



Summer/ Fall 2018

### **NOAA Albacore Tuna Collections:**

NOAA Fisheries needs your help! Albacore are the most important fishery for highly migratory species on the U.S. West Coast. In addition to collecting data on size and catch for stock assessments, one of our overarching goals is to understand the basic biology of albacore and their habitat use and migratory patterns.

**Goal:** Collect albacore tuna heads and stomachs for research.

**The easiest way to collect these samples** is by saving the head, with **ALL** of the guts still attached.... just put everything into a trash bag and then freeze everything. The only other thing we need is to know is **WHEN** and **WHERE** you caught the fish.

Heads (otoliths) are used to evaluate migration patterns and age and growth rates:

- Either entire head in a plastic bag or just the otoliths in a small vial if you already know how to extract them.

Stomachs help us understand albacore diets:

- Entire stomach cut as close to gills as possible if not attached to the head

Muscle tissue to explore foraging ecology and migration patterns

- We can take this tissue from the head if it is provided.

If you would like to donate your albacore tuna carcasses please contact us immediately. Any and all samples you provide will improve the quality of our science! We need your help! Working together we can better understand and ensure the sustainability of Albacore.

To arrange shipping please call (858)342-6372 or email [owyn.snodgrass@noaa.gov](mailto:owyn.snodgrass@noaa.gov)

Thanks in advance for your help!

Owyn