

**Wild
Oceans**
For the future of fishing

The Horizon

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COUNCIL HALTS EXPANSION OF LONGLINES

Victory in the Pacific

By Theresa Labriola
Pacific Program Director

In November, the Pacific Fishery Management Council considered and rejected a plan to expand shallow-set longline fishing off of California. In a victory for the Pacific, they chose the health of our open ocean ecosystem, sportfish, sharks, sea turtles and seabirds, over the wasteful, industrial fishing gear that dominates swordfish fishing. The Council's decision marks another milestone in our decades-long commitment to keep longlines out of California.

For more than twenty years, we have worked to authorize innovative fishing gear that catches more swordfish with less bycatch and to keep longlines out of the eastern Pacific. In 2001, *Wild Oceans*, then National Coalition for Marine Conservation, marshaled support from other west coast groups to make a prohibition on longlining in federal waters a centerpiece of the Council's Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan. In 2009, the Council reconsidered the prohibition, and we fought back. So

in 2019, when the Pacific Council reconsidered expanding the use of Hawaii longline gear, 60 miles of fishing line with more than 1,500 hooks, we were there to adamantly oppose the idea. We again partnered with recreational fishing organizations, ocean conservationists, and wildlife enthusiasts to rally for better fishing.

At the November Council meeting, the recreational fishing and conservation communities made their message overwhelmingly clear. We support sustainable fishing practices in all sectors. We want fishermen to be able to fish and land fish on the west coast, but we want them to minimize bycatch. We argued that longlining contravenes our collective goals of reducing bycatch and ensuring quality fishing opportunities for future generations. And the Council agreed.

Longlines are indiscriminate, catching anything with a mouth big enough to bite the hook. Nearly half of what is caught is discarded. Even following the best practices for releasing non-target fish and sea turtles can ultimately result in injury or death.

(continued on page 4)

Our Mission

Wild Oceans was founded by anglers in 1973. Like the sportsmen before us who pioneered wildlife conservation on land, we are passionate protectors of fish and the wild world we share.

Our mission is to keep the oceans wild to preserve fishing opportunities for the future. To do this, we bring conservation-minded fishermen and pro-fishing environmentalists together to promote a broad, ecosystems approach to fisheries management that reflects our expanding circle of concern for all marine life and the future of fishing.

So much of what we love about the sea, about fish, about fishing, is in the wildness. But that wild world, and the future of fishing, now hangs in the balance. Everything we do, every decision we make, must be guided by a clear vision of the future we want for our oceans and of how the fishing public and responsible consumers will fit into that future.

The nature of wild oceans

I must admit that it is with a bit of trepidation that I pen my first Ocean View column for the *Wild Oceans Horizon* newsletter. For years former *Wild Oceans* President (now Board member) Ken Hinman has used this column to eloquently educate us on the challenges we are facing in the fishery management arenas and what *Wild Oceans* is doing to address those challenges. Sometimes these articles have been quite specific and technical, while others more contemplative. In either case, they have made me think. They have made me think and reflect, not only on what is going on in our oceans and how it impacts us all, but often, life in general. For this I am grateful to both Ken and *Wild Oceans*.

My first thought for this column was to recap the many *Wild Oceans* accomplishments of 2019, which are presented in more detail on page 6. Executive Director Pam Lyons Gromen and Pacific Program Director Theresa Labriola have been extremely busy (and successful). Then I decided to take a different approach and reflect on the organization itself, as this is what has been occupying the majority of

my time these first few months on the job.

Prior to agreeing to take the helm of *Wild Oceans*, I was contracted as an independent consultant to do a strategic business analysis of the organization. I formally interviewed all of the staff members, most of the Board members and several of the organization's key stakeholders. I also spoke informally with some of its members. I learned much in this process. I learned what makes the organization unique. I learned why, in an arena where many come and go, the organization still exists after 46 years with many of the same loyal supporters.

Although the organization has been in existence for all this time, many of my friends and fellow anglers have not heard of it (nor by its former name – the National Coalition for Marine Conservation). *Wild Oceans* is not known for aggressively publicizing its efforts and accomplishments. It is known for quietly, effectively and methodically identifying issues, gathering the science, building coalitions and obtaining results. This takes time. In

some, if not most cases, this takes years.

So, when I'm asked, "what does *Wild Oceans* do?", I focus as much on how the organization does its work as much as what it does. Being small and nimble allows the organization to quickly switch directions when an opportunity presents itself or, equally as important, a new threat emerges. As fisheries policies evolve they can often take a quick turn. Having knowledgeable staff who are continually engaged in the process, who are good communicators and well respected by their peers, puts *Wild Oceans* in a position to achieve results.

My predecessor Ken Hinman probably put it best when asked to define *Wild Oceans* and what it does. He stated –

"It's not to do with any particular species, but all species. Not any particular problem, but a way at approaching all problems. It's about changing how we think, how we fish and how we work together to protect the fish, fishing and the wild oceans."

– Rob Kramer, President

For the Future of Fishing

Wild Oceans is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to keeping the oceans wild to preserve fishing opportunities for the future.

Our Goals:

- preventing overfishing and restoring depleted fish populations to healthy levels
- promoting sustainable use policies that balance commercial, recreational and ecological values
- modifying or eliminating wasteful fishing practices
- improving our understanding of fish and their role in the marine environment
- preserving fish habitat and water quality

Officers and Staff:

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Tim Ervin, Vice Chairman

Rob Kramer, President

Pam Lyons Gromen, Executive Director

Theresa Labriola, Pacific Program Director

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OMEGA PROTEIN TO SHUT DOWN IN JUNE IF IT DOESN'T COMPLY

Secretary Ross Upholds Chesapeake Bay Atlantic Menhaden Cap

by Pam Lyons Gromen
Executive Director

The U.S. Department of Commerce is standing by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) decision to find the Commonwealth of Virginia out of compliance with a critical measure in the Atlantic Menhaden Interstate Fishery Management Plan (ISFMP) – a cap on the amount of menhaden that can be removed from Chesapeake Bay waters by the reduction fishery.

Omega Protein, a Reedville, Virginia reduction factory owned by Canada-based Cooke Seafood, Inc., exceeded the 2019 bay cap by more than 30%, refusing to adhere to the management plan. In accordance with the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, when a state is found out of compliance with an interstate fishery management plan, the Secretary of Commerce must declare a moratorium on fishing in state waters until the fishery comes into compliance.

Reduction fishing “reduces” fish into fishmeal and fish oil. The industry depends on high-volume catches for its products. With the exception of Virginia, all Atlantic states have banned reduction fishing because of concerns about impacts to the environment and other fisheries.

Menhaden, arguably the most important forage fish along the Atlantic coast, is a major food source for an array of marine life, from humpback whales to ospreys to iconic game fish like striped bass and bluefish. The Chesapeake Bay functions as the primary nursery for Atlantic menhaden

and a number of its predators, and the catch cap was put in place to prevent depleting bay waters of this important prey fish.

In October, Omega Protein sent a letter to the ASMFC describing its plans to exceed the bay catch cap and set its own catch limit. Anglers up and down the east coast applauded the ASMFC when member states (including Virginia!) voted unanimously a few weeks later to find Virginia out of compliance.

After an out-of-compliance finding is filed with the Department of Commerce, the Secretary has 30 days to review the finding to determine whether the state in question failed to carry out its responsibility under the ISFMP, and if so, whether the measures that the state failed to implement and enforce are necessary for the conservation of the fishery in question.

Wild Oceans along with an impressive diversity of stakeholders, including recreational fishing groups, non-governmental organizations, federal fishery management councils, and Atlantic state governors led by Virginia's Governor Ralph Northam, submitted comments to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross to support the ASMFC's out-of-compliance finding. Public support was resounding; over 12,000 citizens signed petitions demanding action to hold Omega Protein accountable.

The Commerce Department's decision, released on December 19, concurs that the bay cap is necessary to maintain menhaden's role in the ecosystem: “The Secretary sees the measures Virginia has failed to implement as necessary for the conserva-

tion of the menhaden resource. The best available information shows that menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay are an important component of the overall health of the stock, and further that their role as forage for predator species in the Chesapeake Bay is critical to the marine environment.”

To avoid a fishery shutdown, Virginia must implement regulations to bring Omega Protein into compliance with the Chesapeake Bay cap by June 17, 2020. Though the annual bay cap is set at 51,000 metric tons (mt), the ISFMP requires paybacks of overages. Omega Protein surpassed their 2019 limit by more than 16,000 mt, reducing their 2020 allowable catch to less than 35,000 mt.

In Virginia, menhaden are managed by the General Assembly unlike other Virginia fisheries that are managed by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC). Virginia's legislators must act to bring Omega Protein into compliance before the deadline, and a number of bills have been introduced in the current session, the most promising of which would transfer management of menhaden to the VMRC, without question the body more qualified to oversee the fishery.

The Secretary's decision to support the bay cap as necessary for the conservation of Atlantic menhaden is a major victory in our work to protect the ocean's forage base. *Wild Oceans* thanks our supporters who signed our petition and weighed in. Together we are making a difference! ■



Wild Oceans Pacific Program Director, Theresa Labriola (center) testified against the longline proposal along with Wayne Kotow, Chris Arechaederra, John Ballotti, Sally Kurz, Bob Kurz, Chase Offield, Bill Shedd, Al Barker, Bart Hall, and Greg Stotesbury, representing Coastal Conservation Association of California, the Los Angeles Rod and Reel Club, the International Game Fish Association, Tuna Club of Avalon, American Sportfishing Association, Accurate, Fred Hall Fishing Shows, and Balboa Angling Club.

Victory in the Pacific, cont'd from page 1

A new study by the University of Hawaii shows millions of tiger sharks get hooked by longlines. Sharks that are released with a stainless steel hook could face profound consequences. Retained hooks can lead to reduced ability to hunt and perhaps death.

The Pacific Council reopened the longline debate at the request of Hawaii commercial longline fishermen who want to bypass regulations already in place in Hawaii. The Western Pacific Council issues 164 longline permits each year. Fishermen can use these permits to deploy either shallow-set longline gear (SSLL), targeting swordfish, or deep-set longline gear for bigeye tuna. About 20 of the permittees use SSLL and operate under a hard cap on loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles as well as false killer whales. Simply put, if the SSLL fishermen catch 16 leatherback or 17 loggerhead sea turtles, the fishery closes for the remainder of the year.

The longline fishery reached their loggerhead sea turtle cap in 2018 and 2019 and closed. Instead of turning towards developing alternative gear, the Hawaii fleet turned towards the Pacific Council in an attempt to expand their fishing opportunities with new permits and new

turtle caps that would allow them to keep fishing even after reaching their Western Pacific turtle caps.

But, the Pacific Council and the public didn't take the bait. More than 50 stakeholders came to the November Council meeting and testified. *Wild Oceans* provided comments on behalf of 35 leading national and local recreational fishing organizations and 500 of our members who signed postcards and petitions. In our own words and stories we testified in favor of fishing, but for responsible fishing and against authorizing longline gear. We asked the Council to allow the nascent deep-set buoy gear fishery to grow and supply swordfish to the domestic market. We let the Council know we are up against a gear that is detrimental to the resource, and we support sustainable gear research.

Council members were suspicious of the purpose or need for expanding a shallow-set longline fishery. They asked poignant questions. It became abundantly clear that there were numerous important unanswered questions, limited available information, and strong opposition from a broad range of stakeholder groups. While longline representatives portrayed this as an opportunity to improve longline gear that is

the most global gear used to catch swordfish and to elevate sustainability standards, the Council saw through the empty promises. Nothing currently stops the Hawaii SSLL fishery from taking steps towards sustainability.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife understood the gravity of the situation. They refused to move forward with further scoping unless the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) ensured the Council that the annual take allowance for leatherback and loggerhead sea turtles would not be increased by new allowed takes from a Pacific Council authorized fishery. NMFS could not provide such promises even though their own recent analysis found that Pacific leatherbacks are "declining rapidly," such that "every turtle counts for sustaining and hopefully rebuilding the population."

The sound rejection of expanded longlining in the Pacific is not only a victory for sportfishermen, but also a reminder that when recreational fishing groups are organized, thoughtful, and most importantly present at Council meetings, we can lead the charge for responsible resource management. ■

2019 Ocean Honor Roll

In gratitude, *Wild Oceans* recognizes the foundations, companies, groups and individuals whose generous support helps us fulfill our mission.

Firedoll Foundation

Friends of Fish Foundation

The Tim & Karen Hixon Foundation

Joseph & Catherine Johnson Family Foundation

Herbert Kameon Charitable Lead Trust

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Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club Foundation

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Tropidilla Productions

Peter & Andrea Truslow

Susanna B. Weld

Scott Wessles/Bear's Den

West Palm Beach Fishing Club



Photo courtesy of *Wild Oceans* Board member Bill Boyce

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

2019: an extraordinary year

by Pam Lyons Gromen
Executive Director

2019 was an extraordinary year for *Wild Oceans*. Our long-time leader Ken Hinman stepped down after 41 years serving as our organization president and joined our Board of Directors. Rob Kramer, the former President of the International Game Fish Association, stepped in and hit the ground running as our new president. We welcomed new talent to our Board of Directors with the additions of Frankie Labriola and Peter Truslow (see p. 7). And we moved – now headquartered in Tallahassee, Florida.

What has not changed is our steadfast commitment to our mission. So while it was a year of big changes, it was also a year of big victories. Thank you for being an integral part of our success! Here are the highlights from 2019:

Longlines Kept Out of West Coast Waters. For over 20 years, *Wild Oceans* has fought to keep longlines out of Pacific waters off the West Coast. When the threat of a new longline fishery emerged again, Pacific Program Director Theresa Labriola rallied our sportfishing allies in the region, and the proposal was soundly defeated. Read Theresa's account of our latest Pacific victory on page 1.

Atlantic Menhaden Chesapeake Bay Cap Defended. The integrity of the Chesapeake Bay Atlantic menhaden catch cap came under attack when Omega Protein, an industrial reduction fishery operation, flagrantly blew past its catch limit, set by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), by more than 30%. *Wild Oceans* worked together with a strong coalition of fishing, wildlife and environmental groups to demand that Omega Protein be held

accountable. We appealed to the Secretary of Commerce to shut down Omega Protein's operation in Reedville, Virginia unless and until the Canadian-owned company agreed to comply with the cap. The Secretary agreed. (see p. 3)

Sustainable Gear Authorized for the West Coast Swordfish Fishery. In September, the Pacific Fishery Management Council authorized Deep Set Buoy Gear to target swordfish. The Pacific Council's decision marks a major milestone in *Wild Oceans*' campaign to transition the swordfish fishery away from drift gillnets, which indiscriminately kill a long list of other ocean wildlife, including marlin, sharks, sea turtles and whales. Deep Set Buoy Gear has negligible bycatch and promotes fresh locally-supplied seafood and community-based employment.

Atlantic Herring Forage Plan Approved. NOAA Fisheries approved the New England Council's Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring Plan. The action features a new catch control rule that leaves substantially more fish in the water as forage and establishes a buffer zone, extending 12 nautical miles from the shore, where industrial mid-water trawling is prohibited to protect sensitive habitat, feeding grounds, and other fisheries dependent on herring. This ground-breaking victory for forage fish was 4 years in the making!

New Plans Developed to Conserve Atlantic Mackerels. Small mackerels are critically-important prey for highly migratory fish, like sharks, billfish and wahoo, and their abundance off the East Coast not only sustains the predators, it sustains recreational fishing activity that is vital to the U.S. economy. *Wild*

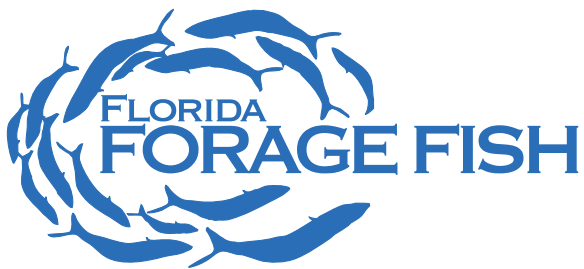
Oceans worked this year to protect unmanaged mackerels from industrial-scale fishing, securing a fishery management plan for chub mackerel in the Mid-Atlantic and initiating an amendment to safeguard bullet and frigate mackerel through the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery Management Plan in the South Atlantic.

Big Fish and Forage Fish Rebuilding Plans Underway. Populations of big fish predators and the forage fish they depend on are threatened when they are removed from the ocean faster than they can reproduce. *Wild Oceans* staff members serve as advisors to national and international fishery management bodies, and this year, they provided recommendations to end overfishing and rebuild North Pacific striped marlin, Pacific bluefin tuna, Atlantic striped bass and Atlantic mackerel. We also successfully fought an industry-led effort to increase the allowable ocean bycatch of severely-depleted river herring and shad.

Healthy Ecosystems Prioritized. Prioritizing ecosystem health in fisheries management will help ensure that our oceans resources are available for future generations. *Wild Oceans* succeeded in advocating for ecosystem goals and objectives in initiatives led by the Pacific and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. Also this year, NOAA Fisheries published a series of Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Implementation Plans for each region, including Atlantic Highly Migratory Species. *Wild Oceans* provided detailed recommendations for the EBFM Implementation Plans, a continuation of our long-term efforts to support NOAA's move to EBFM. ■

Wild Oceans Welcomes Peter Truslow to our Board of Directors

Raised on the water since birth, Peter Truslow grew up in Long Island, New York and Maine. An avid fisherman, diver, sailor and water sports enthusiast, Peter first fell in love with fishing while fishing with his grandfather, also an avid sportsman. Since graduating from Tufts University in 1986 with a degree in International Relations, Peter has held several important positions in the marine and boating industries, including: marketing with Motor Boating and Sports Afield magazines, President of EdgeWater Powerboats, CEO of Bertram Yachts, Vice President of Grand Banks Yachts and a Board Member of the National Marine Manufacturers Association since 2008. Peter is currently working as a consultant in the boating industry and resides in St. Petersburg, Florida. We are thrilled to have Peter's expertise working for *Wild Oceans*!



SCIENCE CORNER: PINFISH POPULATIONS & FORAGE NEEDS OF RECRUITING SPORTFISH

Last summer, *Wild Oceans* proudly announced that we joined the Florida Forage Fish Coalition. The Coalition encourages the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to adopt measures that conserve the forage base.

Coalition partners play a key role in supporting the Forage Fish Research Program, a public-private partnership established in 2016 to keep Florida forage fish healthy. Funds raised through the program provide fellowships to graduate students at Florida universities who collaborate with Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) scientists to advance our understanding of forage fish.

To date, four fellowships have been awarded through the program. Both first year Fellows, Meaghan Faletti of the University of South Florida and Ed Camp of the University of Florida, recently had their work published in peer-reviewed journals.

Meaghan Faletti assessed the population dynamics of pinfish, an important

forage fish in the eastern Gulf of Mexico that is preyed upon by a variety of predators, including red drum, spotted sea trout, gag grouper, seabirds and marine mammals. She found a strong association between pinfish abundance and the presence of seagrass. Faletti cautions that "seagrass habitats are already influenced by a tremendous number of anthropogenic stressors including nutrient input, habitat destruction and increasing water temperatures from climate change which may lead to severe declines in seagrass growth and survival. The potential loss of seagrass could have profound influences on many species, including pinfish."

Ed Camp took a novel approach to identifying forage species that should be prioritized in ecosystem-based management approaches. His research focused on foraging needs of gray snapper, red drum, spotted sea trout and gag grouper during recruitment, a critical process in a fish's juvenile life stage that strongly influences the abundance of a year class within

a population. Camp discovered that small fish and crustaceans comprise a major component of the diet of these popular game fish during recruitment, and that these smaller prey items are often overlooked in forage fish research and management. Camp argues that monitoring the major forage species of recruiting predators can serve as an indicator of ecosystem health and can improve our understanding of the links between predators and prey, leading to more informed and effective management actions. ■

The Florida Forage Fish Research Program plans to award two new Fellowships in 2020. Interested in helping us support a Florida college student? Visit floridaforagefish.org to learn more and to make a contribution.

Faletti ME, Chacin DH, Peake JA, MacDonald TC, Stallings CD (2019) Population dynamics of Pinfish in the eastern Gulf of Mexico (1998-2016). *PLoS ONE* 14(8): e0221131. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0221131>

Camp, E.V., Ahrens, R.N.M., MacDonald, T.C., Thompson, K.A. & Lorenzen, K. (2019). Identifying forage populations of concern: A new perspective based on predator recruitment considerations, *Fisheries Research*, Volume 219, 2019, 105319. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2019.105319>

Turning the Tide

Wild Oceans News and Activities

Keeping Longlines Out of West Coast Waters

- Our Pacific Program Director, Theresa Labriola, attended the Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Costa Mesa, California November 16-19. She spoke on behalf of 35 national recreational fishing organizations who oppose expanding the use of longlines in the Pacific. The Council voted to not proceed with scoping of an amendment to authorize shallow-set longline fishing at this time. (see *Victory in the Pacific*, p.1)

Bringing Back the Big Fish

- This year, Theresa was appointed to the Permanent Advisory Committee (PAC) to advise the U.S. Commissioners to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). She attended her first PAC meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii on October 10-11 where she focussed on gathering continued support for the rebuilding plan for Pacific bluefin tuna and gaining industry backing for the U.S. draft rebuilding plan for North Pacific striped marlin, which has languished at historically low spawning stock levels for decades. The PAC advanced conservative positions for the recovery of both species. With support from the PAC, the U.S. delegation advanced a rebuilding plan for striped marlin at the December 2019 WCPFC meeting in Papua New Guinea. The WCPFC adopted an interim rebuilding plan, a necessary first step in the species recovery. The WCPFC set an interim rebuilding target for North Pacific striped marlin at 20%

of its spawning stock biomass by 2034. Beginning in 2020, member countries will develop measures to rebuild the stock. WCPFC aims to adopt revised conservation and management measures for North Pacific striped marlin next year. Striped marlin are caught as by-catch in the Western Pacific longline fishery by boats targeting big-eye tuna or swordfish. Member countries were urged to consider reduced catch limits and retention, release, and gear requirements, among other potential tools to rebuild the stock.

Improving Policies for Better Fishing

- Executive Director Pam Lyons Gromen was invited to speak at Congressman Jared Huffman's (D-CA) Federal Fisheries Management Listening Session in Baltimore, Maryland on October 15. The Baltimore session was one of five stops so far in a national tour. (The others have been in Seattle, Washington; San Francisco, California; Arcata, California; and New Orleans, Louisiana) Congressman Huffman serves as the Chairman of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife. By listening to stakeholders around the country, he hopes to construct a bill to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act that is responsive to current needs and that recognizes what is working well in the current law. Pam was given five minutes to speak and focused her comments on forage fish management, the need to move to ecosystem-based fishery manage-

ment planning in the face of climate change, and the effectiveness of the current Magnuson-Stevens Act for ending overfishing and rebuilding stocks.

Promoting Ecosystem-based Approaches to Management

- The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council unanimously approved a new 5-year Strategic Plan at its December meeting in Annapolis, Maryland. Pam attended a public hearing about the new plan, and she testified in strong support of a new ecosystem goal with supporting objectives and strategies that prioritize the implementation of ecosystem-based approaches. Ecosystem objectives in the newly approved plan highlight the need to protect habitat, address offshore energy impacts, maintain adequate forage and develop management approaches that are responsive to climate change.
- The Pacific Council and the Nature Conservancy cosponsored a workshop: Developing Future Scenarios for Climate Change in the California Current Ecosystem on January 22 and 23. Theresa joined more than 80 scientists, fishery experts and stakeholders in Garden Grove, California to create several scenarios about what west coast fishing communities might look like in 2040. The workshop is part of the Pacific Council's effort to respond strategically to near-term climate shifts and long-term climate change by identifying strategies to increase the resiliency of west coast fisheries and fishing communities that are in line with the Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan.

Managing Forage Fisheries to Provide for Predator Needs

- Pam traveled to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, September 17-19, where the Dolphin and Wahoo Committee continued to work on Amendment 12 to the Dolphin/Wahoo Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Amendment 12 would recognize bullet and frigate mackerel as ecosystem component species because of their important role as prey for wahoo. (Bullet and frigate mackerel comprise 40-50% of the wahoo diet.) The Committee agreed on the ecosystem component species designation but stopped short of including measures that would prevent large-scale fisheries from

targeting the mackerels. Instead, the development of regulatory measures was put on hold until the March 2020 meeting while NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Regional Office investigates potential paths forward for conserving an ecosystem component species along the entire east coast, the current geographic range of the Dolphin/Wahoo FMP. To date, regional councils that have used ecosystem component species designations to protect unmanaged forage species (the Pacific and Mid-Atlantic Councils) have developed regulations specific to their jurisdictions.

- Theresa attended the November Pacific Council meeting in Costa Mesa, California where the Council considered a potential framework for more

regular review and evaluation of biological information on the central subpopulation of northern anchovy, which could lead to adjustments in the outdated and static harvest reference point.

Engaging our Allies

- On October 17th, *Wild Oceans* President Rob Kramer gave a presentation to the West Palm Beach Masons Club on the impacts of industrial fishing and the importance of engaging in the fishery management process. Rob explained how *Wild Oceans* engages with fisheries management bodies to discourage indiscriminate fishing practices and to encourage the adoption of innovative, low-bycatch gears. Rob emphasized the important role of the public to be concerned and involved. ■

Wild Oceans Celebrates the Legacy of Ken Hinman



Wild Oceans Board Chairman Tim Choate (left) and President Rob Kramer (right) present Ken with a Circle Hook Sculpture by Marine Wildlife Artist David Wirth

Wild Oceans Board of Directors and staff gathered with friends and family in Savannah, Georgia on October 12th to celebrate our retired president, Ken Hinman, and his remarkable achievements as a leader in marine fish conservation. Savannah was chosen specially for the occasion, as it is the city where *Wild Oceans*, then called the National Coalition for Marine Conservation, was founded back in 1973. We were honored by the presence of our co-founder Frank Carlton, who hired Ken more than 40 years ago as the first National Coalition for Marine Conservation employee.

The party hosts, Board Member Stephanie Choate Oppenheimer along with her father, Board Chairman Tim Choate, treated guests to a lovely evening along the banks of the Savannah River. Guests reminisced about how Ken's work has shaped the direction of marine fisheries management, broadening our concerns beyond the fisheries to the ocean environment on which our fisheries depend.

Ken and his wife Lauren Megan,

who worked by Ken's side as our Office Manager since our early beginnings, plan to travel as they kickoff their retirement. We wish them many happy adventures ahead! ■



Friends and family gather to celebrate Ken. From left to right: Frank Carlton, John Jolley, Pam Lyons Gromen, Ken Hinman and Chuck Hinman



***Wild Oceans'* Ken Hinman to be inducted into the IGFA Hall of Fame**



**FISHING HALL OF FAME
CLASS OF 2020**

We are thrilled to announce that the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) is recognizing *Wild Oceans* past President and current Board member Ken Hinman by inducting him into their prestigious Hall of Fame this year. The IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame recognizes extraordinary achievements in recreational fishing around the world by anglers, captains, scientists, conservationists, writers, or fishing industry leaders. The first class, honoring 29 of the sport's luminaries, was inducted in 1998.

Each year, five new individuals are inducted in the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame through a rigorous committee process. Ken is being recognized for his over 40 years of professional experience working to conserve marine fish. The ceremony will be held this October at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame in the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium in Springfield, Missouri. Stay tuned to our website for additional information on event specifics! ■

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