



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.



Consultant Reporting: Mike Conroy

**Mar 2021
INSIDE**

FISHERIES TECHNOLOGY SURVEY

The Seafood Harvesters of America are 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! [Click 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.





IMPORTANT REMINDERS

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE INVITE
FOR THE AAFA ZOOM GENERAL
MEETING

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK ALL YOUR
LICENSES AND PERMITS FOR THE
UPCOMING FISHING SEASON.
PLEASE RENEW PRIOR.

YOUR AAFA PACKET'S WILL BE
COMING VIA DOCUSIGN THIS YEAR.

WE WILL STILL REVIEW ON
UPCOMING VIRTUAL GENERAL
MEETING.

DO YOU WANT TO RUN FOR THE
AAFA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S?
CONTACT JOSHLYN AT:
ADMIN@AMERICANALBACORE.COM

DO YOU HAVE A NEW CAPTAIN
RUNNING YOUR VESSEL THIS YEAR?
IT MUST BE CLEARED BY THE AAFA
BOD PRIOR TO FISHING SEASON.

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 – PFMIC

The PFMIC 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)

OTHER ITEMS & UPDATES

AAFA

WIND FARMS – GENERALLY

•RODA published its year-in-review document. [It is available here.](#)

•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 (ORE-SA) 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 in-

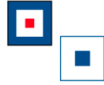
sights into the pandemic's early economic impact on the fishing and seafood industries. [See here.](#)

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 here.](#)

•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.



WINDWARD STRATEGIES LLC

Consultant Reporting: Jay Sterne Windward Strategies Report February 2021

1. H.R. 1319: COVID relief legislation

On Friday, February 26, the House approved the latest round of COVID legislation, totaling \$1.9 trillion, largely along partisan lines. Seafood had initially been included as an eligible commodity for up to \$4 billion in USDA COVID-related programs, but due to a procedural problem related to the Budget Reconciliation process, the Chairman of the House Budget Committee pushed through an amendment that stripped out 'seafood' from this section of the bill. Congressman Garrett Graves (R-LA) introduced an amendment to restore seafood eligibility for these USDA programs, but was unable to secure sufficient support for it in the Rules Committee mark-up.

2. Senate Commerce Committee organization

Chair Cantwell (D-WA) completed the initial organization of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation, including a shuffling of subcommittees. In a return to prior Committee approaches, oceans, fisheries, and coast guard matters have been re-combined within the Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries, Climate Change and Manufacturing.

3. MSA reauthorization

Despite several Magnuson-Stevens bills getting early interest in the 117th Congress, seasoned staff already are indicating that broad-based re-authorization remains unlikely for the next two years. More likely, specific issues may be bundled and attached to the Coast Guard Authorization bill or with oceans-related bills.

4. FDA Food Traceability Proposed Rule

On February 22, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) closed its public comment period for a proposed Food Traceability Program record keeping requirements pursuant to provisions within the Food Safety and Modernization Act that require improvements to traceability to address food borne illness and human health issues, including seafood. The National Fisheries Institute (NFI) submitted comments that addressed a broad range of concerns from seafood stakeholders. NFI's comments argue that low-acid and acidified canned seafood products should be excluded from any new traceability program record keeping requirements. The FDA is under Court order to produce a final rule by November.





AAFA Upcoming Meetings & ALBWG

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

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MARCH 2-12:

PACIFIC FISHERY
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

MARCH 22-25:

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
EVALUATION WORKSHOP FOR
NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE

APRIL 1ST:

AAFA GENERAL MEETING
VIA ZOOM