

The Wheel Watch

a newsletter of the

Fishing Vessel Owners= Association
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Dear Longliner:

This summer newsletter will bring you up-to-date on the actions of the North Pacific and Pacific Council meetings as well as events in Washington, D.C., and market activity,

****North Pacific Council****

The Council took recommendations from its Observer Committee and the public with regards to amending the new deployment plan for those in the call-in observer pool and the vessel selection pool (vessel <57'). Some of the more immediate issues for recommendation were as follows.

1. Maintain the policy that observers should not displace crew members or IFQ holders, nor should vessel modifications be required to accommodate an observer.
2. Request NMFS provide a criterion to release those vessels with a "de minimus" amount of halibut or sablefish. This was requested because vessels that may have caught all but a few hundred pounds would still be in the observer pools. The Council seemed to suggest that at some low level of poundage, observer coverage was not needed.
3. There was a review of tender deliveries, primarily by trawl vessels. The data showed a marked "observer effect". In one case a vessel made 18 deliveries to a tender before ending a so-called definition of a single trip and having to take a chance of having an observer. You can determine for yourselves the observer effect based on the below bar charts. If you get assigned an observer you will want him/her off as soon as possible, is what the first chart suggests. The second chart suggests if you did not get an observer you want to stay out as long as possible and avoid the possibility of getting one. A trip is not complete until you actually go into port.

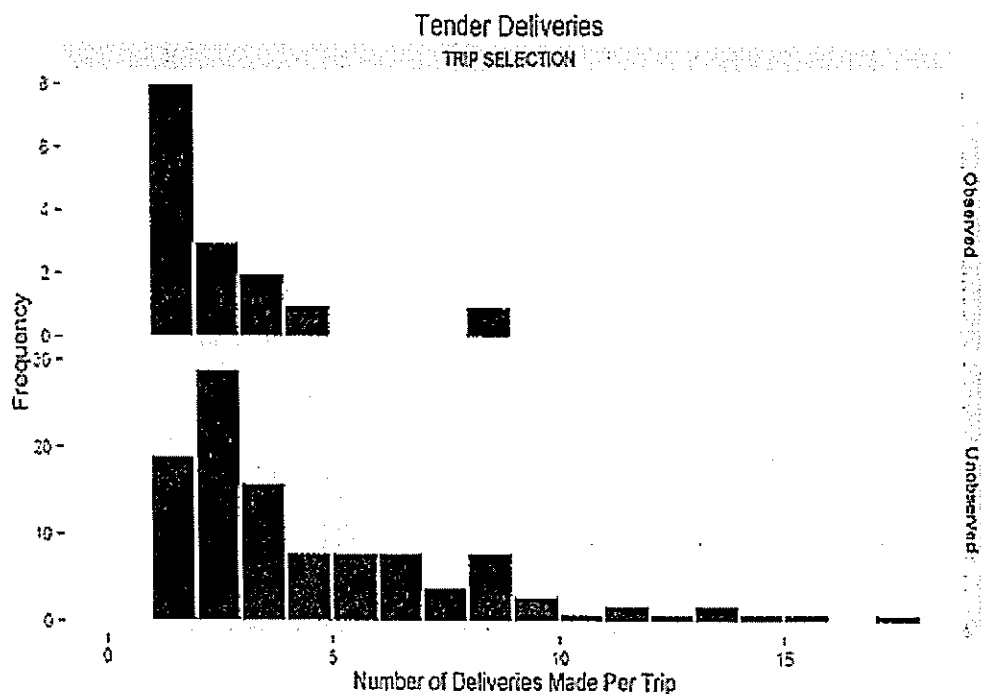


Figure 3. Distribution of the number of deliveries made in a trip in which at least one delivery was made to a tender vessel presented by observation status. Distinguishing individual trips (groups of tender deliveries) for vessel-selection operations is not possible with available data.

The Council did not approve the delivery to tenders definition. It was a last minute change by NMFS in Juneau to accommodate the trawl fleets in the Western Gulf and Kodiak. The Council has asked NMFS to fix it for 2014.

Sablefish and Halibut IFQ Changes.

Old Business. The rule referred to as the 12-20 Rule, which requires a 20% vessel ownership and owning a vessel previously for 12 months went into effect. This affects initial recipients of QS only. There was a change to the regulations, however. While under review in Washington, D.C., they exempted corporations, partnerships, and LLC's from the rule.

Observer Program. Relative to the new Observer program amendment, there are certain aspects of the Council's and NOAA's changes that remain under litigation. The litigation will not eliminate the observer program if it succeeds. The lawsuit could refocus the program.

Halibut Catch Shares (CSP). The Council actions to allocate and establish rules between charter and commercial operations has been published as a proposed rule. The charter industry is going all out to once again repeal this. You can comment through August 12, 2013. Send your comments to Mr. Glenn Merrill, Assistant Regional Administrator, Alaska Region NMFS, P. O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1688 or Fax: (907) 586-7557. Senator Murkowski and Senator Begich has asked for an extension in the comment period on behalf of the charter industry.

Control Date. The Council action that limits future hired skippers for Initial Recipients is under review in Washington, D.C. The Association has asked NMFS to change the control date to the date the Secretary signs the regulation. We have no word yet from NMFS as to what they intend to do.

New Business.

Pots for Sablefish. The Council has decided to move forward with an amendment that would allow you to use pots for catching sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska. The Council will set up a gear committee to help design the regulations in order to minimize gear entanglements. If you are interested in serving, let me know.

Category A – Vessel Use Cap. The Council pushed this back to the Implementation Committee.

The September Council meeting will have the following issues that may affect you.

1. Bering Sea TAC apportionment of Sablefish. The trawl portion of the TAC in the Bering Sea has not been utilized since 1995. There will be a proposal to allow other gear types to access this.
2. Observer 2014 – Deployment Plan.
3. Eastern Gulf – discussion paper on Skate Fishery.

****Pacific Council****

Seabird Avoidance Regulations. The Council has initialed a regulation to require vessels over 55 feet in length and longer to use streamer lines during setting operations of commercial longline vessels. The Council is using the Alaska regulations as a model to work from. Final action is tentatively scheduled for November 2013. I want to thank Paul Clampitt and the crew of the F/V Augustine for conducting additional experiments with the Sea Grant program at the University of Washington. Thanks Paul!

Sablefish Permit Stacking Program. The Council will review a scoping session for possible amendments to this program including the Association's request for changes to the ownership and control rules. This is scheduled for Sunday, September 15 in Boise, Idaho.

Wind Energy. As some of you may be aware, the Oregon and Washington Governors are very supportive of wind and wave energy. Wind energy is talked of as being green but it is one of the most costly in the production of electricity. It is heavily subsidized. The proposed wind machines off Oregon could be 400 feet tall. They will need a large base and anchorage system. These anchorage areas will be off limits to commercial fishing. I only asked one question with regards to this agenda



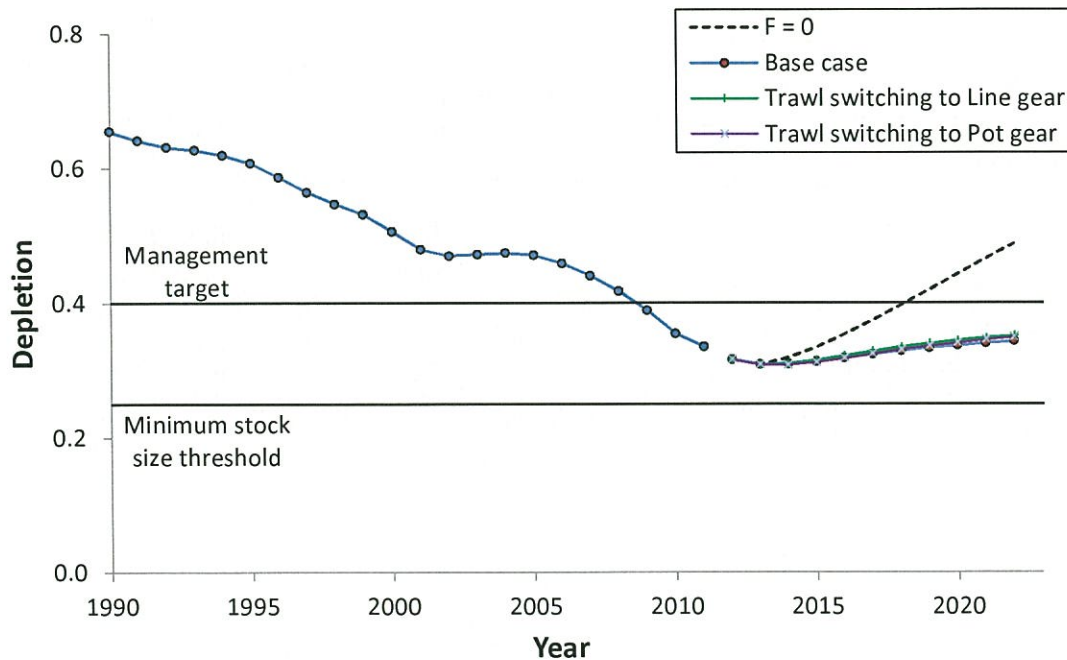
item which was, "how many short-tailed albatross do the energy people get as a "take"?" The longliners from Juan de Fuca to San Diego get one every two years. The Bering Sea cod fishery gets 2 every two years and the Gulf of Alaska halibut fleet gets 2 every 2 years. I did not get an answer. I will ask it again, maybe they did not hear me. The windmills clobber birds.

Population Trend for Sablefish. The following table indicates the long-range prediction of population trends for sablefish off Washington, Oregon and California. The 2008 and 2010 year classes are beginning to show up and will be critical for the upward trend in biomass predicted here.

Year	OFL ¹ (mt)	ACL ¹ (mt)	Spawning biomass (mt)	Relative depletion
2011	8,808	6,813	60,957	33%
2012	8,623	6,645	57,606	32%
2013	6,621	5,451	56,271	31%
2014	7,171	5,909	56,358	31%
2015	7,857	6,512	57,066	31%
2016	8,526	7,121	58,015	32%
2017	9,107	7,662	58,969	32%
2018	9,563	8,097	59,821	33%
2019	9,898	8,424	60,550	33%
2020	10,094	8,629	61,174	34%
2021	10,191	8,745	61,732	34%
2022	10,273	8,847	62,258	34%

¹OFL/ACL values for 2011 and 2012 have already been adopted, and are not based on the results of this assessment.

The following graph is the hopeful projections of the Sablefish study off Oregon, Washington, and California. (ACL = Allowable Catch Limit)



Supplementary Figure 1. Sablefish depletion trajectories under bracketing fishery scenarios. For these scenario it is assumed that management has perfect information and ACLs are recalculated.

****Washington, D.C.****

National Ocean Policy (NOP). In a letter from Congressman Doc Hastings, Chairman of the Natural Resource Committee, he indicates that the Administration continues to move forward with the NOP. The final implementation plan is silent on whether the National Ocean Council, which it set up, will have the authority to designate a regional plan or trump regional choices such as proposals that come from the Council's set up by the Magnuson/Steven's Act. The NOP was established under

Executive Order without financial support from Congress. The final implementation plan is to be completed by 2017. It could include closures to Marine Canyons and certain other fishing areas.

Magnuson Act Amendments. The East Coast would love to have hearings and bash NMFS and Catch Share Programs. The West Coast wants status quo relative to Catch Shares. Senator Begich, SubCommittee Chairman in the Senate on fish would like to not take action on MSA until after the 2014 elections. House Chairman of Natural Resources, Congressman Doc Hastings, would like to get it done and be over with it by the fall of 2013 with few changes. The big issues on the West and East Coast are the requirements for management plans for the data-poor stocks, Catch Shares and rebuilding overfished resources. I expect a four-year process.

****Markets****

Half of the halibut has been landed for this season. The prices in May ranged from \$5.40 to \$6.00 for several vessels delivering into Seward. Prices have slipped during late June. Prices in most of the retail outlets have been below \$18/lb. The product looks good except for some tired frozen fish that occasionally shows up. I suspect some processors still have last year's frozen product.

Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Allocations and Landings For Fishing Year 2013

Area	Species	Vessel Landings	Total Catch Pounds	TAC		Percent Landed
				Allocation Pounds	Remaining Pounds	
2C	Halibut	573	1,755,209	2,970,000	1,214,791	59
3A	Halibut	948	6,453,723	11,030,000	4,576,277	59
3B	Halibut	179	1,569,778	4,290,000	2,720,222	37
4A	Halibut	40	397,375	1,330,000	932,625	30
4B	Halibut	38	331,683	1,160,000	828,317	29
4C/4D	Halibut	17	301,058	1,030,800	729,742	29
	Total	1,795	10,808,826	21,810,800	11,001,974	50

Sablefish. The yen vs. the dollar has affected all exports of fish to Japan. Sablefish prices have fallen but have been stable. Prices in Kodiak and Cordova have been \$5.25 for 7-ups; \$4.90 for 5-7's; \$4.50 for 4-5's; \$3.75 for 3-4's and \$3.00 for under 3's. The Canadian supplies are lower than last year barely producing 2000 Mt. The lower coast production is down 24% while Alaska production should be similar to 2012. The Pacific Council area fishermen are beginning to see the 2008 and 2010 year classes and fishing picked up from 2012. Catches are slow off British Columbia according to their Blackcod Association and catches have been down in the Central Gulf and Western Gulf as well.

Area	Species	Vessel Landings	Total Catch Pounds	TAC		Percent Landed
				Allocation Pounds	Remaining Pounds	
AI	Sablefish	32	661,796	2,830,706	2,168,910	23
BS	Sablefish	50	511,768	1,393,307	881,539	37
CG	Sablefish	406	6,283,031	9,770,787	3,487,756	64
SE	Sablefish	375	4,849,393	7,032,674	2,183,281	69
WG	Sablefish	68	940,674	3,086,440	2,145,766	30
WY	Sablefish	157	2,999,809	3,899,937	900,128	77
	Total	1,088	16,246,471	28,013,851	11,767,380	58

The yen vs. the dollar is at 99 to the dollar. The 22% change from last fall is the result of new Japanese monetary policies, which seems to be PRINT MONEY FASTER than the U.S. Treasury. The net result of the change is the purchasing power of the yen is less, therefore their imports such as sablefish cost more, hence the price goes down.



****Eat on the Wild Side!****

Opposition to Genetically-Engineered Frankenfish Mounts. More than 1.8 million people have signed on to a petition pressing the Obama administration keep genetically modified salmon out of grocery stores and restaurants, opponents of the so-called “Frankenfish” announced Wednesday.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is weighing a proposal from the biotechnology firm AquaBounty Technologies to approve for human consumption its Atlantic salmon eggs, which include a gene that enables them to grow to market size in half the time of a normal salmon. The FDA has issued draft findings that the Boston firm’s fish were identical to traditional salmon, safe to eat and won’t cause environmental harm. But opponents, who deride the company’s product as “Frankenfish,” have weighed in loudly during an extended public comment period.

There will be an initiative in the State of Washington this fall to require disclosure on food products for genetically enhanced products – Initiative 522, State of Washington.

MSC Certification Comes Under Fire. “The MSC label, whose criteria were designed by environmental NGOs, academics, and commercial interests often carries a price premium at the shop counter,” NY Daily News. However, it and other green labels have come under fire for certifying different fisheries allegedly to broaden the sales base for usage of the logo and fees. The question is now “do these green label groups have a monetary conflict of interest in approving everything. The most recent resource to come under fire is Russian Pollock, which has little if any observer accountability let alone accountability of landed tonnage. The appearance is that Europe wants another source of Pollock other than Bering Sea MSC Pollock. Are these market demands eroding the “green label?”

SAVE this dateCentennial Celebration**February 15, 2014**

We are making some headway into planning our 100th Anniversary Celebration. However, we would like your participation. Please plan on attending our next Planning Meeting scheduled for July 30th at 3:30 pm.

Eric Olsen has served as President of FVOA for the past 20 years. He owns the F/V Lorelei II and comes from a fishing family. His Dad, Ray Olsen, fished for about 40 years. The first boat Ray owned was the Leviathan, which was later sold to Dave. Eric’s three brothers, Dave (F/V Sargent), Jim and Gary (St. John II), are all

currently involved in fishing. His sister Christine fished for about 10 years as well. Below are some photos of Eric and his family.



Eric Olsen in late 1980's

Eric has lead the Association members through the IFQ discussion before the North Pacific and the Pacific Councils.

Lorelei II

Picture taken in the late 1980's

Elmer Martens had the boat prior to Eric. Elmer just recently passed away at the age of 97.





Ray Olsen hauling in halibut; Dave Olsen in checker, on the F/V Leviathan, Gulf of Alaska, spring 1980



Eric, Dave and Jim Olsen on the Leviathan 1970's

****Calendar of Events****

September 7, 2013	Fishermen's Fall Festival	Fishermen's Terminal Seattle, WA
Sept. 12-17, 2013 Advisory Bodies begin Wed., Sept. 11 Council begins Thurs., Sept. 12	PFMC Meeting	Riverside Hotel Boise, ID
Sept.30-Oct. 8, 2013	NPFMC Meeting	Anchorage Hilton Anchorage, AK
Nov. 1-6, 2013 Advisory Bodies begin Thurs. Oct. 31 Council begins Fri. Nov. 1	PFMC Meeting	Hilton Orange County Costa Mesa, CA
Dec. 9-17, 2013	NPFMC Meeting	Anchorage Hilton Anchorage, AK
February 15, 2014 (Save This Date!!!)	FVOA's 100 th Anniversary Celebration	MOHAI Seattle, WA

P.S. Have you remembered to send in your recipes, photos, and/or short stories to fvacookbook@gmail.com?
This is your friendly reminder!



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