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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 of 2018 and looks forward to certain events occurring in upcoming months.

Follow-up on August's upcoming events:

1. September 3 – 7 – Northern Committee of the WCPFC meeting. A 44-page report of the meeting is available through the attached link - <https://www.wcpfc.int/meeting-folders/northern-committee>. In terms of items related to North Pacific albacore (NPA) – the following were discussed:
 - A. A review of the 2017 stock assessment
 - B. The ongoing Management Strategy Evaluation. A 4th MSE workshop is scheduled for March 5-7, 2019 (Yokohama, Japan). It will be imperative that AAFA has presence at this workshop.
 - C. A north Pacific tuna tagging program (led by ISC) - initial focus on NP albacore & Pacific bluefin tuna.
 - D. Data reported from Northern Committee harvesting nations that target NPA:
 - Canada:**
 - Catch in 2017 - 33% less than 2015. ISC asked to investigate this during the next assessment
 - Effort – declined; but less so than the catch decline
 - China** (which was absent):
 - No catch info
 - Effort – China continually reports 10 vessels fishing NPA; but evidence of shift of effort from South Pacific to North Pacific. It was noted this would be in contravention of the NPA effort limitation.
 - Japan** (3 fleets targeting NPA):
 - Catch in 2017 – around 45,000 tons
 - Effort – Similar number of vessel days as in 2016 and below its limit
 - Korea** (No fisheries targeting NPA):
 - Note – there was substantial catch and effort contained in Korea's report to the NC; but Korea claims this is all bycatch
 - Chinese Taipei:**
 - Catch in 2017 – 4,300 tons
 - Effort – 25 longline vessels
 - USA:**
 - Catch in 2017 – unstated
 - Effort – roughly 12,000 days which is well below its limit

- E. Objectives for 2019 – 21
- 1) Follow-up on member’s implementation of effort limitations
 - 2) Implement interim harvest strategy – which includes:
 - a. If limit reference point is breached (ie – if stock falls below a certain threshold)
 - b. Continue work on MSE towards developing a target reference point (ideal amount of take or effort) and other elements of a harvest strategy
 - c. Consider changes in effort limitations
2. September 5 – 12 – Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting. Among the highlights, as it relates to albacore: (1) A review of the recently completed IATTC meeting, including items mentioned in our August report; and (2) a request for the Council to fund travel for two HMSAS reps to the MSE workshop in Japan in March (this was not addressed by the Council).
 3. September 4 – 17 – UN Intergovernmental Conference session in ABNJ/BBNJ. Additional information on this is available at <https://www.un.org/bbnj/>. While we had planned on watching a good portion of this, due to a family emergency, we were unable to do so. There are 57 hours of webcasts available and a full report will be prepared based on these and other materials submitted for the Conference
 4. September 17 – Bureau of Ocean Energy Management held a meeting of the California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force. For a list of presentations and maps of viable areas – see <https://www.boem.gov/California/>.

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. We 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 6	US Intl Trade Commission notices final phase of antidumping and countervailing duty investigations on large diameter welded pipe from Canada (and other countries)	https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-09-06/pdf/2018-19280.pdf
Sep 12	Dept of Commerce’s International Trade Administration rescinds admin review of polyethylene terephthalate resin from Canada as the complaining party withdrew its request for such review.	https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-09-12/pdf/2018-19831.pdf
Sep 17	Two requests for NAFTA Panel Review after the Commerce Dept’s final antidumping duty determination of Certain Uncoated Groundwood Paper from Canada	https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-09-17/pdf/2018-20120.pdf and https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-09-17/pdf/2018-20121.pdf
Sep 27	US Intl Trade Commission determines US industry not materially injured or threatened w/ such by reason of imports of uncoated groundwood paper from Canada	https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-09-27/pdf/2018-21050.pdf

1. Sept 4 – NMFS published a request for comments on a currently approved information collection for US based vessels which fish for Highly Migratory Species in the Western and Central Pacific. Those of you who fish or may fish in the Western and Central Pacific and want to see the types of information required – please see - <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-09-04/pdf/2018-19089.pdf>.
2. Sept 5 – Presidential Proclamation of an intent to enter a trade agreement with Mexico and Canada (if willing). <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-09-05/pdf/2018-19411.pdf>.

Other items of interest:

1. September 3 – Fox and Friends aired a 5-minute video on the impact of regulations on US fishermen and the recent efforts to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Act. See – <https://video.foxnews.com/v/5830218943001/?#sp=show-clips>.
2. September 3 – Another news about a potential wind farm off Morro Bay. See - <https://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/environment/article217403980.html>
3. September 4 – News item in the Grays Harbor Talk about the albacore fishery. See - <http://www.graysharbartalk.com/2018/09/04/albacore-tuna-a-thrilling-fishery-at-the-westport-marina/>.
4. September 10 – CPA publishes top tax tips for those in the Commercial Fishing Industry. See - <https://www.cpapracticeadvisor.com/article/12425944/top-tax-tips-for-those-in-the-commercial-fishing-industry>. Note – we are not endorsing the views expressed in the article and note that some States may view things differently from a State tax standpoint. For example, the State of California would claim that crew on California based commercial fishing vessels are employees – not independent contractors.
5. September 11 - \$475,000 fine levied against Hawaiian longline vessel (civil penalties and reimbursements) for discharge of oily waste. The fine was issued under MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships). See - <https://maritime-executive.com/article/hawaiian-longline-operators-accept-475-000-marpol-fine>
6. September 15 – Redwood Coast Energy Authority submits lease application to install and operate an offshore wind farm off the Humboldt coast. See - <https://www.times-standard.com/2018/09/14/first-offshore-wind-farm-on-west-coast-is-one-step-closer/>. The area in question, as depicted on a chart, is on the last page of this Report.
7. September 17 – NOAA appoints Drew Lawler as New Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries. This appointment is perplexing as he seems to have a recreational fishing and agriculture background See - <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-appoints-drew-lawler-new-deputy-assistant-secretary-international-fisheries>
8. September 20 – Ray Hilborn (world renown fisheries scientist) writes a sobering op-ed on over-regulation of the commercial fishing industry. See - <https://www.nationalfisherman.com/viewpoints/national-international/losing-grounds-self-report-or-report-by-force/>
9. September 20 – Fishermen from Port San Luis tell their story. <https://www.newtimeslo.com/sanluisobispo/fish-out-of-water-a-fishermens-eye-view-of-the-local-commercial-fishing-industry/Content?oid=6263894>
10. September 25 – A US District Court in Louisiana found that “harvesting” as used in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act does not include aquaculture. Thus, the Aquaculture Fishery Management Plan adopted by the Gulf Council – and accompanying regulations adopted pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act – were not valid. This could have a profound impact on aquaculture activities planned for federal waters of the US. Note – there is legislation pending in the Senate and House that would directly address this. See - <https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/press-releases/5423/victory-court-shuts-down-offshore-aquaculture-in-gulf-of-mexico>
11. Trade deals – The US and Mexico did agree on a Trade Deal; but were holding off on finalizing it hoping that Canada would join in. See - <https://www.ft.com/content/5ab597da-c34d-11e8-95b1-d36dfef1b89a>

Upcoming items of interest

1. NOAA Listening Sessions: As noted in last month's overview, NOAA is hosting a number of meetings during the fall to "provide information about the implementation of the Department of Commerce's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, and also offer you the opportunity to give your input. Topics will include the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017, reducing the seafood trade deficit, and supporting maritime commerce, fisheries, recreation, and tourism." West Coast meeting dates are as follows:
 - Thursday, October 4 – Seattle, Wa. Agenda: To discuss the implementation of The Weather Act, including the development of a community-based weather model.
 - Friday, November 9 – San Diego, Ca. Agenda: To discuss opportunities to improve the efficiency of U.S. ports, promote domestic aquaculture production, and expand exploration of the nation's Exclusive Economic Zone.
2. October 11 – 12 – Permanent Advisory Committee to the WCPFC meeting to be held in Honolulu, Hi.
3. November 1 – 8 – Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in San Diego, Ca. Proposed agenda available here - https://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Nov2018MtgNotice_EntirePkg.pdf. There may be albacore related items under Item J2 (Recommend International Management Activities) – as the Council discusses issues raised during the Northern Committee (see above) in advance of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission meeting in December.
4. December 9 – 14 – Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission meeting in Honolulu, Hi.

Proposed location for offshore wind farm off Northern California.

