



Overview of the West Coast Commercial Albacore Fishing Industry

Insights into Albacore Fishing, Industry Practices,
and Sustainability





Introduction

The Western Fishboat Owners Association (WFOA) was established in 1967 as an initiative by fishermen to stabilize market prices for albacore tuna. It has since evolved to represent fishermen in markets, community initiatives, management, and regulation at local and international levels.



Clayton Wraith
Executive Director



What are Albacore?

Understanding Albacore Tuna

- Scientific name:
 - *Thunnus alalunga*
- Description:
 - Albacore tuna have torpedo-shaped bodies, smooth skin, and exceptionally long pectoral fins.
- Habitat:
 - Found in tropical and warm temperate waters of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans
- Characteristics:
 - Light colored flesh, prized for its mild flavor and high quality



In 2022, commercial landings of Pacific albacore tuna totaled 16 million pounds, valued at \$36 million

Who Fishes for Albacore on the West Coast?

The Folks Behind the Industry

- Profile:
 - Independent and small-scale fishermen, often family-run businesses
 - Passionate and proud about what they do
- Community:
 - Many are based in coastal communities from California to Washington
- Skills:
 - Experienced in traditional and modern fishing techniques. Dedicated to maintaining a balance between economic needs and environmental stewardship.



Fishing Methods



Trolling:

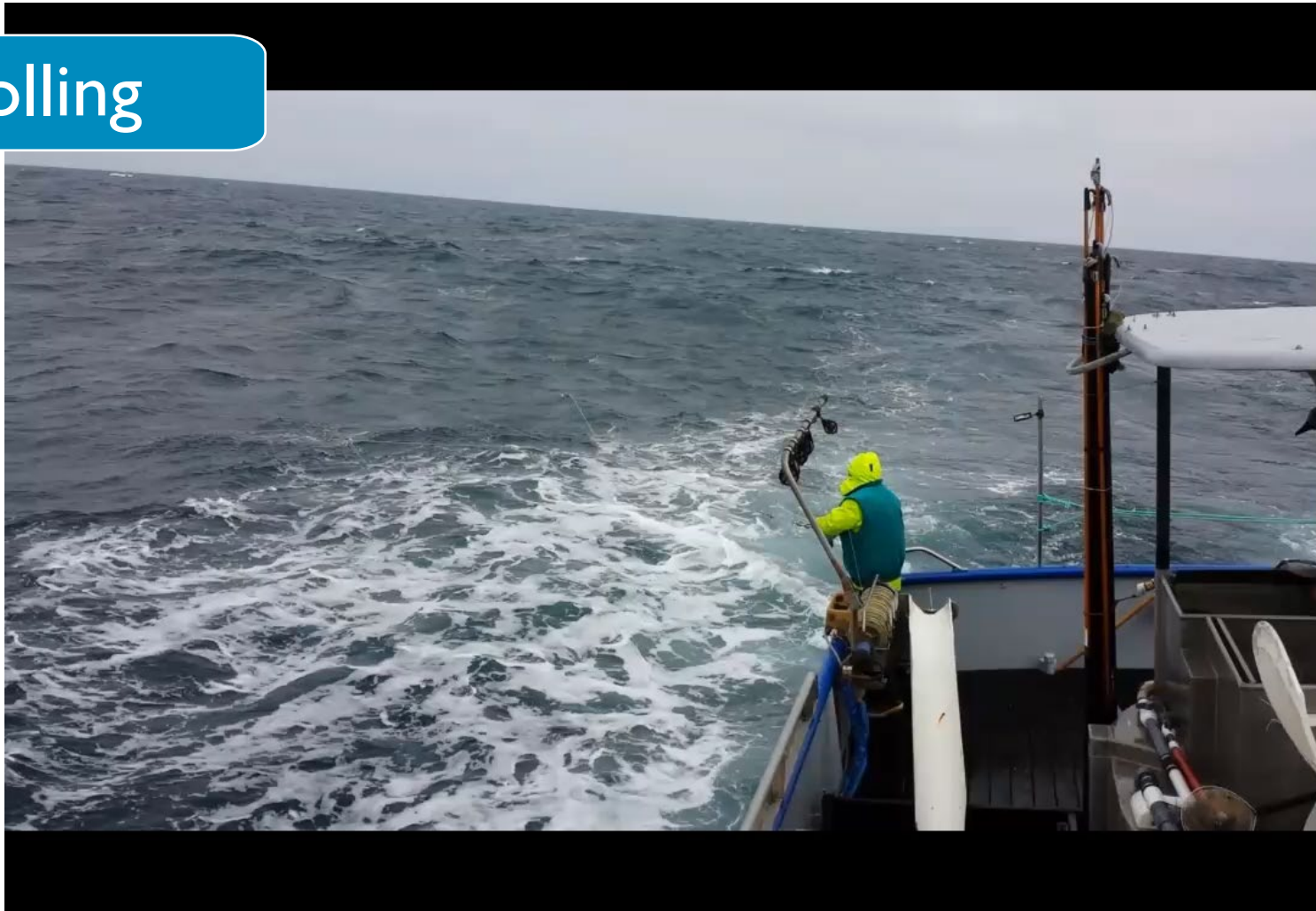
- Most common method where boats tow lines behind them

Pole and Line:

- Long poles with single hooks and live bait are used

Fishing Methods

Trolling



Fishing Methods

Pole and Line



Well Managed and Certified

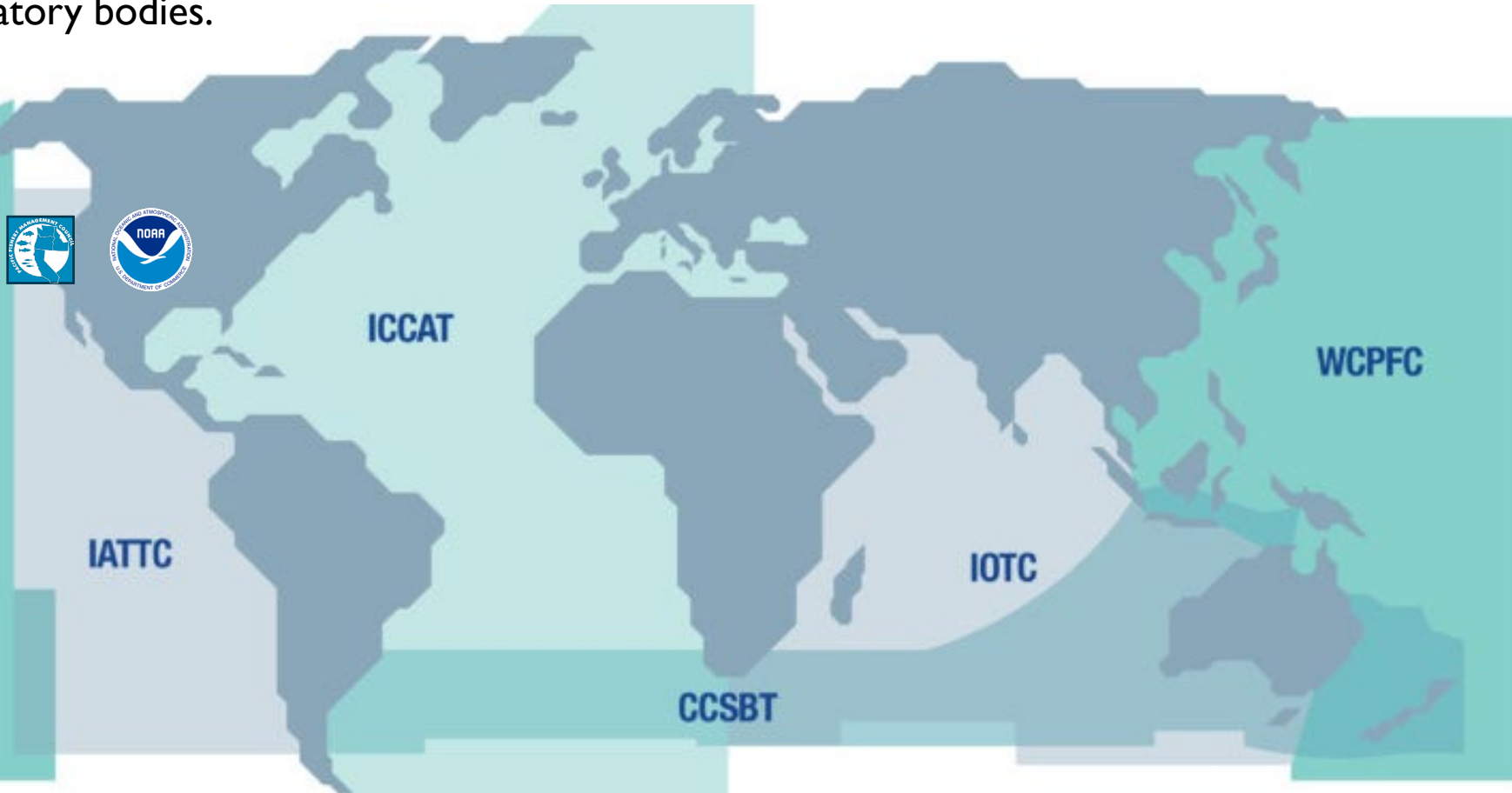
- The North and South Pacific fishery has been MSC certified since 2007
- Fishing methods catch one fish at a time, with no nets, no bycatch, and no impact to the seafloor.
- Albacore stocks are healthy with no evidence of overfishing
- Identified as a Monterey Bay Aquarium Super Green List top ten choice for sustainable seafood



Monterey Bay Aquarium
Seafood Watch

Management of the Industry

As a highly migratory species, Albacore are managed across many international and national regulatory bodies.



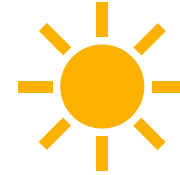
Fishery Fast Facts



10 year average of
vessels just under 500



10 year average of
annual ex vessel
revenue \$35.5 million



Season goes from
early July into early
October

Industry Challenges



Potential Solutions

Collaborative Efforts: Engaging with stakeholders, including fishermen, scientists, and policymakers, to address challenges collectively.

Climate Prepared Communities: Building resilient infrastructure, preparing adequate disaster responses, and economic supports.

Adaptive Management: Flexibility in regulations to adapt to changing environmental conditions.

Consumer Awareness: Promoting sustainable seafood choices and supporting eco-friendly practices.

Fishermen Representation: Making sure our voices are heard where decisions are being made. Growing the number of fishers participating.



Conclusion and Q&A



Thank you for your support!



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