



Mike Conroy - President  
SBN - 165335  
[Mike@wecofm.com](mailto:Mike@wecofm.com)  
(562) 761-7176

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

**Follow-up on April's upcoming events:**

1. *June 6 – US-Canada Albacore Treaty Bilateral call.* Once again, this was nothing more than a means to check a box as the State Dept moves forward with authorizing another 3-year regime. AAFA participants on the call reiterated many of the same points we have been making since last November; and received the same responses. We drafted a letter to the State Department after this call; which has not yet been answered.

**Federal Register Items of Interest:**

The following appeared in the Federal Register which may have an impact on AAFA vessels.  
FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, Public Law 114–185, 130 Stat. 538 (June 30, 2016) (“Act”)

1. June 7 – NMFS published a notice and request for comments on its review of existing rules which had, or will have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. In this notice NMFS is reviewing a number of rules (issued in 2010) by December 31, 2017 – only the ones which may be of interest to AAFA are listed below:
  - International Fisheries; Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; Initial Implementation of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention. The regulations included requirements related to permitting, vessel monitoring systems, vessel observers, vessel markings, reporting and recordkeeping, at-sea transshipment, and boarding and inspection on the high seas, among others.See - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-06-07/pdf/2017-11815.pdf>
2. June 8 – The USCG published a notice seeking comments on Coast Guard regulations, guidance documents, and interpretative documents that you believe should be repealed, replaced, or modified. Initial feedback from the AAFA Board and PMA suggests commenting specifically on AIS. I know other user groups will be requesting the AIS only be required when transiting through an area with a vessel traffic separation scheme (Los Angeles and I think San Francisco, the Columbia River mouth and the Puget Sound); while being permitted in other areas. See - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-06-08/pdf/2017-11930.pdf>
3. June 15 – The United States International Trade Commission issued a preliminary determination that, “there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is threatened with material injury by reason of

imports of 100- to 150-seat large civil aircraft from Canada, provided for in subheading 8802.40.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, that are alleged to be sold in the United States at less than fair value (“LTFV”) and to be subsidized by the government of Canada. I only include this as a follow-up to the entry in last month’s report which indicated a claim was filed. This was brought up during the recent calls on the Treaty and wasn’t answered. See - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-06-15/pdf/2017-12436.pdf>

4. June 22 – Department of the Interior published a request for comments on how it can improve implementation of regulatory reform initiatives and policies and identify regulations for repeal, replacement, or modification. At present, there is no deadline for public comments. See - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-06-22/pdf/2017-13062.pdf>
5. June 26 – NOAA published a notice and request for public comments on a review of National Marine Sanctuaries and Marine National Monuments Designated or Expanded Since April 28, 2007. Of interest to AAFA will be the following:
  - Expansion of the following National Marine Sanctuaries:
    - Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
    - Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary
    - Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
    - Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
    - National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa
  - Expansion or creation of the following National Marine Monuments
    - Marianas Trench Marine National Monument
    - Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument
    - Papahaʻnaumokuāʻkea Marine National Monument
    - Rose Atoll Marine National Monument

Comment period closes July 26, 2017. See - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-06-26/pdf/2017-13308.pdf>

#### **Other items of interest:**

1. As we have been boasting about – Chris Oliver officially took over as Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries on June 19, 2017. AAFA signed on to a number of letters supporting Mr. Oliver. See - [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2017/06/19\\_new\\_asst\\_admin.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2017/06/19_new_asst_admin.html)
2. News report from National Fisherman on the current year market for west coast albacore trollers. See - <https://www.nationalfisherman.com/west-coast-pacific/hungry-markets-west-coast-albacore-prices-upswing/>
3. News report from June 28 which links the death of a humpback whale in Rhode Island to an offshore wind farm. See - [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/wind-farm-humpback\\_us\\_5953d8e4b05c37bb7b4a4e?nl](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/wind-farm-humpback_us_5953d8e4b05c37bb7b4a4e?nl)
4. While I don’t have a link for this – we were able to convince a staffer with Congressman Hunter’s office to sign on to a letter drafted by Congressman Huffman challenging the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s ability to accurately gauge the impacts on commercial fisheries utilizing areas proposed for wind farms. BOEM is the federal agency which oversees offshore wind farm leases. Will update you as more details become known.

**Upcoming items of interest**

1. Early July – The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean will be meeting to, amongst other things, release the 2017 stock assessment for North Pacific Albacore
2. August 9 – 11 – MRAG - Contractor for AAFA MSC Re-Certification, 3rd MSC Certification, 2nd re-certification for AAFA will be in town doing a site visit for the North and South Pacific Albacore fisheries.
3. September 11 – 18 – Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting to be held in Boise, Idaho.