



What **AAFA** Is Doing For You

Sustainability into 2021

AAFA seeks to ensure responsible fishery management practices and the participation of vital fishing communities. It supports education regarding responsible fishing methods and promotes the health benefits of tuna consumption along with environmental benefits of sustainable fishery practices.



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**April
2021**

THE EXECUTIVE ORDER ON TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS AT HOME AND ABROAD

On Jan 27th the President issued the [aforementioned Executive Order](#).

We still do not have clarity on what the E.O. may mean to U.S. commercial fishermen. AAFA and its representatives remain engaged in conversations as the process unfolds.

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.

The State of Alaska - I am including this to note that the final spend plan now excludes commercial permit holders who live in other Pacific states like Washington and Oregon.

US - CANADA PACIFIC ALBACORE TREATY

Upon AAFA's request, the State Department reached out to the Canadian Government regarding any progress on the possible establishment of an MPA encompassing the Pacific Offshore Area of Interest. Covid has slowed this down; so there

has been no action on this yet.

UN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON MARINE BIODIVERSITY OF AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION - ABNJ/BBNJ

The Fourth Session of the Conference has been scheduled for August of this year. 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 March PFMC meeting did not have any Agenda items which directly impact the albacore fishery.



IMPORTANT REMINDER

Office Updates: Packets are going out in the mail, please sign and return.

Please make sure permits are all up to date.

WIND FARMS – GENERALLY

Since February, BOEM has taken the following: (1) announced the Vineyard Project was not formally withdrawn; it wasn't withdrawn at all; and (2) on March 8 announced they have completed the environmental analysis of the proposed Vineyard Wind I offshore wind project. RODA has been all over the news speaking about this.

On February 24, the PFMC's Habitat Committee held a lengthy webinar which included an update about OSW off the US West Coast. The webinar met its max capacity of 100 participants, so many who had hoped to tune in, couldn't. [The meeting recorded is now viewable.](#)

The first part covers the Aquaculture Opportunity Area in Southern California. The second part was BOEM's presentation on offshore wind. The wind part begins at the 1 hour, 40 minute mark. I would suggest watching from that point to the 2 hour, 28 minute mark as it will give you a good idea where BOEM is in their process.

In short: Wind Energy Areas are likely to be announced off the California Coast by the end of the Spring (this is the step before leasing; but will still take significant time). We should also expect additional Call Areas off the Oregon and California Coasts by the end of the year.

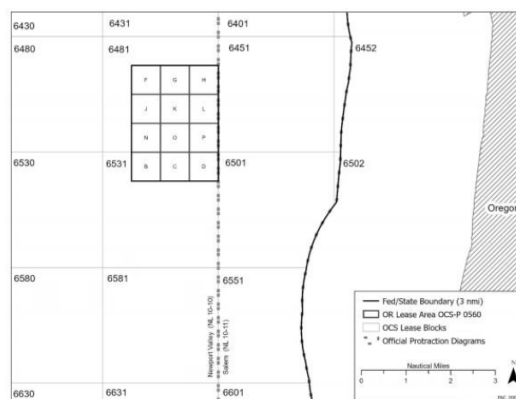
WIND FARMS OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST

Two bills were introduced which address offshore wind in California. SB 413 and AB 525. AAFA is following those and will engage when appropriate.

There are [two proposed pilot projects in California State Waters](#) (just above Pt Arguello). We have already begun engaging with State Lands Commission Staff on this matter.

OTHER ITEMS WHICH AROSE PREVIOUSLY & CONTINUED THROUGH MARCH 11.

On Feb 16, BOEM announced a lease for Wave Energy Research Project in Federal Waters Offshore Newport Oregon. From what we have learned, this was a much more inclusive project that the OSW conversations and the locations were chosen with input from local fishing groups.



OTHER ITEMS & UPDATES

AAFA

WE ARE TRACKING THE FOLLOWING STATE LEGISLATION:

California AB 564 – looks to further expand upon Governor Newsom’s 30 x 30 Executive Order

California AB 534 – while not directly impacting AAFA operations, it will require ropeless fishing gear for ALL of the State’s trap fisheries (so it will clearly impact AAFA members)

California AB 525 – sets a goal for offshore wind production off California Coast (3 GW by 2030 and 10GW by 2040)

California SB 413 – Offshore wind assessments and establishing the California Energy Commission as the permitting authority

Oregon SB 592 – would ban use of lead for fishing and hunting purposes

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MAY 3-4:
MSC SURVEILLANCE AUDIT

APRIL 6 - 14:
PFMC MEETING (HMS IS NOT ON THE AGENDA)

MAY 18 - 20:
TUNA CONFERENCE

JUNE 22 - 29:
PFMC MEETING (HMS WILL BE ON THE AGENDA)

THE AMERICAN ALBACORE FISHING ASSOCIATION & RESPONSIBLE OFFSHORE DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE RESPOND TO SEASPIRACY

[Press release available here.](#)

