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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 wont be burdened with rereading content previously published.

Through **June** 2021

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.
3. On May 6, the Administration published [Conserving and Restoring American the Beautiful](#) which lays out its vision for implementation of the 30 x 30 initiative. AAFA will remain engaged – at all levels – to ensure the Report’s guiding principles and messages are not forgotten.

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.

- All west coast states have completed the application process for shares of the CARES Act \$300m from last spring.

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. We are engaged with the state of California and are helping inform their spend plan. We encourage folks to reach out to Oregon and Washington DFWs in order to get a feel for what they are planning this time around. **On June 18, the CA DFW issued the following notice about its approach to the second round of COVID-19 fisheries assistance - [Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021- Spend Plan Overview \(mcusercontent.com\)](#)**

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

The 5th Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Workshop for Managers Web Meeting for Canada and USA took place March 22 – 25 from 9AM until 12:30PM. A U.S. Stakeholder meeting took place on June 1 to discuss the results from the MSE workshop. **NMFS submitted a brief overview of the June 1 meeting to the Pacific Fishery Management Council in June. See - <https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2021/06/f-2-b-supplemental-nmfs-report-2-nmfs-report-on-international-management-activities.pdf/>.**

US – Canada Pacific Albacore Treaty

- The second year of the current three-year regime just began.
- As of June 30, there is no update of the status of the proposed MPA off the Canadian West Coast.
- A number of AAFA members and representatives participated 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 **rescheduled to “early next 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

- **Council appointments were announced on June 28. Christa was reappointed as an Oregon Representative. Bob Dooley was reappointed as a California Representative. Corey Ridings, Ocean Conservancy, was appointed as a California Representative.**
- 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.
- **The June PFMC meeting did have some discussions centered on the albacore fishery. The HMSAS offered the following comments on the NMFS overview of the June 1 Stakeholder Meeting (see pages 2 – 3 of [F.2.b Supp HMSAS Report 1 June 2021 \(pcouncil.org\)](#). The Council took no formal action; but agreed with industry’s assessment that holding off on making any management proposals until next year is appropriate.**
- The PFMC also created an Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee to gather industry and stakeholder input and advice on Marine Planning (Offshore Wind and Aquaculture). AAFA will have representation on this Committee.

Wind farms – Generally

If you have not been following offshore wind off the West Coast, or think there is no way it will happen, it is time to start paying attention. We expect further actions off all three west coast states as they (with the federal government’s blessing) pursue offshore wind energy.

- 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>.
- 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 is 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.
- 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.”
- The PFMC has created a new page devoted to offshore wind news - [Offshore Wind News - Pacific Fishery Management Council \(pcouncil.org\)](#).
- We have participated in a number of webinars/workshops related too offshore wind off the West Coast.

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.
- 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](#)
- On May 25, the White House and the Governor of the State of California agree to accelerate wind energy offshore the central and northern coasts of California. See - <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-advances-offshore-wind-pacific>. The Humboldt Call Area appears ready to be called a Wind Energy Area – which precedes leasing. [The Morro Bay Call Area is proposed to be expanded](#).
- **AAFA participated in the June 21 California Energy Commission Webinar and will be in attendance at the BOEM-California Intergovernmental Task Force Meeting (July 13); and (2) A two-day (July 22nd and 23rd) PFMC meeting covering marine planning and offshore development.**
- **Based on the June 21 Webinar, we are expecting lease sales off Morro Bay and Humboldt next summer. Note – lease sales do not mean steel will be immediately placed in the water; but it does start the final part of the process; and as we are seeing elsewhere in the US – the process is developing very quickly.**

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.
- [OR 3375](#), was signed into law by the Oregon Governor on June 23rd.
- On May 12 & 13, BOEM and the State of Oregon held virtual informational meetings on offshore wind energy planning to share updates on current outreach and engagement activities to inform possible offshore wind energy leasing along the Oregon coast. Recordings of the event are available via the following link: [Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Planning Public Webinars | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(boem.gov\)](#).

Offshore Renewables off the Washington Coast

- On Friday, May 29, we heard that a developer was proposing for a 102 square mile offshore wind project off Grays Harbor. [Intel we have been able to gather indicates the industrial wind factory will be located 15 – 25 miles offshore.](#)

Other items which arose previously and continued through **June 30, 2021**.

- As a reminder – if you encounter any net marked fish this summer, please report those here - [Net-marked albacore \(netmarkedalbacore.com\)](#).
- 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 went go before the ARB until early next year.
- [Construction began on the offshore wave energy test facility in early June. See <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/construction-on-first-of-its-kind-wave-energy-test-facility-starts-off-oregon-coast/ar-AAKEzZT>](#)
- [On June 8, the Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act was introduced. As you will recall, this was introduced last fall; but failed to move. The new version does NOT include the prior version's Title II, which would have banned commercial extractive activities in at least 30% of the Nation's waters. We are continuing to digest the language of the 290-page bill.](#)
- [On June 11, the USCG issued a \[Marine Safety Information Bulletin\]\(#\) which noted that mask wearing in outdoor areas of maritime transportation conveyances and hubs is no longer required. This MSIB reflects updated enforcement of the mask requirement for commercial vessels and maritime transportation hubs. It would be a good idea to have this available \(a hard copy or the file itself\) in case you are boarded by USCG and they are not aware of this MSIB.](#)
- [National Fisherman published an article entitled *Pacific albacore: Trollers look for restaurants to revive fresh prices*. It can be accessed here - <https://www.nationalfisherman.com/west-coast-pacific/pacific-albacore-trollers-look-for-restaurants-to-revive-fresh-prices>](#)
- We are tracking the following State legislation:
 - ✓ California AB 525 – see above
 - ✓ California SB 413 – Offshore wind assessments and establishing the California Energy Commission as the permitting authority

This is the current schedule of upcoming events/meetings (as of 6/30)

- July 13 – BOEM California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Webinar ([Register here](#))
- July 22nd & 23rd – PFMC meeting covering marine planning and offshore development. See - [Council to hold marine planning and offshore development online meeting July 22-23, 2021 - Pacific Fishery Management Council \(pcouncil.org\)](#)
- September 8–15 – PFMC meeting to be held via webinar