

# The Wheel Watch

*a newsletter of the*

Fishing Vessel Owners' Association  
 Room 232, West Wall Bldg., 4005 - 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. West  
 Seattle, WA 98199-1290  
 Phone: (206) 284-4720 / 283-7735  
 Fax: (206) 283-3341  
 Website: [www.fvoa.org](http://www.fvoa.org)

Robert D. Alverson  
 Manager

Katie Harris  
 Executive Assistant

Vol. XXXIV No. 1

January 2020

## Sustaining Sponsors

<i>Alaska Glacier Seafoods, Inc.</i>	<i>Alaskan Observers, Inc.</i>	<i>Ballard Oil</i>
<i>Banner Bank</i>	<i>Bellingham Cold Storage Co.</i>	<i>Columbia State Bank</i>
<i>Covich &amp; Williams, Inc.</i>	<i>Cummins Sales and Service</i>	<i>Dana F. Besecker Co., Inc.</i>
<i>Dock Street Brokers</i>	<i>Dungeness Gear Works, Inc.</i>	<i>Echo Belle, Inc.</i>
<i>Fishermen's News</i>	<i>Fishing Vessel Owners/Marine Ways</i>	<i>Gardner Boat Repair Inc.</i>
<i>Haines Packing Company</i>	<i>Harrigan, Leyh, Farmer, Thomsen LLP</i>	<i>Haven Boatworks, LLC</i>
<i>Hingston, Miller, Hingston P.L.L.C.</i>	<i>Icicle Seafoods, Inc.</i>	<i>JK Fabrication</i>
<i>LFS, Inc.</i>	<i>Mac's Ballard Upholstery</i>	<i>Marine Resources Consultants</i>
<i>Mountain Pacific Bank</i>	<i>Westward Seafoods, Inc.</i>	<i>North American Fishing Supplies, Inc.</i>
<i>Northport Fisheries, Inc.</i>	<i>Northwest Electric Corp</i>	<i>Northwest Farm Credit Services</i>
<i>Ocean Beauty Seafoods LLC</i>	<i>Offshore Systems, Inc.</i>	<i>Parker Smith &amp; Feek</i>
<i>Peoples Bank</i>	<i>The Permit Master</i>	<i>Petro Marine Services Petro 49</i>
<i>Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op</i>	<i>Puget Sound Hydraulics Inc.</i>	<i>Resurrection Bay Seafoods LLC</i>
<i>Satellite Technical Services</i>	<i>Seafreeze/CityIce Cold Storage</i>	<i>Seattle Marine &amp; Fishing Supply</i>
<i>Sitka Sound Seafood &amp; Alaska Pacific Seafoods</i>	<i>Joe Sullivan Law Office PLLC</i>	<i>Taku Fisheries</i>
<i>Trident Seafoods</i>	<i>Unisea, Inc.</i>	<i>Vigor Industrial LLC</i>
<i>Yakutat Seafoods</i>		

**Thank you for your support!**

Members and Friends,

This newsletter will bring you up to speed on the December NPFMC meeting, the interim meeting of the IPHC, the November Pacific Council and some old marketing information.

## **\*\*NPFMC\*\***

### **Halibut ABM Workplan**

The Council took some administrative action on bycatch of halibut in the Bering Sea. They set June 2019 to receive initial reviews of current alternative and model development. The Council may narrow options in June. In their motion, they acknowledge complex control rules that might adjust future halibut PSC limits and the time it has taken to develop them. Hopefully, they will develop a simpler and more understandable set of options. The Council is starting their 6<sup>th</sup> year to address this issue. It was identified as an important policy issue to complete by Governor Mike Dunleavy of Alaska.

### **Sablefish Pot Considerations**

The Council will take industry input at their April meeting on ways to address the continuing use of pots in the sablefish fishery. Some issues, but not limited to these, may include addressing pot limit usage in the S.E. Alaska district; whether you need to bring pots into town with you in S.E. Alaska; the current nine-inch tunnel restriction; having all regulations be the same between the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska and the requirement of having bags on the end of a string of gear.

### **Release of small sablefish**

The Council staff will start to develop an option to voluntarily release sablefish in the IFQ fishery. The Council will examine mortality levels from 5% to 20% for pot vs. longline gear. The discards will be estimated using both observer and Electronic Monitoring data. There will be a presumption of mortality based on the interactions of sub-three pound sablefish in the annual longline survey.

### **Sablefish Harvest Limits for 2020**

The Council Plan Team of scientists and the stock assessment authors recommended an Allowable Biological Catch of 18,763 MT. This would have been a 25% increase; the stock assessment suggests it could be as high as a 47% increase, but the stock assessment author was concerned about juvenile fish getting old enough to spawn so recommended a 25% increase. Also, the very large 2014 year class was further down-graded by 40%, which was a concern. It was downgraded 35% the previous year. Even with these deductions it is still the largest year class in 30 years. Below is a chart and table of the adopted harvest limits. The Council adopted the 47% increase in ABC, but an increase in the total allowable catch (TAC) of 25%. The chart below ABC levels are also the 2020 TAC levels which reflect the earlier 25% increases of the plan team.

Author recommended 2020 ABC (with whale depredation adjustments)

<u>Area</u>	<u>AI</u>	<u>BS</u>	<u>WG</u>	<u>CG</u>	<u>WY*</u>	<u>EY*</u>	<u>Total</u>
2019 ABC	2,030	1,501	1,659	5,246	1,765	3,179	15,380
2020 ABC	2,537	1,876	2,074	6,558	2,206	3,974	19,225
2016-2018 avg. depredation	16	19	105	91	45	94	370
Ratio 2020:2019 ABC	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Deduct 3 year adjusted average	-20	-23	-132	-113	-56	-118	-462
<b>**2020 ABC<sub>w</sub></b>	<b>2,517</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>1,942</b>	<b>6,445</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>3,856</b>	<b>18,763</b>
Change from 2019 ABC <sub>w</sub>	25%	24%	23%	24%	29%	23%	25%

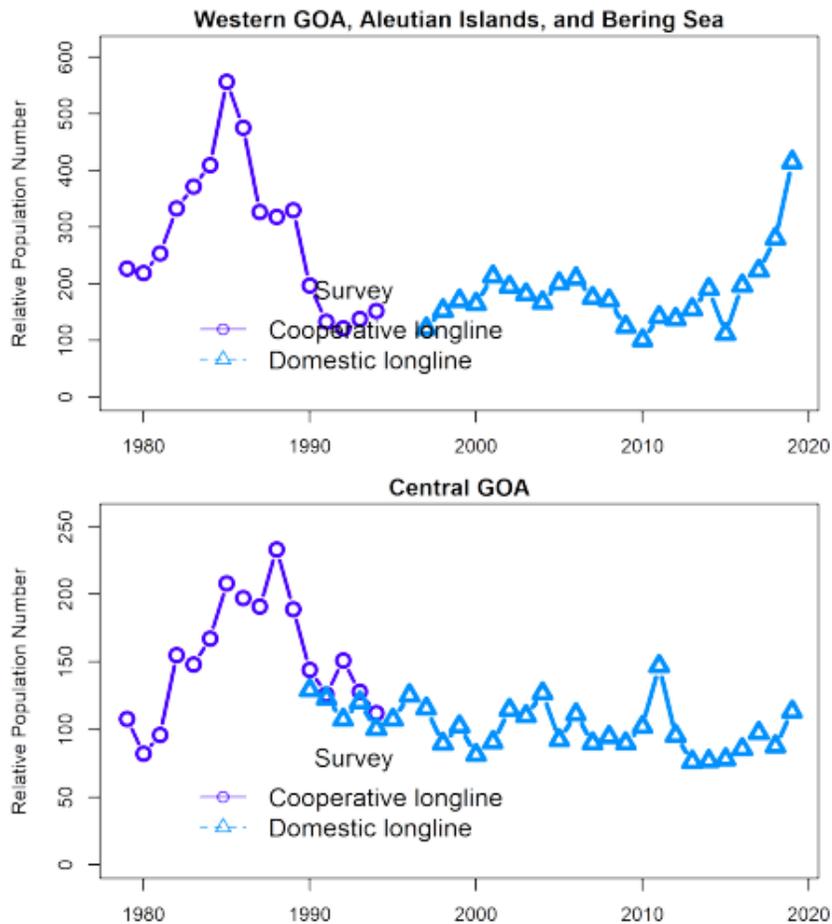
\* Before 95:5 hook and line: trawl split shown below. \*\* ABC<sub>w</sub> is the author recommended ABC that accounts for whales.

The table below shows the very large difference in spawning sablefish biomass vs. total biomass year over year for 2018-2019. The difference is the 2014 year class, which is part of the total biomass, but not yet fully recruited as spawners.

Table 3.17. Comparison of 2018 results versus 2019 results. Biomass is in kilotons.

Year	2018 SAFE			2019 SAFE		
	Spawning Biomass	Spawning Biomass	Difference (%)	Total Biomass	Total Biomass	Difference (%)
2011	92	98	6%	227	238	5%
2012	88	93	6%	220	229	4%
2013	84	89	6%	204	212	4%
2014	81	85	5%	193	199	3%
2015	79	81	3%	189	191	1%
2016	76	78	2%	318	264	-17%
2017	79	74	-6%	399	307	-23%
2018	79	75	-5%	449	527	17%
2019		86			632	

The following charts show the relative sablefish population numbers in the three GOA sub districts. Notice how the number of fish increases as the fish migrate back to the East, first showing up in the Western GOA in 2016, and 2019 in Central GOA and Eastern G.O.A.



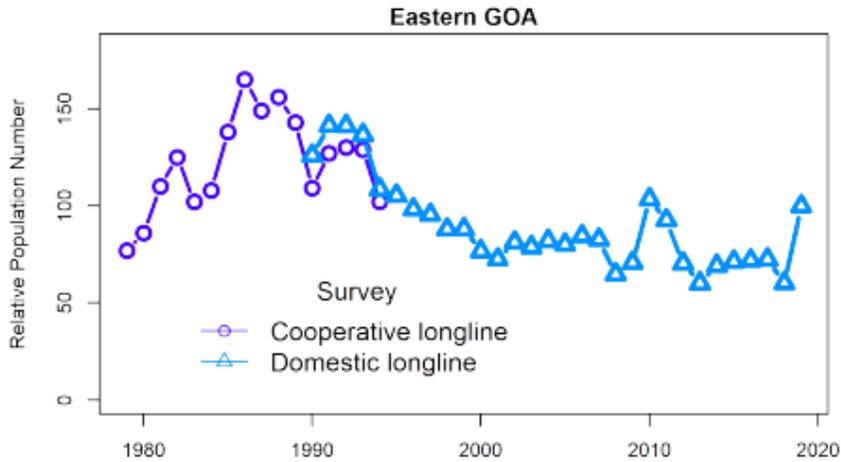
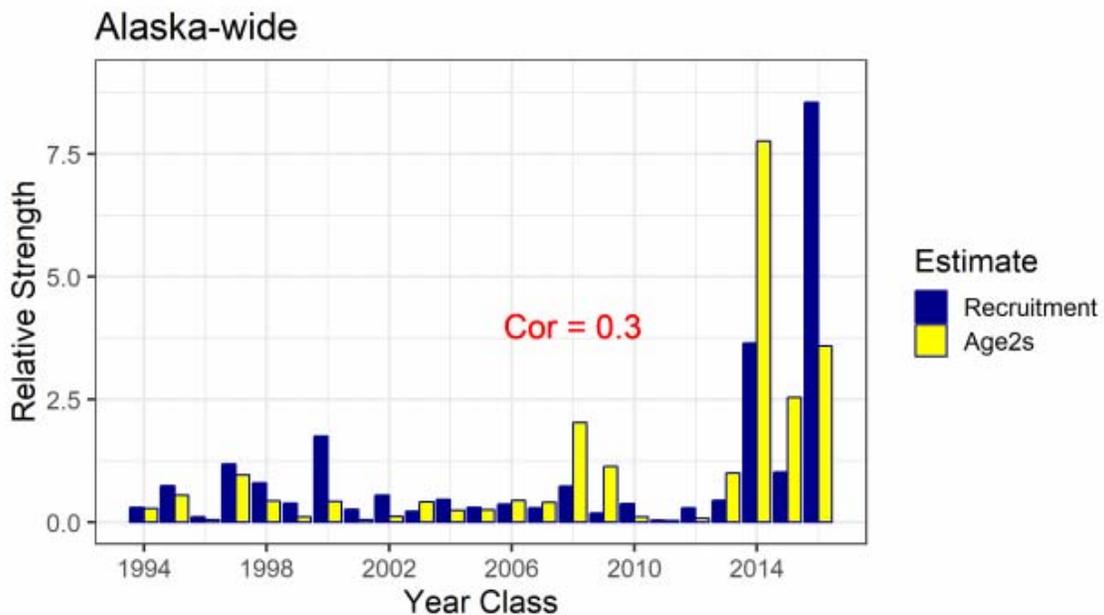


Figure 3.7. Relative abundance (numbers) by region and survey. The regions Bering Sea, Aleutians Islands, and western Gulf of Alaska are combined in the first plot. The two surveys are the Japan-U.S. cooperative longline survey and the domestic (U.S.) longline survey. In this plot, the values for the U.S. survey were adjusted to account for the higher efficiency of the U.S. survey gear.

Below is the 2 year old recruit analysis.



The stock assessment author, Dana Hanselman, had some of the following take-aways:

1. The estimate of the 2014 year class strength declined 56% from 2017 to 2019. A decline of this magnitude illustrates the uncertainty in these early recruitment estimates.
2. Mean age of spawners has decreased dramatically since 2017 and continues a downward trend, suggesting higher importance of the contribution of the 2014 year class to adult spawning biomass; however, age-4 body condition of this year class was poor, and much lower than during the last period of strong recruitments.

3. The very large estimated year classes for 2014 and 2016 are expected to comprise about 33% and 14% of the 2020 spawning biomass, respectively. The 2014 year class is about 50% mature while the 2016 year class should be less than 15% mature in 2020.
4. The projected increase in future spawning biomass is highly dependent on young fish maturing in the next few years; results are very sensitive to the assumed maturity rates.
5. Fishery performances has been weak in the directed fishery with CPUE at time-series lows in 2018
6. Small sablefish are being caught incidentally at unusually high levels shifting fishing mortality spatially and demographically, which requires more analysis to fully understand these effects, particularly in the trawl fisheries.

#### **Other Council actions**

The Pacific Cod resource in the Gulf of Alaska has failed and there will be no directed fishery in the Gulf of Alaska in 2020. The Pacific Cod TAC in the Bering Sea has gone from 200,000 mT to 166,474 mT in 2019 and now 141,799 mT in 2020 and projected to be 92,633 mT in 2021. There was another heat wave in 2018 and 2019 and it is presumed this could have helped the sablefish recruits from 2018-2019, but damaging to Pacific Cod.

### **\*\*Pacific Council\*\***

The PFMC adopted 2020 Allowable Catch Limits for sablefish for 2020 and 2021 and estimated 2022.

Sablefish N. of 36 ° (ACL's) in metric tons

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
4798	5241	5252	5475	5606	5723	6049	5757

The Pacific Council scientists are seeing the same large year classes that are being seen in Alaska and British Columbia. The decrease in ACL in 2022 assumes only average recruitment from 2015 on and a natural decay of the resource. There will be a new assessment of sablefish for the 2022 year that should reflect the 2016, 2018 and 2019 assumed new year classes and a fully mature 2014 year class. I do not expect any decrease after 2021.

#### **Gear Switching**

The Council will have a sub-committee meeting regarding the use of fixed gear to catch “trawl sablefish” January 22-23 in Portland, OR. The Council will develop final options at its March 2020 meeting and possibly take final action at its fall meeting in September.

## **\*\*International Pacific Halibut Commission\*\***

### **Recent mortality from all sources (M lb)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Commercial Landings</b>	<b>Commercial discards</b>	<b>Recreational</b>	<b>Subsistence</b>	<b>Non-directed discards</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>24.67</b>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>7.46</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>7.61</b>	<b>42.31</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>25.05</b>	<b>1.27</b>	<b>7.38</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>7.16</b>	<b>42.02</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>26.14</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>7.60</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>6.21</b>	<b>42.16</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>23.50</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>6.92</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>6.11</b>	<b>38.50</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>24.28</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>6.92</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>6.44</b>	<b>39.67</b>

Projected based on 2019 adopted limits: 40.34

Above projections: Commercial discards (0.12) and non-directed discards (0.38)



IPHC

Slide 5

The Commission in 2019 adopted a commercial harvest of 24.28 million pounds. It was believed this was based on a conservative harvest rate of F-46 or a rate that manages to 46% of virgin biomass. It turns out that this assumption was incorrect due to commercial landings of more female fish than previously thought. This means we were harvesting more aggressively or at a F-40 level, not F-46. If we harvest at a corrected F-46 level again this will result in an 18-20% reduction in harvest overall for 2020. Additionally, due to poor results in the 3A survey, 3A takes a bigger hit of -38%.

#### **Adopted TCEY's 2019**

**@ F-46**

<b>2A</b>	<b>2B</b>	<b>2C</b>	<b>3A</b>	<b>3B</b>	<b>4A</b>	<b>4B</b>	<b>4CDE</b>	<b>Total</b>
1.65	6.83	6.34	13.5	2.9	1.94	1.45	4	38.61

#### **Projected TCEY's 2019**

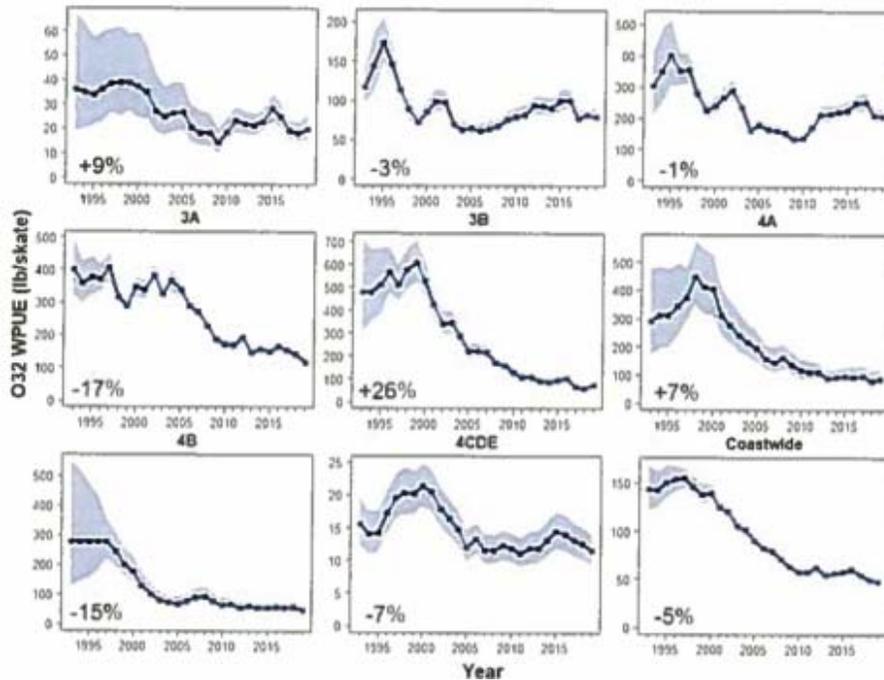
**@ F-46**

<b>2A</b>	<b>2B</b>	<b>2C</b>	<b>3A</b>	<b>3B</b>	<b>4A</b>	<b>4B</b>	<b>4CDE</b>	<b>Total</b>
1.65	5.8	4.97	9.8	2.94	2.76	1.27	3.22	31.9

The Commission’s annual meeting will be February 3-7, 2020 in Anchorage, AK. The Commission has the flexibility to choose some option other than a F-46 harvest rate. The Commission’s MSAB has suggested a F-43 harvest rule. This would result in a TCEY of 35.2 million lbs. (or more like a 10% reduction for all areas)

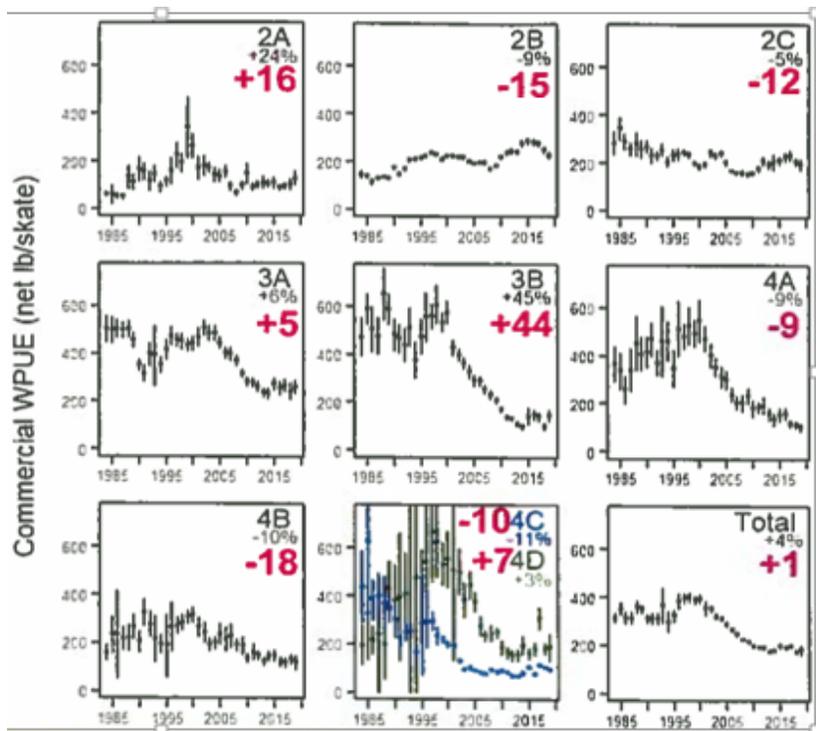
The Coastwide survey trend dropped for a third year in a row by -5%.

### Modeled survey trends (O32 WPUE)



Commercial WPUE were slightly up from 2018 by 1%. Region 2 sub area were down except for 2A and 3A, 3B and 4D, which were up.

**Fishery Trends:**  
 predicted when  
 logs are complete



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

“Prime Minister Trudeau issued a mandate to close the B.C. salmon farms by 2025.”

-Intrafish

“Cooke Aquaculture plans to change the fish it farms. In January 2019, Cooke submitted an application to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to raise all female, sterile rainbow trout (i.e. steelhead) They are also working with the Sklallam Tribe to raise blackcod in the Port Townsend area.”

-Intrafish

“The group holding the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certificate for British Columbia sockeye, pink, and chum salmon fisheries is dropping out the eco-label program blaming a lack of commitment to the fisheries from Canadian fisheries managers.”

-Intrafish

**\*\* Market News \*\***

Below is a delivery statement for the Halibut Schooner Vansee, shipped by Andrew Olsen in 1921. A hundred years of inflation has made a big difference in your halibut prices! To the right are dues receipts from 1920, dues were based on the number of Dories fished.

STATEMENT  
VANCOUVER, CANADA. JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> 1921

AMERICAN SCHOONER "VANSEE".  
CAPTAIN ANDREW OLSEN.  
NEW ENGLAND FISH CO.  
WEST COAST BRANCH  
WHOLESALE FISH DEALERS  
HALIBUT A SPECIALTY

25,360	#	MEDIUMS	@ 8¢	2028.80
2,925	#	"#2	@ 5¢	146.25
7,600	#	CHICKENS	@ 5¢	40.00
150	#	LARGE	@ 5¢	7.50
800	#	MED GRAYS	@ 5¢	380.00
36,835	#			2602.55
		Less cash advanced		38.00
				2564.55

November 15 1920

Received of Seth Vansee and Owens  
Nine and 00/100 Dollars  
Due November, 1920

\$9.00

Fishing Vessel Owners Ass'n, Inc.  
John L. Olsen

Seattle, Wash. October 15 1920

Received of Seth Vansee and Owens  
Nine and 00/100 Dollars  
Due October 1920

\$9.00

Fishing Vessel Owners Ass'n, Inc.  
John L. Olsen

January 15 1921

Received of Seth Vansee and Owens  
Six and 00/100 Dollars  
Due January 1921

\$6.00

Fishing Vessel Owners Ass'n, Inc.  
John L. Olsen

**\*\*Calendar of Events\*\***

<b>Nov. 13-20, 2019</b>	<b>PFMC Meeting</b>	<b>Hilton Orange County Costa Mesa, CA</b>
<b>Nov. 25-26, 2019</b>	<b>Interim IPHC Meeting</b>	<b>Grand Hyatt Seattle, WA</b>
<b>Nov. 28-29, 2019</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	<b>Office closed</b>
<b>Dec. 2-10, 2019</b>	<b>NPFMC Meeting</b>	<b>Hilton Hotel Anchorage, AK</b>
<b>Dec. 23-27, 2019</b>	<b>Christmas Holiday</b>	<b>Office closed</b>
<b>Jan. 1, 2020</b>	<b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>Office closed</b>
<b>Jan. 27-Feb. 3, 2020</b>	<b>NPFMC Meeting</b>	<b>Renaissance Hotel Seattle, WA</b>
<b>Feb.3-7, 2020</b>	<b>IPHC Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Captain Cook Hotel Anchorage, AK</b>
<b>March 3-9, 2020</b>	<b>PFMC Meeting</b>	<b>DoubleTree by Hilton Sonoma Rohnert Park, CA</b>
<b>March 30-April 7, 2020</b>	<b>NPFMC Meeting</b>	<b>Hilton Hotel Anchorage, AK</b>
<b>April 3-10, 2020</b>	<b>PFMC Meeting</b>	<b>Hilton Vancouver WA Vancouver, WA</b>
<b>June 1-9, 2020</b>	<b>NPFMC Meeting</b>	<b>Centennial Hall Juneau, AK</b>
<b>June 11-18, 2020</b>	<b>PFMC Meeting</b>	<b>Doubletree by Hilton San Diego, CA</b>
<b>Sept. 10-17, 2020</b>	<b>PFMC Meeting</b>	<b>Doubletree by Hilton Spokane Spokane, WA</b>
<b>October 5-13, 2020</b>	<b>NPFMC Meeting</b>	<b>Hilton Hotel Anchorage, AK</b>
<b>Nov. 13-20, 2020</b>	<b>PFMC Meeting</b>	<b>Hyatt Regency Orange Co. Garden Grove, CA</b>
<b>Nov. 30-Dec. 8, 2020</b>	<b>NPFMC Meeting</b>	<b>Hilton Hotel Anchorage, AK</b>



**Satellite Technical Services**  
**Connecting Fishermen with Markets!**  
[www.satellitealaska.com](http://www.satellitealaska.com)  
Phone: (206) 321-6896  
"Proud supporter of the  
Fishing Vessel Owners' Association"



**VESSEL LOANS**  
**MARITIME RELATED BUSINESS LOANS**  
**QUOTA/PERMIT LOANS**

206.397.3110 | 2244 NW 56th St., Seattle, WA 98107



Keeping it local





- Galleys
- Helm Seats
- Cushions
- Mattresses
- Curtains
- Covers
- Dodgers
- Headliners



## Marine Upholstery

### PLEASURE & COMMERCIAL BOATS

CUSTOM CANVAS & ENCLOSURES YACHTS



**Mobile Services**  
Free Estimates



**Fast Quality Work**  
Insurance Claims



- Carpets
- Foam
- Repairs
- Custom Bedding
- Sheets
- Comforters



**Pick-Up & Delivery Available**

**(206) 783-1696**

**www.mactops.com**



**Keep Us in Mind Every  
Time Your Vessels  
Come to Port!**



## Northwest

FARM CREDIT SERVICES

# Your trusted source.

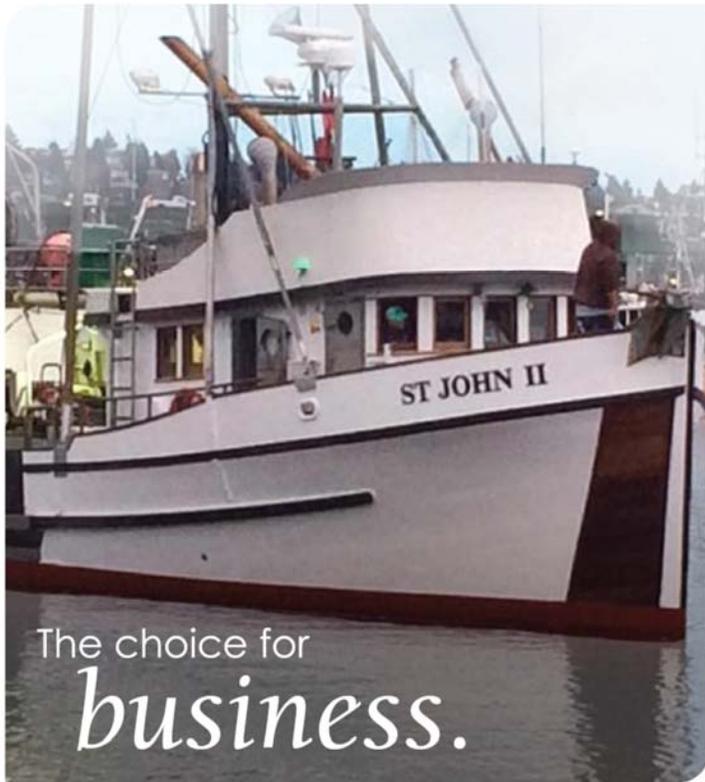
We support fisheries and agriculture with reliable, consistent credit and financial services, today and tomorrow.

- Vessels
- Quotas
- Operating Lines of Credit

206.691.2000 | [northwestfcs.com/fisheries](http://northwestfcs.com/fisheries)

Here to Help You Grow™

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.  
\*Served through Northwest Farm Credit Services Insurance Agency.



Boat Loans  
Quota Loans  
Permit Loans  
Maritime Financing

**Ballard Commercial  
Banking Center**  
5600 24th Avenue NW  
Seattle, WA 98107  
(206) 790-2742

Member FDIC

**Peoples Bank**  
*A higher level of service.*  
peoplesbank-wa.com

