



www.AmericanAlbacore.com  
4364 Bonita Rd Box 311  
Bonita, CA. 91902  
P (619) 941 2307 F (619) 863 5046

## WHAT AAFA IS DOING FOR YOU – 2020

This new format, approved by the Board in April, is designed to be more user friendly and more conscious of your time. It will be submitted on a monthly basis and will be a living document in the sense that we will be adding to (or deleting from) it throughout the course of the month. Text which is new for a given month, will be presented in **red** so that you won't be burdened with rereading content previously published.

While the headings from the 2019 document is carried over, in an effort to keep this document from growing too large, we removed content from under those headings. Refer to last month's Report for background information

Through February 4, 2020

As a reminder – the AAFA General Meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at Sycuan Casino and Resort in El Cajon, Ca. Mike will be giving a presentation which will recap 2019 and discussing what has and likely will be taking place during 2020. There will also be time set aside for Q&A should you have any questions on items listed below, or any other items you feel warrant discussion

### **North Pacific Albacore – Management Strategy Evaluation (“MSE”)**

- We don't envision any work on the MSE until later this year (at the earliest) after the Stock Assessment is finalized

### **US – Canada Pacific Albacore Treaty**

- AAFA participated in two US Government Treaty-related calls during the month of January. (1) The postponed 2019 annual Pacific Albacore Treaty consultation; and (2) A call with Dave Hogan clarifying items contained in our May 2019 letter seeking additional information from the Canadian Govt.
- Mike and Natalie are scheduled to meet with Dave Hogan on the evening of March 7 in Santa Rosa during the upcoming PFMC meeting to convey AAFA's thoughts on any future regime.

### **UN Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction – ABNJ/BBNJ**

- The 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Conference has been scheduled for this Spring. An updated draft of the ABNJ Text is available at - <https://undocs.org/en/a/conf.232/2020/3>
- AAFA will be participating in a public meeting on BBNJ for U.S. stakeholders on February 25, 2020.

### **Domestic Management – PFMC**

- AAFA participated in the January 23 and 24, TNC/PFMC workshop entitled, *Developing Future Scenarios for Climate Change in the California Current Ecosystem*. This is part of the Council's Climate

and Communities Initiative under its Fishery Ecosystem Plan. It was made clear that this scenario planning will not result in any immediate regulations; but is designed to describe possible responses to events which may occur in the future. While some of the items covered were surely climate related (warming oceans and sea level rise) others were not (trade policies, changing values, etc).

- As noted above, Mike is still processing this and will circulate a separate write-up once he has a better understanding.

### **Wind farms off the California Coast**

- Representative from west coast membership of RODA are working to establish lines of communication with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center and the West Coast Region of NMFS.

### **Offshore Renewables off the Oregon Coast**

- Nothing arose during the month of January

### **Other items which arose previously and continued through **February 4.****

This section will appear monthly and highlights issues, etc that aren't likely recurring items

1. Voluntary Logbook for albacore fishermen who catch their own bait
  - AAFA is working with the Washington DFW to simplify live bait catch location reporting.
2. Letter to various NGOs re MSC Harmonization.
  - AAFA and other groups which have MSC certified tuna fisheries are spearheading an effort to seek a relaxation of the hard deadlines by which harvest control rules have to be in place. These dates were based on a Work Plan developed by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission – but the dates included in the Work Plan are meant as guidelines, not definitive deadlines.
3. AAFA's consultant was asked to comment on HR 5548 - Fishery Failures: Urgently Needed Disaster Declarations Act. This Bill is designed to improve the Fishery Disaster process.

### **Upcoming meetings:**

- AAFA will have representation at the March 2020 PFMC meeting in Rohnert Park