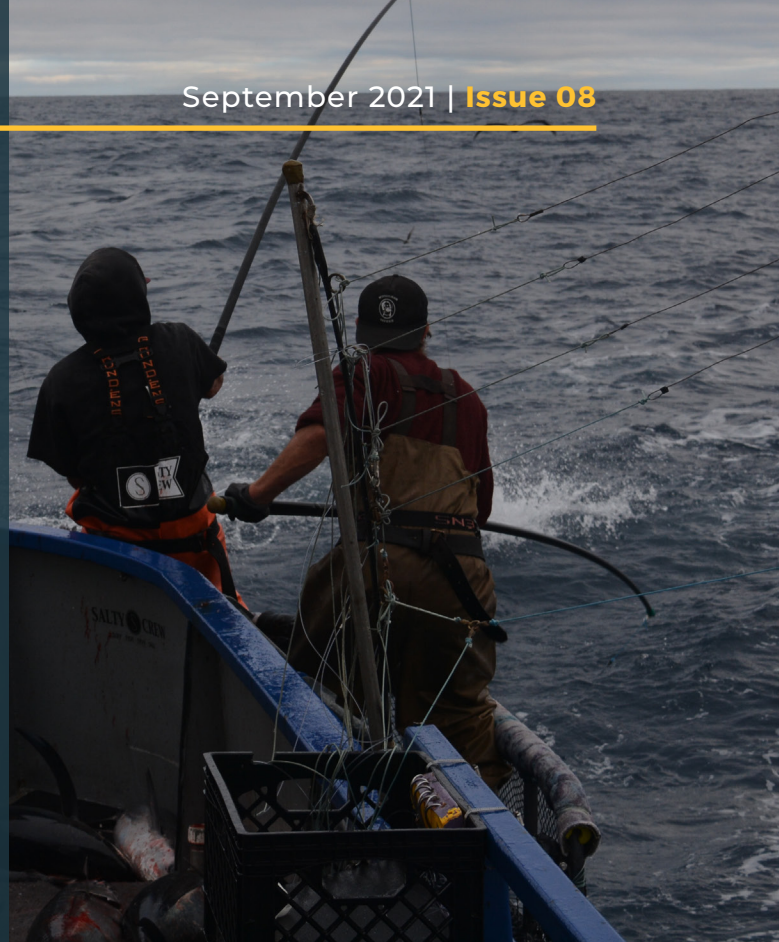




What **AAFA** Is Doing For You

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

September 2021

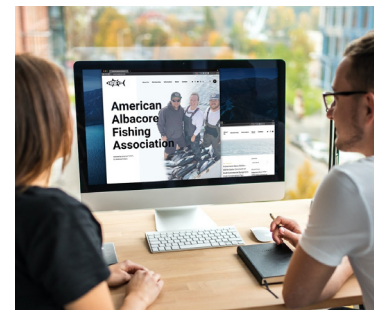
COVID-19

The CA DFW spend plan was approved on August 27 – applications to be available soon; and the application period will be 45 days. Or DFW released its draft spend plan for public comments on Aug 10 – the comment period closed on Aug 22. Wa DFW held a webinar in June on this (see [CARES Act Relief Funding for Commercial Fishing, Charter Fishing, and Shellfish Aquaculture Industry Members | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#) for recording and presentations)

US – CANADA PACIFIC ALBACORE TREATY

As of September 1, there is no update of the status of the proposed MPA off the Canadian West Coast.

continued on next page



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

[**AMERICANALBACORE.COM**](http://AMERICANALBACORE.COM)





Consultant Reporting: Mike Conroy - Continued

DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT - PPMC

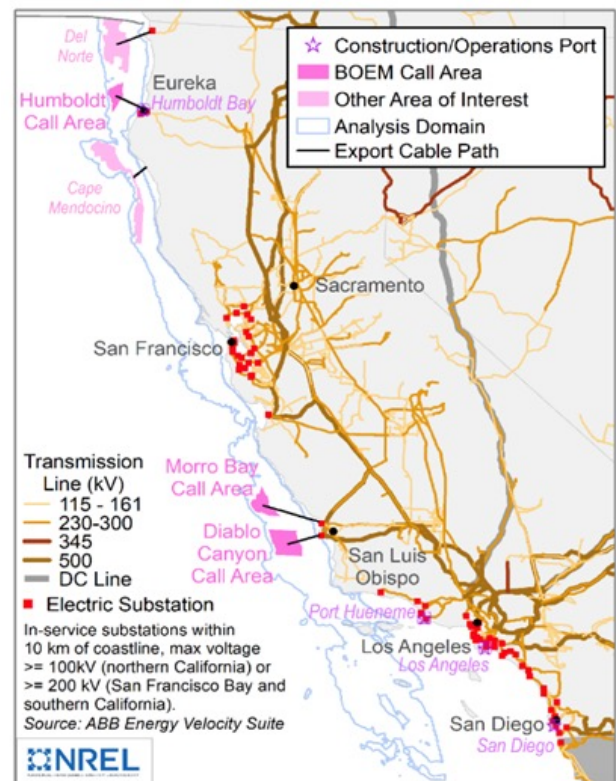
The Marine Planning Committee met on September 1 and discussed the following items: (1) the two projects proposed in California State waters off Point Arguello (the Vandenberg Projects); (2) the expansion of the Morro Bay Call Area; (3) the Humboldt Wind Energy Area; (4) the status of BOEM activities off the coast of Oregon; and (5) Gray's Harbor Wind.

WIND FARMS- GENERALLY

In middle July, RODA distributed two surveys for fishing industry participants to fill out regarding offshore wind. The first survey asks about research priorities and the second highlights what a compensation program might look like for fishermen displaced by wind projects. AAFA submitted responses to both surveys.

WIND FARMS OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST

The BOEM-California Intergovernmental Task Force Meeting met on July 13, 2021. While much of it was nothing more than a review of what we already knew, there were some interesting details unveiled. For example, BOEM and the State are hoping to develop up to 12.8 GW of offshore wind energy off Northern California. A slide was shown during the webinar – a screenshot of that is provided below:



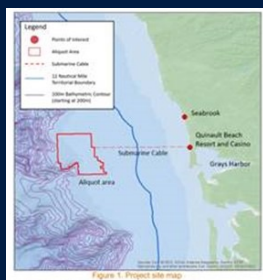
Pay particular attention to the Other Areas of Interest along the Northern California Coast.

OFFSHORE RENEWABLES OFF THE OREGON COAST

The BOEM-Oregon Intergovernmental Task Force is scheduled to meet on October 21 and it is expected that Draft Call Areas off the Oregon Coast will be announced at that meeting.

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. A website has been created for the proposed Project - [Grays Harbor Wind](#)
- A page buried in a document describing potential environmental effects showed where the Project Proponents plan on placing the facility - in Quinalt U&A Fishing Grounds:



The area under consideration is supposed to be in 60 – 100 fathoms. There is widespread agreement this will not directly impact albacore fishing grounds. There are a number of fisheries which will be directly impacted.

OTHER ITEMS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

- On August 1, the USCG announced Cutter Alert returned from a 2-month patrol focused heavily on albacore tuna fishing and saw law enforcement teams board 31 vessels – many of which have not been boarded in more than 10 years – and issue 22 violations to commercial fishing vessel operators. See - [Coast Guard Cutter Alert completes successful fisheries patrol off WA, OR coasts | Coast Guard News](#)
- On August 4th, it was announced the US was blocking the importation of seafood from a Fijian vessel accused of enslaving its crew. See - [US blocks seafood from Fiji ship accused of enslaving crew \(ksat.com\)](#)
- On August 11, it was announced that Bolton Group International was purchasing Wild Planet Foods.
- On August 17, the California Natural Resources Agency held a webinar entitled Advancing 30x30: Conservation of Coastal Waters. To date, there has been no engagement with the fishing industry, even though it was promised about a year ago. We remain committed to trying to engage such that impacts to the fishing industry are minimized to the extent practicable.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AS OF 9/1

SEPTEMBER 8-15

PFMC MEETING TO BE HELD VIA WEBINAR

SEPTEMBER 21

OREGON COAST ENERGY ALLIANCE NETWORK WEBINAR ON GRAYS HARBOR WIND

OCTOBER 5 – 7

NORTHERN COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD VIA WEBINAR

OCTOBER 11 – 15

IATTC MEETING

OCTOBER 21

BOEM-OREGON INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE MEETING

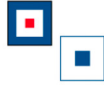
NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 7 – 18TH

MEETING OF THE WCPFC

- Mike Conroy

WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS!

We use your photos for social media, these newsletters, the website, and more. If you take any high-resolution photos (or videos) of albacore tuna, you in action, or your boats please send them to us at: admin@americanalbacore.com



WINDWARD STRATEGIES LLC

Consultant Reporting: Jay Sterne Windward Strategies Report September 2021

Ocean Shipping Legislation

In August, Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA) introduced H.R. 4996, the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021. His legislation would seek to put pressure on international shipping companies to improve access for U.S. exporters, including commodity producers. The bill currently has 15 co-sponsors, 10 Republicans and 5 Democrats, which is a healthy bipartisan approach and could help to see it across the finish line to enactment. While this legislation has the potential to help AAFA and its members in the long term through structural reforms to shipping practices in U.S. ports, it is not expected to pass until next year and would take some time to be implemented.

Infrastructure

After many tense moments, House Democrats were able to pass the Budget Resolution last week in an unplanned session of Congress. After passage, the House released a tentative mark-up schedule for their version of the reconciliation pack-

kage, with the House Natural Resources and Oversight Committee kicking it off on September 2 (the mark-up started at 10 am EDT, and is adjourned after 7 hours of debate/votes, to be continued later in September). As the first step in the Reconciliation bill process, it is a sign of how rough the process will be going forward.

A leaked memo from the House Natural Resources committee outlines a plan for that committee's portion of the reconciliation bill in the House and proposes \$12 billion for NOAA. Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Don Young (R-AK), co-chairs of the House Oceans Caucus, are co-leading a Dear Colleague letter requesting \$10 billion for coastal restoration and robust funding for ocean data and observing in the reconciliation package.

Once the Resources Committee's section of the bill is approved, and combined with other Committee sections, we will have a clearer picture on what types of funding may be available for AAFA and its members. Congressman Young also sent around a Dear Colleague letter opposing any funding for the expansion of the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) to all species. While SIMP is ostensibly in place to combat Illegal, Unreported and Un-

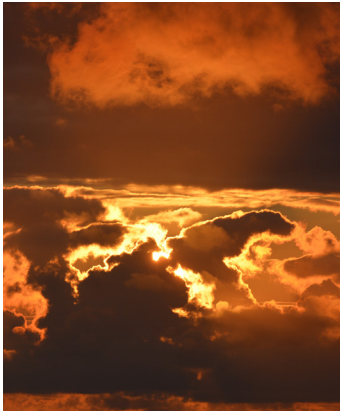
regulated (IUU) fisheries on an international level, it has the potential to complicate and hinder fisheries in the U.S. that export product for processing in other countries and then re-import it to the U.S.

Senate Committees continue to work on their portions of the Senate version of the reconciliation bill and the process in both chambers of Congress is still very much underway with no set schedule.

The politics of it all:

A group of 10 moderate House Democrats, led by Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-05), staged an ultimately not-very-successful revolt against House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-12) and the progressive wing of the party this week. Pelosi has said from the beginning that her plan was to wait to vote on the Senate-passed bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684) until the House could also vote on the partisan reconciliation package. The moderate wing, however, saw that as holding hostage a popular bill that would immediately provide jobs and a boost to the economy and announced that they would not vote for the budget resolution, which kickstarts the reconciliation process, until the chamber first had a vote on





CONSULTANT REPORTING (CONTINUED)

Jay Sterne

the bipartisan bill.

In the end, the “Mod Squad” accepted a non-binding offer from Pelosi that the House would vote on the bipartisan infrastructure package by September 27. House Progressives immediately signaled that they would oppose the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act unless the House first had a vote on reconciliation. They are concerned that, if infrastructure is voted on first, moderates will support the bill to give President Biden a much-needed win, and then oppose reconciliation because of the expected tax increases and social spending.

Next steps:

While it is possible that the House will be able to vote on reconciliation by September 27, it's a tough timeline. Authorizing committee chairs in both chambers have until September 15 to complete their sections of the reconciliation package, but that deadline is non-binding and it's possible that the package won't be complete until October or later.

The authorizing committees will hold their markups, then send their pieces to the House Budget or Senate Finance Committee where they will be compiled into each chamber's version of the package.

Appropriations and Budget

It is clear that Congress will need to pass a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government open and running past September 30. It is also clear that Democratic leadership plans to tuck a debt limit increase

into the CR to prevent the country from defaulting for the second time in history.

Congressional Republicans have balked at the prospect of raising the debt limit, and signaled that the only way some may support it is by pairing it with spending cuts. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) suggested that Democrats address the problem through the reconciliation process, but the recently passed budget resolution did not include language on the debt limit. Democratic leadership will need to find at least 10 Republican Senators to vote in favor of the package if they follow through with their plan to pair the debt limit increase with broader government funding.

Upcoming Important Congressional Deadlines

In recent years, September and October have been crunch time for Congress to complete annual legislation, including Appropriations bills necessary to keep the federal government going. This year is proving to be an even tougher road with the pending Infrastructure packages on top of the Appropriations backlog. The following are key deadlines for Congress.

- September 6: Enhanced federal unemployment benefits expire
- September 15: Committees must finish drafting their portions of the budget reconciliation package
- September 27: Pelosi's promised

date for the House to vote on the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- September 30:
 - Government funding runs out
 - Surface transportation authorization expires
 - National flood insurance authorization expires
- October 1: \$150 billion in Treasury payments are due, including investments in military pension programs
- October-November: Federal debt limit expected to be reached

While “must pass” legislation can present opportunities to move discreet provisions, the political environment is shaping up to be more complex and volatile this year.

