website.

Lake Arrowhead Tuna Conference 2010: AFRF approved as donation of \$500 to the upcoming Tuna Conference in May. Even though the theme this year is by-catch we feel it is an important venue to support.

See: <http://www.tunaconference.org/>

AFRF support for future research: Given that cooperative research on albacore seems to have lost favor over issues such as catch shares and other issues, AFRF I appropriated \$35,000 for future cooperative research projects to enhance the data base of North Pacific Albacore that will assist in achieving more accurate stock assessments. This potential funding is available as needed, and if the projects or project with agencies or private entities are directed as such.

Fisheries Forum: AFRF discussed the possibility of organizing and sponsoring a "State of Fisheries Forum". Although there is no specifics at this time the idea of getting various credible entities together in science, academia, and industry to discuss pertinent issues facing the albacore fishing industry. We would welcome any suggestions and ideas on this idea.

AFRF DIRECTORS ' 2010'

Mike McGowan
Bumble Bee Seafoods

Kevin Bixler
Chicken of the Sea

Eddie Bensen / John
Zuanich
Star Kist Seafoods

Anthony Vuoso
Tri-Marine
International

Pierre Marchand
Ilwaco Fish Company

Bill Carvalho
Wildplanet, Inc.
(Secretary)

Larz Malony
Pacific Seafoods
(Vice-President)

Wayne Moody
WFOA

Harvey Cosky
WFOA

John LaGrange
WFOA
(President)

Stan Davis
WFOA

Lewis Hill
WFOA

Karl Johnson
WFOA

Mark Halvorsen
WFOA

AFRF Tagging Charters: One or two archival tagging cruises may happen in 2010 depending on funding. Any vessel interested in this should contact AFRF or WFOA and request an application. Any charter would not happen until late in the season.

AFRF Coastal Survey: The early season survey AFRF did early in 2008 and 2009 did not receive much support from districts. The AFRF board did not endorse doing another in 2010. However, it could happen if there was a otolith sampling project or similar proposed by SWFSC. AFRF tagged 200 albacore off Washington and Oregon this season and collected samples of albacore on-board the F/V Hans Halvor. These are orange and are on the top part of the fish. Anyone recovering one of these should record the area of catch, date of catch, weight and length, and return it to AFRF, P.O. Box 992723, Redding, CA 96099 with your name and address.

Voluntary Fund for Northern Committee to Fund ISC projects - AFRF counsel Peter Flournoy passed along information that a new fund is getting off the ground and needs someone to start funding it. Though AFRF would be good to get ahead of the curve and contribute. The AFRF board decided in February to contribute \$1,000 plus write letter expressing our 2009 contribution of about \$4,000 in sampling of albacore and processing these samples as an in-kind contribution. This was to be noted to be specifically for NP albacore. However since then the system seems not know how to receive money from donations. It is being resolved.

On-Board Measuring: AFRF is donating \$200 to any of the vessels with measuring troughs who will do at-sea measuring this season. This is a great benefit to the SWFSC and fills a void that is a result of having a curtailed shoreline measuring program.

HMS Logbooks: If you fished and landed albacore you are required to send these in, 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 the future. The logbook is mandatory for all waters and species included under the PFMC - FMP.

WCPFC Compliance: Tom Graham and Charles Karnela from NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office attended the annual meeting in Rocklin to answer questions about the WCPFC compliance guide requirements sent to HMS permit holders this spring. This applies to vessels fishing west of 150W and includes a number of onerous requirements including VMS, Observers, Markings, boarding by Foreign Vessels, and other. The forum was quite heated with many questions. WFOA & AFRF will be working with PIRO in an effort to mitigate some of the unreasonable requirements imposed on small vessels under this.

Ocean Protection Council - CA: Wayne Heikkila was appointed to a term on the new California Sustainable Seafood Initiative Advisory Panel. The first meeting will be in Oakland, CA on May 13, 2010. About 25 will be on this panel from industry, government, ENGO's, academia, ports, and other.

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 below.

AFRF Contracted Buyers: Bornstein Seafoods Inc., Bumble Bee Seafoods, Chicken of the Sea International, Driscoll's Wharf, InterOcean Fisheries, Island Trollers Inc., Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Company, JK Fisheries, 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, Trident Seafoods, Tri-Marine International, Whole Foods Select Fish, Wild Planet Inc

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