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Please share the following with the AAFA Board and Membership as it recounts items of interest that arose during the month of April and looks forward to certain events occurring in upcoming months.

Follow-up on March's upcoming events:

1. April 6 – 11 – Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Sacramento, Ca. Once again, nothing specific to the albacore fishery on the Agenda. I did confirm, with Lorna Wargo (CPS rep from Washington DFW) that the overage of commercial anchovy landings coming from the Columbia River will NOT impact your ability to have anchovy available for bait purposes. If you catch your own bait – it is important that you supply the amount taken on your fish ticket – this will enable the WA DFW to better account for your needs in the event there are future management restrictions. If you buy bait – you don't need to include that as the bait harvester already does this.
2. April 18 – 20 – Highly Migratory Species Management Team meeting. This was primarily focused on the swordfish fishery and housekeeping changes to the HMS Fishery Management Plan. The FMP amendments will be a topic of conversation at the June PFMC meeting – and I will provide an overview of the proposed changes before the meeting to recommend any comments AAFA may wish to make.

Federal Register Items of Interest:

The following appeared in the Federal Register which may have an impact on AAFA vessels.

1. April 13 – The Environmental Protection Agency published a request for comment on the evaluation of existing regulations. Comments are due by May 15. This is based on the Regulatory Reform Executive Order and seeks input on “regulations that may be appropriate for repeal, replacement, or modification.” Ongoing discussions amongst other industry groups may lead to a joint submission. See <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-04-13/pdf/2017-07500.pdf>
2. April 14 – NMFS published a list of stocks that are subject to overfishing or overfished. While albacore are not included on the list, a couple of HMS stocks in the Pacific are: the Western and Central Pacific stock of Pacific bigeye tuna are subject to overfishing and Pacific bluefin tuna in the North Pacific Ocean are still overfished and subject to overfishing. See - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-04-19/pdf/2017-07923.pdf>

3. April 18 – Pres Trump issued Executive Order 13788, entitled “Buy American and Hire American”. See - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/04/18/presidential-executive-order-buy-american-and-hire-american>. It will remain to be seen how that may impact the non-citizen crew waiver for vessels fishing exclusively for Highly Migratory Species – or if this could have any impact (via analogy) on the US-Canada Treaty. This has been reported favorably in the Press - <https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/supply-trade/seafood-groups-praise-trump-s--buy-american--executive-order>
4. April 25 – Pres Trump issued Executive Order 13790, entitled “Promoting Agriculture and Rural Prosperity in America”. See <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/04/25/presidential-executive-order-promoting-agriculture-and-rural-prosperity>. Obviously, this won’t directly impact AAFA or its membership; but this could be extended, by analogy, to “Fisheries and Fishing Communities”.
5. April 26 – Pres Trump issued Executive Order 13792, entitled “Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act”. See - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/04/26/presidential-executive-order-review-designations-under-antiquities-act>. “Monument designations that result from a lack of public outreach and proper coordination with State, tribal, and local officials and other relevant stakeholders may also create barriers to achieving energy independence, restrict public access to and use of Federal lands, burden State, tribal, and local governments, and otherwise curtail economic growth.”
6. April 26 – The Department of Commerce – International Trade Administration published two notices which found Canada had dumped softwood lumber products into the US which led to imposition of a substantial tariff (upwards of 20%) on such imports in the future.

Other items of interest:

1. *US-Canada Albacore Treaty*. On April 12, WFOA sent a letter to the State Dept which reiterated many of the points raised in our letter to Dave Hogan from the end of March. On April 25, David Hogan (US State Dept) replied to both AAFA and WFOA stating, “stating that “these letters (the March 7 and March 10 letters between Mr. Dave Hogan (US) and Ms Sylvia Lapointe (Canada)) continue to reflect the strong political commitment of both Parties to this arrangement.” AAFA/WFOA are currently drafting a joint letter expressing our strong opposition to this voluntary arrangement which will be sent to the Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of State.
2. In Early April, Dr. Ray Hilborn, with a number of other well-respected marine scientist, published their forage fish paper which concluded that stocks of predatory fish may be less affected by the catching of their prey species than has previously been thought.” AAFA was a financial contributor to this story and the publication efforts. See - <http://www.savingseafood.org/science/hilborn-led-study-predators-less-affected-catch-prey-fish-thought/>
3. *Offshore Renewable Energy – BOEM/California Energy Commission Workshop*. A workshop was scheduled for April 13; but after conversations with Kearns and West (a PR firm hired by BOEM) it was decided to try and arrange a southern California workshop for those of us located down here. Will provide updates if/when that is scheduled.

Upcoming items of interest

1. June 7-14 – Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Spokane, Wa. There are HMS items on the Agenda; but none focused on albacore fishery.
2. May 25 – US-Canada Data Working Group Call.