



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 – 2021 AAFA MEMBERSHIP VERSION

This new format 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.

Through **February 6, 2021**

The Seafood Harvesters of America is spearheading a survey designed to ascertain technology needs in the commercial fishing industry. I did a quick walk-through of the survey questions and don't find them to be slanted or unnecessarily burdensome. I think the goals of the survey are good and could make technological innovations more tailored to what it is we actually need; as opposed to what it is the tech companies may think we need. Also – the only way to ensure the technological needs of the AAFA fleet(s) are taken into account is for them to hear from the AAFA fleet! The [survey can be found here](#).

The Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

On January 27, the President issued the [aforementioned Executive Order](#). Included are two provisions which could have impacts on AAFA operations:

1. Section 207- Renewable Energy on Public Lands and in Offshore Waters. This establishes a “goal of doubling offshore wind by 2030 while ensuring robust protection for our lands, waters, and biodiversity and creating good jobs.”
2. Sec. 216. Conserving Our Nation's Lands and Waters. This establishes a “goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.” We note the focus in on “conserve” as opposed to “protect” but the E.O. does NOT define conserve. There is a very truncated timeline by which NOAA has to initiate efforts (involving the Councils, fishermen, etc) on “how to make fisheries and protected resources more resilient to climate change, including changes in management and conservation measures, and improvements in science, monitoring, and cooperative research.” AAFA will remain engaged as the E.O is implemented.

COVID-19

It goes without saying that COVID-19 has, is having, and will have profound impacts on the fishing industry. For purposes of this part of the Report – I will break down what has transpired by various groupings.

We provide the following, State specific, updates regarding disbursements from the \$300M included in the CARES Act from last spring.

- Checks have been mailed to qualifying applicants for both Oregon and California. Checks were mailed to Oregon’s qualifying applicants on or about January 29. Checks were mailed to California’s qualifying applicants in November of last year.
- The State of Washington, around December 8, submitted its draft spend plan to NOAA-Fisheries. Applications are still not available as of February 3rd; but it is expected that applications will become available on February 8th. Once available, applications are to be returned within 45 days of being available.

The December Consolidated Appropriations Act included an additional \$300M in fisheries assistance but no additional guidance as to how those funds will be allocated and/or disbursed.

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

The 5th Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Workshop for Managers Web Meeting for Canada and USA has been scheduled and will take place March 22 – 25 from 9AM until 12:30PM. At the time this report was prepared, the meeting logistics are still being worked out; but we will forward any meeting announcement when received.

US – Canada Pacific Albacore Treaty

- We just completed the first year of a new three-year regime.

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

- While there is currently no scheduled activities at the UN, it is very likely that the change in Administration will result in increased U.S. participation and leadership in the BBNJ discussions.

Domestic Management – PFMC

- The PFMC is meeting in March and we do not envision that Albacore will be on the Agenda. The Council will be getting an update on Marine Planning (offshore wind & aquaculture)

Wind farms – Generally

- RODA published its year-in-review document. It is available here: <https://rodafisheries.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/RODA-Year-in-Review-2020-FINAL-1-6-21-for-web.pdf>.
- On February 3rd, BOEM issued a press release announced its intent to resume the environmental review of the Vineyard Wind Project (east coast). We view this as evidence that the new administration will be moving quickly in prioritizing offshore wind projects,.

Wind farms off the California Coast

- We expect to see a couple of bills introduced in the State legislature addressing offshore wind. Future reports will go into details once we have seen the text.

Offshore Renewables off the Oregon Coast

- The Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment (ORESAs) mapping tool has been published. See - [Oregon Renewable Energy Review Maps | Galleries | Data Basin](#). I am not going to lie to you – it is not very user-friendly

Other items which arose previously and continued through February 6.

- On January 5th, the Young Fishermen's Development Act was signed into law. This Act establishes a program to provide training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for young fishermen (a term which is defined in the Act).
- On January 15, NOAA published a report outlining insights into the pandemic's early economic impact on the fishing and seafood industries. See - <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/us-fishing-and-seafood-industries-saw-broad-declines-last-summer-due-covid-19>. West coast specific impacts start on page 9 of the following [All Regional COVID-19 Impact Assessment Snapshots \(noaa.gov\)](#)
- On January 20, the USCG issued a reminder about the use of AIS and potential legal consequences of not doing so. See - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/2ba512e>
- The Coast Guard Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy published [Marine Safety Information Bulletin 02-21](#) "COVID-19 Safety Requirements in the Maritime Transportation System" to provide information related to the requirement of all persons traveling on all commercial vessels to wear a mask.
- Legislation was introduced in the State of Oregon that would ban the use of lead for fishing and hunting purposes – see [SB0592 \(state.or.us\)](#). A number of groups, fishing and otherwise, are looking into this.

This is the current schedule of upcoming meetings (as of 2/6)

- February 24 – PFMC Habitat Committee webinar on marine planning and offshore development activities – see [Habitat Committee to hold online meeting February 24, 2021 - Pacific Fishery Management Council \(pcouncil.org\)](#)
- March 2 - 12: March PFMC Meeting
- March 22 - 25 – MSE Workshop

Albacore Working Group (ALBWG)

**International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species
in the North Pacific Ocean**

**5th Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Workshop for Managers
Web Meeting for Canada and USA**

March 22 - 25, 2021

9:00 am - 12:30 pm (Pacific time)

Registration Required

Please see meeting announcement for meeting and registration information

Draft Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

- 1) Help managers and stakeholders understand MSE results
- 2) Feedback to ALBWG on the presentation of MSE results.

March 22 (Monday)

- 09:00 am - 09:15 am Welcome and Introduction (Steve Teo)
- 09:15 am - 09:30 am Brief History and Meeting Goals (Steve Teo)
- 09:30 am - 10:30 am Refresher on MSE (Desiree Tommasi)
- 10:30 am - 10:45 am Break
- 10:45 am - 11:45 am How the Albacore MSE Works: Part I (Desiree Tommasi)
- 11:45 am - 12:30 pm Discussion
- 12:30 pm Meeting ends for the day

March 23 (Tuesday)

- 09:00 am - 09:30 am Recap of Day 1 (Desiree Tommasi)
- 09:30 am - 10:30 am How the Albacore MSE Works: Part II (Desiree Tommasi)
- 10:30 am - 10:45 am Break
- 10:30 am - 11:30 am Results of Albacore MSE: Objectives 1, 2 & 6 (Desiree Tommasi)
- 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Discussion
- 12:30 pm Meeting ends for the day

March 24 (Wednesday)

- 09:00 am - 09:30 am Recap of Day 2 (Desiree Tommasi)
- 09:30 am - 10:30 am Results of Albacore MSE: Objectives 4, 5 & Tradeoffs (Desiree Tommasi)
- 10:30 am - 10:45 am Break
- 10:45 am - 11:15 am Results of Albacore MSE: Robustness Scenario (Desiree Tommasi)
- 11:15 am - 12:30 pm Discussion
- 12:30 pm Meeting ends for the day

March 25 (Thursday)

- 09:00 am - 09:30 am Recap of Day 3 (Desiree Tommasi)
- 09:30 am - 10:30 am Discussion
- 10:30 am - 10:45 am Break
- 10:45 am - 11:45 am Discussion
- 11:45 am - 12:00 pm Break
- 12:00 am - 12:30 pm Wrap up (Steve Teo)
- 12:30 pm Meeting ends