



# 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.

### OFFICE UPDATES

Vessel Packets went out.  
Please return them in a timely manner.

## Consultant Reporting: Mike Conroy

**May  
2021**

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

On Jan 27th the President issued the [aforementioned Executive Order](#). The Department of the Interior submitted its required report on or about April 27. At the time of this writing, it has still not been publicly released.

### 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.

Aside from the State of Alaska, all other west coast states have completed the application process for shares of the CARES Act \$300m from last spring Oregon.

The December Consolidated Appropriations Act included an additional \$300M in fisheries assistance (\$255M of which covers non-tribal or Great Lakes fisheries assistance). The allocations for the west coast

states are as follows:

California	\$15,485,930
Oregon	\$13,487,797
Washington	\$40,000,000

Each State will develop its own spend plan

### US - CANADA PACIFIC ALBACORE TREATY

As of May 2nd, there is no update of the status of the proposed MPA off the Canadian West Coast.

A number of AAFA members and representatives participating in the Annual Data Working Group call on April 20.





#### **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 April PFMC meeting did not have any HMA items on its Agenda.

The PFMC will be reviewing all advisory subpanels starting in June. It is likely there will be opportunities for AAFA members to participate in the Council's management processes. We will keep folks informed as we learn more.

#### **WIND FARMS – GENERALLY**

On March 29, President Biden (flanked by the Secretaries of Commerce, Interior, Energy, and Transportation) announced an ambitious plan to ramp up offshore wind off the US. This plan establishes “a Target of Employing Tens of Thousands of Workers to Deploy 30 Gigawatts (30,000 megawatts) of Offshore Wind by 2030.”

#### **WIND FARMS OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST**

Offshore Wind California put on a webinar on March 29 entitled Going Big on California Offshore Wind: Lessons from Europe on Economies of Scale. If interested, you can watch that here - [Going Big on California Offshore Wind: Lessons from Europe on Economies of Scale - YouTube](#)

#### **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.

[OR 3375](#), which is closely related to amended AB 525, passed out of the Oregon House on April 27 with a 56-0 vote.

# OTHER ITEMS & UPDATES

Mike Conroy  
(continued)

## OTHER ITEMS WHICH AROSE PREVIOUSLY & CONTINUED THROUGH MAY 2, 2021.

- The infomercial for a Vegan lifestyle, Seaspiracy, premiered in late March. Since its release, it has been universally panned. AAFA and RODA issued a joint statement – See - [The American Albacore Fishing Association & Responsible Offshore Development Alliance Respond to Seaspiracy - Responsible Offshore Development Alliance \(rodafisheries.org\)](#).
- The California Natural Resources Agency is hosting a series of 9 Regional Workshops on “meeting the State’s commitment to conserve 30 percent of California’s lands and coastal waters by 2030 and accelerate nature-based solutions to address climate change.” We have participated in two of the workshops (SF Bay Area and Central Coast).
- The California Air Resources Board continues to move forward with amending their commercial harbor craft regulations. The most recent version was released the evening of April 1. We have been engaging with ARB staff trying to get some clarification on some of the items. The final regulatory package won’t go before the ARB until early next year.
- AAFA signed on to two National fishing industry letters: one about the course of offshore wind and the other on the Biden E.O.
- A study came out last month entitled, Rethinking sustainability in seafood: Synergies and trade-offs between fisheries and climate change, which sought to look at climate change impacts of various US tuna fisheries. Somewhat surprisingly, the north pacific albacore fishery scored pretty well. In terms of climate impacts, the fishery scored better than chicken, shrimp and beef production. If interested, you can see that here - <https://online.ucpress.edu/elementa/article/9/1/00081/116726/Rethinking-sustainability-in-seafoodSynergies-and>

## WE ARE TRACKING THE FOLLOWING STATE LEGISLATION:

California AB 1539 - would require a vessel used for commercial purposes to have a minimum of \$1,000,000 of protection and indemnity insurance to cover wreck removal costs of the vessel.

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

Oregon HB 3375 - see above

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AS OF 5/2

**MAY 10:** LAST DAY TO BE NOMINATED FOR THE WCPFC PERMANENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**MAY 12 & 13:**  
BOEM OREGON PUBLIC WEBINARS

**MAY 10 - 14:** IATTC SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (A REVIEW OF THE 2020 NPA STOCK ASSESSMENT; BUT NOTHING ELSE ALBACORE RELATED)

**MAY 24- 25:**  
MSC SURVEILLANCE AUDIT

**MAY 18 - 20:**  
TUNA CONFERENCE

**MAY 27 (12PM):**  
PLASTIC NEUTRAL PROGRAM WEBINAR

**JUNE 1:** U.S. STAKEHOLDER MEETING RE NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE MSE

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



MAIGHREAD THOMAS

## NEW Plastic Neutral Program

We have all seen the Seaspiracy documentary alleging that fishermen are responsible for all the plastic in the ocean, polluting the ocean, and destroying marine life as we know it. Not only does Seaspiracy lament this narrative, others do also.

To assist us in counteracting this narrative, AAFA and RIO "Restoring Integrity to the Ocean" are partnering on a "Plastic Neutral Program" with the AAFA boats. RIO is not new to this effort and is working all over the world, partnering with organizations such as ours to assist in removing plastic from our ocean. The founder of RIO is 5th generation fisherman and understands our industry.

What does this mean for our AAFA boats. First this is a voluntary program and it is up to each boat to be a part of this opportunity to quell the narrative, "fishermen are responsible for polluting our ocean" and prove we always bring our trash to Port, now we are going to document it. In actual fact we already document our trash as required by the US Coast Guard.

There is a flyer attached with the newsletter explaining the program and how it will be executed. Its simple, keep your plastic separate, when you come to Port, you unload your trash first, no different than before only this time plastic is separated. Our unloading stations are delighted to be part of this program also, remember, we are all in this together, we are a community, a family of fishermen doing our utmost to love our ocean, conduct our business responsibly and "good stewards of the ocean".

More to follow on this program with additional information including a Webinar for the membership regarding this program. Mark your calendars for noon on May 27th. We will keep you updated.



### USE RIO'S PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH OVERALL NEUTRAL PLASTIC FOOTPRINT

#### BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM



Receive recognition for responsible handling of plastic



Eliminate plastic waste from the environment



RIO will receive, classify & document all collected material



RIO can provide support to accurately establish plastic footprint



Establish plastic neutrality through RIO certification

#### HOW DOES IT WORK?

1

Log plastic use prior to departure

2

Log all returned plastic material

3

Deposit all plastic material into RIO designated receptacles

4

Receive RIO certification demonstrating responsibility towards cleaner oceans



OCEANSINTEGRITY.COM



# UPDATES & INITIATIVES (CONTINUED)

Maighread Thomas

## WORLD TUNA DAY

The first World Tuna Day was celebrated on May 2, 2017 and was established by the United Nations in 2016 to raise awareness about the importance of tuna and to promote more sustainable fishing practices. AAFA collaborated with IPNLF (International Pole and Line Foundation) on a social media campaign which I am sure you saw on our AAFA Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages. This campaign was a global effort on the part of the “tuna” industry and well received.



Now is a great opportunity to spread the word about our albacore tuna industry, and promote “one by one catch” and promote our albacore tuna is MSC certified, it is managed. There is a lot of current discussion regarding over-fishing, we need to set the record straight. It is also an opportunity to share with your friends and family the importance of eating seafood, the source of protein sea-

food has to offer, and the health benefits associated with this.

In the coming weeks, you will see a lot of social media activity on our AAFA social media, we need you to engage, like, comment and share with all of your friends and family. We would also request you use the following hashtags:

**#protectusfishermen, #protectcoastalcommunities, #eatseafood.**

We, AAFA are working hard to build our presence on social media, educate consumers on eating seafood, and what the life of a fishermen entails.

AAFA appreciates the memberships help in this effort.

