



Marine Resources

# Albacore Tuna Fishery Newsletter

2022

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### Read the Annual Report

To read this year's annual report please visit:

[dfw.state.or.us/MRP/publications/](http://dfw.state.or.us/MRP/publications/)

## High Catch and Saturated Markets

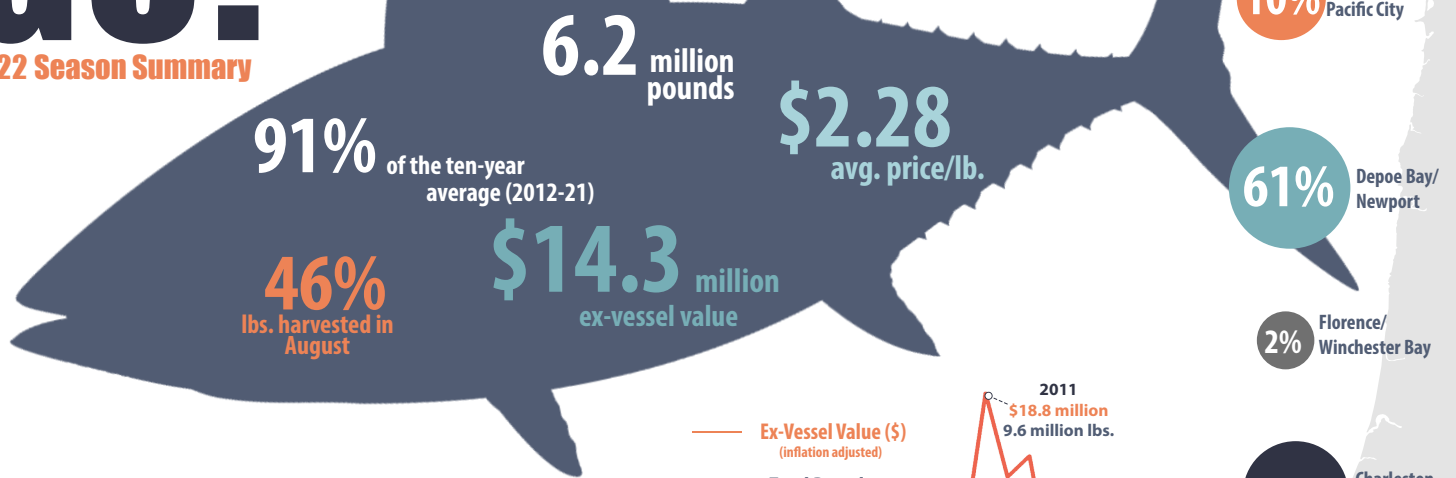
After the slow start of the 2021 season, 2022 saw consistent high catches. August was again the highest producing month at 2.88 million pounds, but September came in right behind at 2.38 million pounds and if not for saturated markets may have rivaled August for the top volume month of the season.

Newport had the highest albacore landings of any Oregon port in 2022, with 61% of the total weight. Charleston landed 20% of the total weight, followed by Garibaldi (10%).

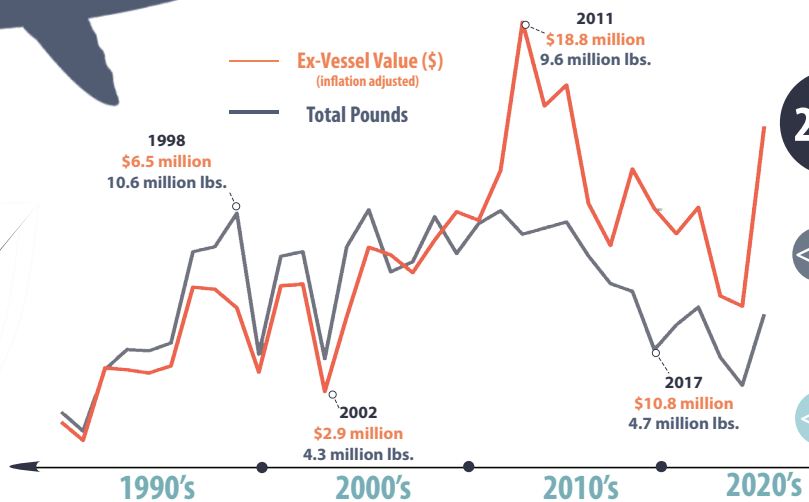
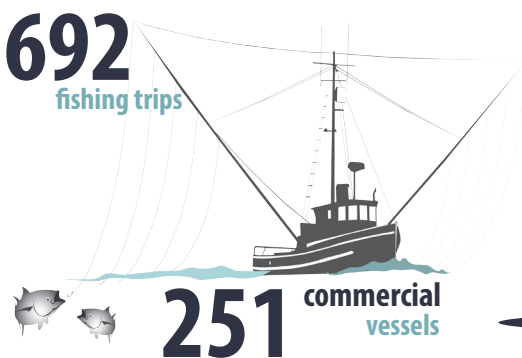
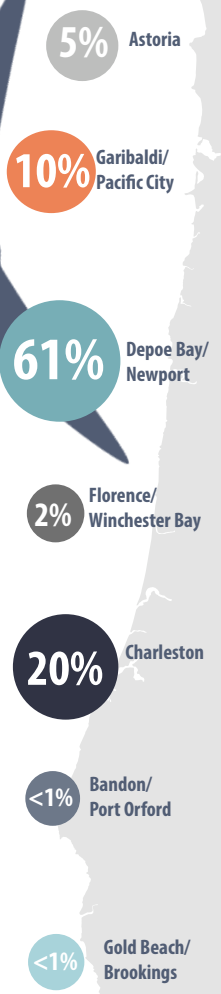
The average size of all albacore landings in 2022 was 9,017 pounds, a 42% increase. This indicates that either larger vessels participated in the fishery this season, or participating vessels returned to port with more volume in their fish holds than previous years. Overall, vessels of all sizes were able to make trips

# How'd Commercial Fishing GO?

2022 Season Summary



### Pounds Landed

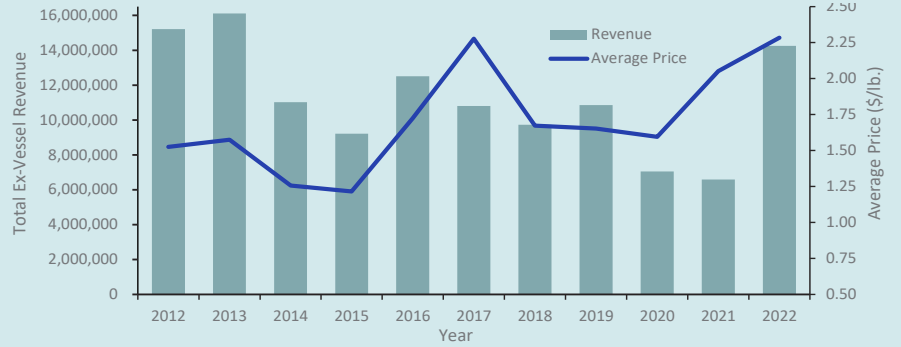
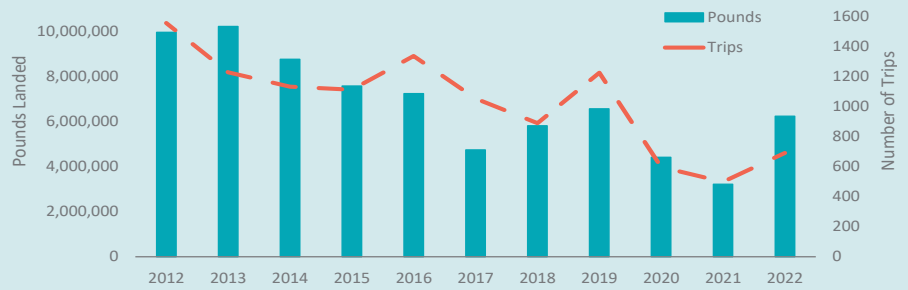


## Season Summary (cont'd)

Total landings were increased for 2022, with 6.2 million pounds landed in Oregon, which reflects 91% of the ten-year average (2012-21). Tuna fishers collectively made 692 trips on 251 different commercial vessels.

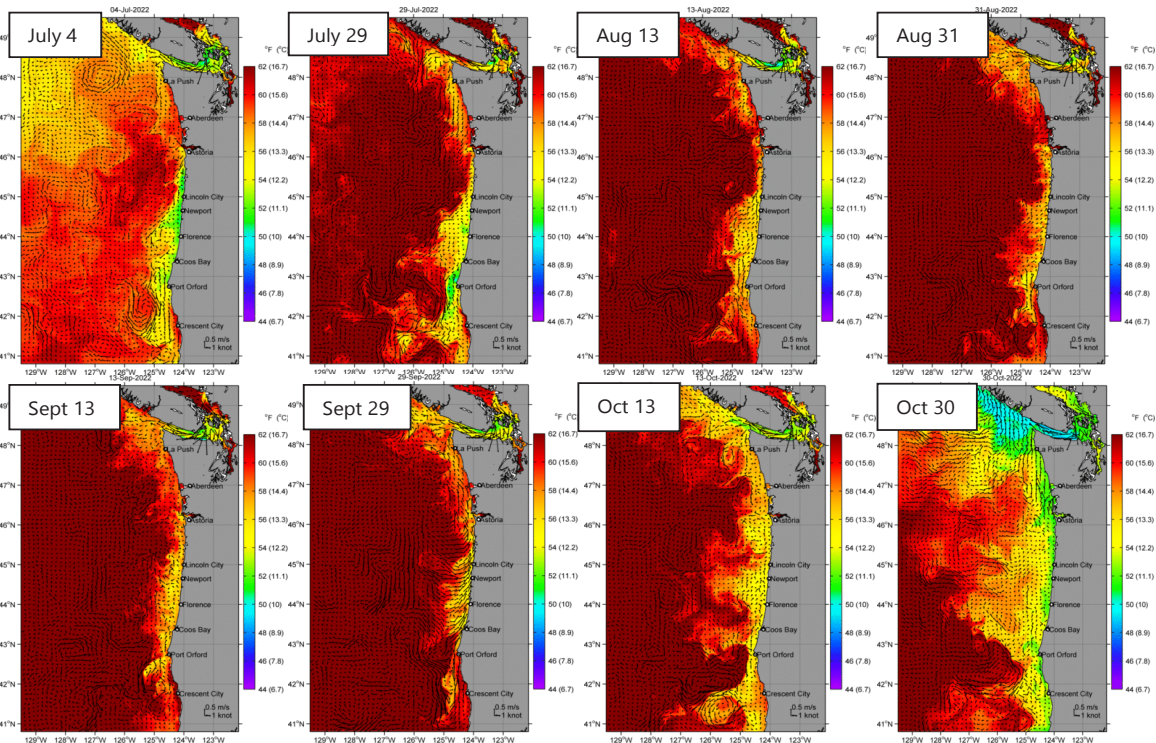
Five Canadian vessels made six landings in Oregon totalling 183,722 lbs with a total value of \$513,544.

The 2022 Oregon albacore season generated \$14,250,000 in total value paid to vessels. The albacore fishery experienced the highest average price per pound in its history over the 2022 season at \$2.28, beating out the 2017 season by fractions of a cent.



## Ocean Conditions

Warm sea surface temperatures approached from the southwest and settled along the Oregon coast in early July. Conditions remained ideal through mid-August and many fishers reported record breaking catch days that had not been experienced in years. Around the third week of August, a wide chlorophyll band is suspected to have caused the catch rate to be reduced and temporarily stalled landing rates. This effect was fleeting and did not deter the fleet as reports of high catch rates along the south coast were prominent. Fishing and ocean conditions remained optimal into October with the usual fall weather patterns yet to appear, but the persisting market conditions had a significant impact on the fishery and ultimately signaled the end of the 2022 season. By mid-October, warm sea surface temperatures began retreating from the coast and most of the fleet had shifted focus to other fisheries.



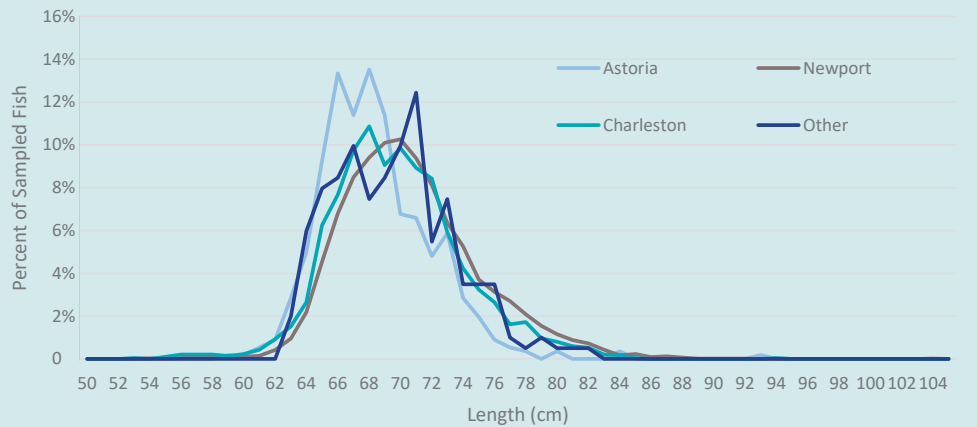
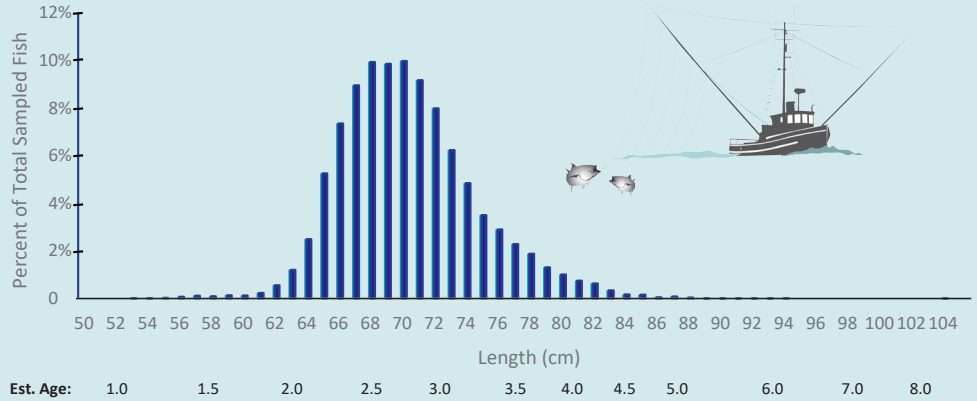
Nowcast sea surface temperature plots off Oregon and Washington out to 129°W from July 4 through October 30, 2022 Dark red areas indicate the warmest surface waters at or above 17° C (62° F), and lighter yellow, green, and blue areas the cooler waters. Images courtesy Craig Risien, Oregon State University, Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS).

# Fish Lengths

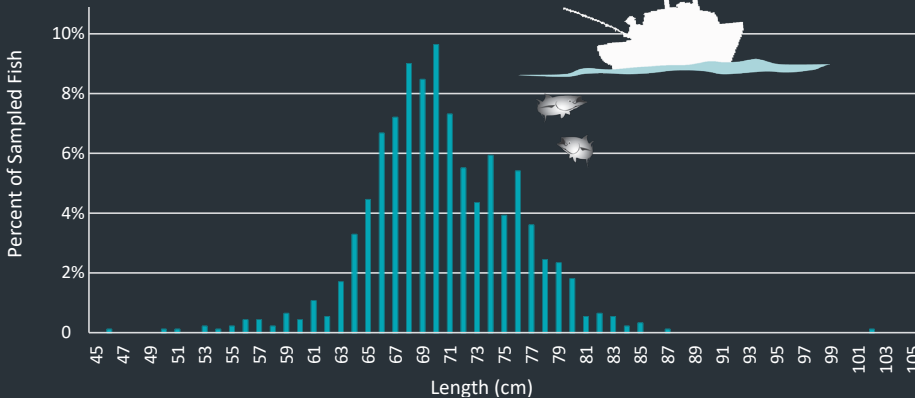
## Commercial Albacore

Albacore samplers collected fork length measurements from unsorted commercially harvested albacore during offloading from July through October of 2022. Samplers measured 11,870 albacore tuna in the ports of Astoria, Newport, and Charleston. The frequency distribution of 2022 length data shows a distribution with its center at 69 cm (27 in) and a larger tail to the right indicating the presence of larger fish among the catch. The overall average length is 70.3 cm (27.6 in). Notable this season was the presence of an albacore that measured 104 cm (41 in) which sets a new maximum size record for commercially sampled albacore in Oregon.

A comparison of the length distributions of the sampled catches in the three primary Oregon ports does not suggest any differences between ports.



## Recreational Albacore



ODFW samplers collected length data on 944 recreationally harvested albacore in 2022. The graph on the left shows the length frequency distribution of non-sorted, randomly sampled albacore during the 2022 recreational season. The length distribution is similar to the commercial fishery with a single mode around 69 cm (27 in) and a larger tail trailing to the right. The overall average length is 70.3 cm (27.6 in), which is the same as the commercial results.

# How'd Recreational Fishing GO?

2022 Season Summary

21,823 Fish Landed

4,939 Private Angler Trips

383 Charter Angler Trips

3.9 Albacore Landed per Angler trip

9% increase over 10-year average CPUE

Total Catch

8% Astoria

26% Garibaldi/Pacific City

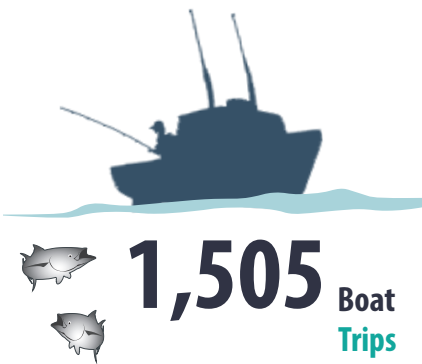
34% Depoe Bay/Newport

3% Florence/Winchester Bay

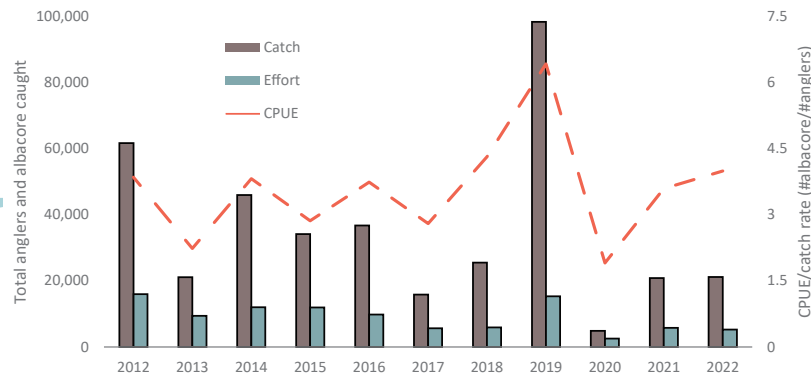
14% Charleston

Bandon/Port Orford

15% Gold Beach/ Brookings



1,505 Boat Trips



## Recreational Catch

Access to albacore for recreational vessels in Oregon can be highly variable, depending on weather conditions and distance offshore to the fishing grounds. A potential limiting factor during the 2022 season was the cost of fuel, which reached a record average high in Oregon of \$5.54 on June 15. The cost of fuel slowly declined as the season continued but remained above average throughout. Recreational activity was largely unimpeded by weather events until late September when winds and swell became precarious for the smaller vessels that comprise the recreational fleet. Recreational catch was likely also impacted by the same chlorophyll band that affected the commercial fishery, but overall, distance to the fishing grounds remained favorable for the small boat fleet throughout the season.

There were an estimated 29 charter trips and 1,476 private recreational trips over the 2022 season. An estimated total of 21,823 albacore were caught in the recreational fishery and 944 of those were measured for fork length.

Recreational activity occurred in nearly every Oregon port, although data reported is limited to the ports that had recreational samplers during the albacore season. Garibaldi had the highest estimated volume at 5,066 albacore caught when targeted and Brookings had the highest catch rate with a CPUE of 7.17. There was an estimated 20,601 albacore caught when targeted and 1,222 estimated albacore caught from non-albacore directed trips. The CPUE for all sampled ports combined over the 2022 season is 3.87, which is a 9% increase from the prior ten-year average CPUE of 3.55

# Albacore Fishery Monitoring Update

## How Does ODFW Monitor the Albacore Fishery?

ODFW's Marine Resources Program (MRP) has multiple fishery monitoring programs to collect critical recreational and commercial albacore fishery information to inform management recommendations. Sampling of Oregon's commercial albacore fishery is a cooperative effort between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). Recreational albacore fishery sampling is conducted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Ocean Recreational Boat Survey (ORBS). The ORBS survey adjusted its sampling protocol beginning in 2000 to better estimate effort and catch in the growing recreational albacore fishery off Oregon. Sport fishing for albacore off Oregon has grown in popularity since 2000, especially in the past decade. We would like to thank all our samplers and the industry for remaining flexible and maintaining safety when collecting samples this past year.

## Commercial Monitoring



MRP port samplers conduct dockside sampling of commercial albacore fishery vessels in the major ports.

Logbook data which includes species caught, incidental catch, trip dates, fishing area, and landing port to estimate effort go directly to the National Marine Fisheries Service.



MRP dockside samplers collect length information from several hundred vessels over the course of the season in order to describe the year-classes of tuna that are being landed.

MRP staff review fish ticket data on catch counts, weights, grade, and value to calculate the ex-vessel revenue for the fishery.



## Recreational Monitoring



ORBS port samplers randomly conduct dockside boat interviews and collect information on trip target species, total catch, number of anglers on the boat, general location, and the number of released fish.

ORBS port samplers estimate the total effort by counting the number of ocean sport boat trips by the type of boat (i.e. Charter or private vessels).



ORBS port samplers also collect lengths from a portion of the sampled catch to convert numbers of fish into weight.

For more information on the ORBS survey and the Oregon recreational albacore fishery please visit our website at:

<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/sportalbacore/index.asp>

# Other Updates and Reminders

## Want More Information?

Here's how you get it

Visit Our Website



For more information about Albacore please visit:

<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/commercial/>

<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/MPR/sportalbacore/index.asp>



Marine Resources

We are always interested in hearing from you about your fishery and the issues that are important to you.

Please give us a call any time!

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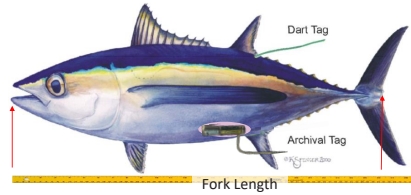
## LOOK OUT FOR TAGGED FISH

### REWARD: TAGGED ALBACORE

**Tagged Albacore have a green dart tag in their back**

Archival tags are data recording devices that are implanted in the belly with a stalk sticking out.

**\$500:** Whole fish w/ Archival tag/ **\$300:** Archival tag only/ **\$20:** Dart tag only



#### TO CLAIM YOUR REWARD

##### Record

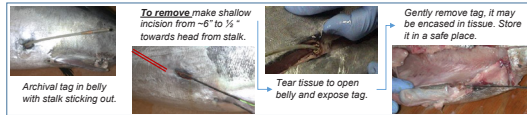
- 1) Date
- 2) Catch latitude and longitude
- 3) Fork Length and unit (cm or in)
- 4) Dart and/or Archival Number
- 5) Fisherman/ gear type/ contact info

##### Contact

Ericka Carlson +1 (971) 209-2030  
[erickac@afrrf.org](mailto:erickac@afrrf.org) OR  
Owyn Snodgrass +1 (858) 546-7000  
[owyn.snodgrass@noaa.gov](mailto:owyn.snodgrass@noaa.gov)

- US Commercial: Fish and/or tags can be delivered to the nearest processor.
- US Recreational: Contact above to coordinate shipping and reward.
- Outside the US: Contact National Fishery Agency or people listed above.

**NOTE: All shipping costs will be paid for by NOAA**



Research funded by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and the American Fishermen's Research Foundation

The South West Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) recently worked with the American Fishermen's Research Foundation to deploy 78 archival tags in albacore tuna off Oregon. A critical part of this effort is recovering the tags. As such there is cash reward offered for the return of information from tagged albacore. Tagged albacore have a green dart tag in their back. The reward is \$500 for the whole fish, \$300 for the tag only, and \$20 for the dart tag.

#### For more information contact:

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## ALBACORE LANDING LICENSE REMINDER

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's "Albacore Tuna Landing License" is a special license that allows a boat to commercially land albacore tuna only. This license acts in lieu of all other Oregon commercial fishing licenses for a boat landing only albacore, therefore a vessel is not required to have an Oregon commercial boat license or crew licenses. The "Albacore Tuna Landing License" does not eliminate other federal permit and logbook requirements. Any vessel fishing under an "Albacore Tuna Landing License" is a commercial fishing vessel and must also meet all commercial vessel requirements as prescribed by the US Coast Guard.

### DO YOU NEED AN ALBACORE LANDING LICENSE?

