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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 September and looks forward to certain events occurring in upcoming months.

Follow-up on August’s upcoming events:

1. Sept 11 – 18 – Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting. I served as an alternate on the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanels for this meeting. Albacore was not a primary topic; but the upcoming Management Strategy Evaluation Workshop was briefly discussed – mainly in terms of the Council paying for Wayne Heikkila and Doug Fricke attending. Both Wayne and Doug sit on the HMSAS.

Federal Register Items of Interest:

In past reports we have highlighted actions taken against Canadian importers and industry by the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce and The United States International Trade Commission. The intent was to show how there are some tensions between the two Nations on certain trade issues. Rather than take up space delving into each – we will simply list the publication date in the Federal Register, the topic of the publication and provide a link if the reader wishes to learn more about the publication.

Date	Topic	Link
Sept 1	Final determination in the less-than-fair-value (LTFV) investigation of certain softwood lumber products (softwood lumber) from Canada delayed until 11/13/17	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-09-01/pdf/2017-18643.pdf
Sept 1	Response to a petition to Initiate a “Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation” re certain Uncoated Groundwood Paper from Canada. Petition shows enough to justify an investigation.	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-09-01/pdf/2017-18726.pdf
Sept 1	As per the immediately preceding entry this notices Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-09-01/pdf/2017-18727.pdf
Sept 27	Re the extension for certain softwood lumber products listed above – this notice merely notices that the Commission is revising its schedule to conform with Commerce’s new schedule.	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-09-27/pdf/2017-20621.pdf
Sept 29	Re the Uncoated Groundwood Paper - the US Intl Trade Commission determines, a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is materially injured by reason of imports of uncoated groundwood paper from Canada	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-09-29/pdf/2017-20878.pdf

1. Sept 19 – The USCG requests applications for the Commercial Fishing Safety Advisory Committee. The Commercial Fishing Safety Advisory Committee provides advice and makes recommendations to the Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security on various matters relating to the safe operation of commercial fishing industry vessels. The application period closes on Nov 20, 2017. I think that an AAFA fisherman who also participates in other fisheries (esp the Dungeness Crab fishery) should consider this. See - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-09-19/pdf/2017-19899.pdf>. If you have an interest and would like assistance in putting together your application, please feel free to reach out to me for assistance.

Other items of interest:

1. *Pacific Bluefin Tuna*. During the last meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission's Northern Committee, an Agreement was reached to help rebuild the stock. This is noteworthy because it is the first time the United States, Canada, China, South Korea and Japan could come to an agreement on Pacific Bluefin. We realize this doesn't impact the albacore fishery; but it does show an ability for the main harvesting nations to come to agreement if a stock's status becomes dire. See - https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/tuna-fishing-nations-agree-on-plan-to-replenish-severely-depleted-bluefin-stocks/2017/09/01/7d83c314-8db0-11e7-91d5-ab4e4bb76a3a_story.html?utm_term=.8c510988784b.
2. *Tough time for tuna fishermen Albacore catch dwindles along the coast*. The Daily Astorian ran a story about the drop in Albacore catch this year (as of September 6). See - <http://www.dailyastorian.com/CRBJ/20170906/tough-time-for-tuna-fishermen-albacore-catch-dwindles-along-the-coast>
3. *Retailers pressured to stop selling tuna harvested unsustainably*. On The Hook (A coalition of scientists, retailers, politicians and campaigners) has been pointing out unsustainable harvest methods to retailers. See - <https://www.edie.net/news/7/Top-retailers-demanded-to-stop-selling--unsustainable-tuna/>
4. *Whistleblower named in price-fixing lawsuit involving Thai Union, Bumble Bee and StarKist*. Thai Union's US subsidiary – Chicken of the Sea – is the whistleblower in the price-fixing scandal that has led to a United States Department of Justice investigation and prosecution of its primary competitors in the U.S. canned tuna market. See - <https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/business-finance/thai-union-blew-the-whistle-on-tuna-price-fixing-bumble-bee-and-starkist-replace-legal-teams>
5. *Controversial seine fishery operating in Mexico gains MSC Certification*. This seine fishery has been linked with setting on dolphin/porpoise as it targets yellowfin tuna. See - <http://www.savingseafood.org/news/conservation-environment/pacific-alliance-sustainable-tuna-earns-msc-certification/>
6. *Secretary Zinke on Marine Monuments*. Interior Secretary Zinke recommends restoring Magnuson Act authority to certain recently created Marine Monuments. The Northeast Canyons and Seamounts, The Pacific Remote Island and Rose Atoll National Marine Monuments are covered in the linked document. See - <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4052225-Interior-Secretary-Ryan-Zinke-s-Report-to-the.html>
7. *Vessel Documentation Scam*. The USCG warned of a vessel documentation scam run by an online company called U.S. Vessel Documentation. I would imagine this company has been renamed or replaced by new entity with similar bad intentions. See - <https://www.nationalfisherman.com/national-international/coast-guard-warns-vessel-documentation-scam/>

8. *Warm Northwest waters draw spawning fish north.* A new study by the Northwest Fisheries Science Center finds, “Unusually warm ocean conditions off the Pacific Northwest in the last few years led anchovies, sardines and hake to begin spawning in Northwest waters much earlier in the year and, for anchovy, longer than biologists have ever recorded before, new research has found.” See - https://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/news/features/spawning_shift/index.cfm
9. *Civil Lawsuits related to price-fixing scandal involving Bumble Bee, StarKist and Thai Union.* In ruling on motions to dismiss, the court allowed the case to move forward; but did limit the scope of those lawsuits. See - <https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2017/09/27/tuna-price-fixing-suits-survive-dismissal-but-canners-win-procedural-points/>.

Upcoming items of interest

1. October 17 – 19 – MSE Workshop on North Pacific Albacore to be held in Vancouver, Canada.
2. November 14 – 20 - Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting to be held in Costa Mesa, Ca. Proposed Agenda has nothing on it related to albacore; but I imagine a review of the MSE workshop will be discussed.
3. December 5 – West Coast Regional Planning Body Annual Meeting. This meeting will discuss coordination, policy and planning for our West Coast ocean. I was invited to participate and will surely attend.