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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 **October 5**, 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. 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.

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. **The CA DFW spend plan was approved on August 27 – applications to be available soon; and applications were made available on October 4 and can be accessed via - <https://relief.psmfc.org/california-cares-act-information/>. Please note – the deadline for submitting your application is 11:59PM on November 17.**

. 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)

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 **October 1**, 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

- 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. **Nominations for ALL seats on the HMSAS are now being accepted through October 22nd. If anyone has an interest in applying, reach out to the AAFA Office for further information.**
- 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. 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.
- **During the September PFMC meeting, the Council submitted comment letters on items (1), (2) and (3). There were some HMS items on the September meeting Agenda. While there were no Agenda items specific to North Pacific Albacore, we did learn from NMFS that International management of the stock is likely in the very near future,**

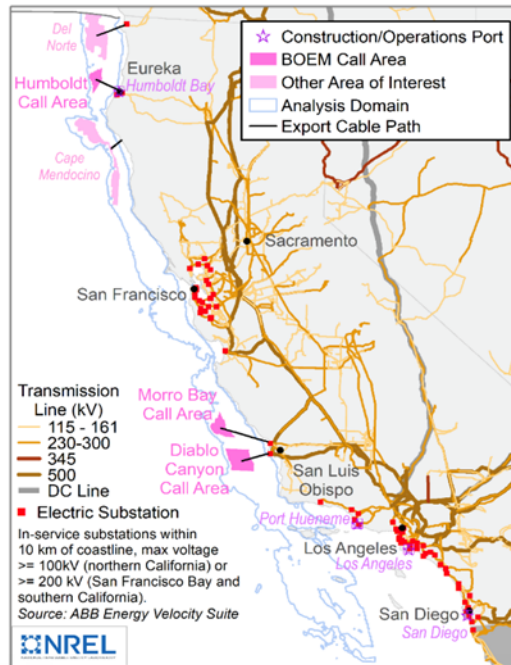
Wind farms – Generally

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.
- 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

- 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. On July 16, the California State Lands Commission released a Draft Preliminary Environmental Assessment for public review on the two pilot projects. **The Commission will review these applications during its October meeting..**
- 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 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.
- 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.

- On July 28, BOEM announced it was (1) publishing a Call for Information and Nominations (Call) to request information from the public and determine industry interest in commercial offshore wind energy development for two new areas within a 399-square-mile area located off central California, identified as the [Morro Bay Call Area East and West Extensions](#); and (2) designating the Humboldt Call Area as a Wind Energy Area (WEA) and conducting an environmental assessment (EA) of the WEA. Public comments for each of these actions will be accepted through September 13.

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 \(boem.gov\)](#).
- On August 4 and 11, (BOEM) and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) are hosting data review virtual workshops. Aug 4 is the Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Planning Data Review Virtual Workshop; and Aug 11 is the Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Planning Fisheries Data Review Virtual Workshop. AAFA intends to attend the Aug 11 Workshop.
- 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. **You can pre-register to attend this meeting via a link on the BOEM-Oregon Task Force website - <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/2021-task-force-meeting-nine>.**

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:

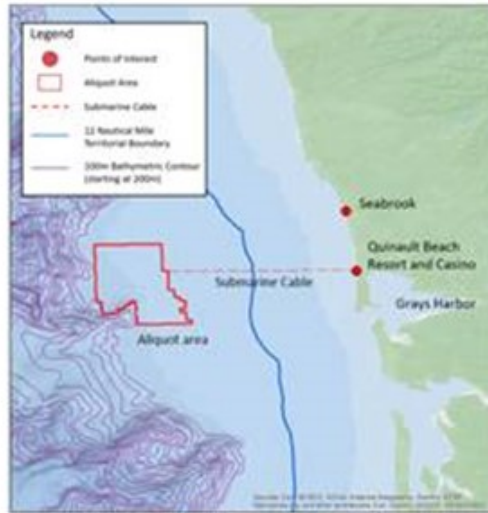


Figure 1. Project site map

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 which arose previously and continued through **October 5, 2021**.

- As a reminder – if you encounter any net marked fish this summer, please report those here - [Net-marked albacore \(netmarkedalbacore.com\)](http://netmarkedalbacore.com).
- The California Air Resources Board continues to move forward with amending their commercial harbor craft regulations. The most recent version was released on **September 24**. **CARB will hold a hearing on this on November 19**. At first blush, the commercial fishing industry is still receiving favorable treatment compared to other commercial harbor craft.
- An article was published in Civil Beat which postulated that South Pacific albacore are spawning less - <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/09/albacore-tuna-are-spawning-less-and-thats-worrying-some-south-pacific-nations/>. In conversations with scientists, the belief this article is misleading and that there isn't less spawning occurring.
- On September 20, Seafood Source published an article entitled High material, transportation costs continue to impact US seafood industry. “A record-breaking 73 ships were waiting at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach on 20 September, according to the Marine Exchange of Southern California, per The Wall Street Journal, with the average wait time for ships to get into Los Angeles extending out to 8.5 days, also a record.” See - [High material, transportation costs continue to impact US seafood industry \(seafoodsource.com\)](http://seafoodsource.com)
- On September 28, the Chinook Observer published an article on the 2021 albacore season. [Calamitous commercial tuna season nears end | News | chinookobserver.com](http://chinookobserver.com)
- On October 2nd a major oil spill took place off the Southern California coast. [Oil spill off California coast closes pipeline, prompts warnings of ecological disaster \(nbcnews.com\)](http://nbcnews.com). On October 3rd, the Ca DFW issued a fishery closure from Sunset Beach to Dana Point out to 6nm from shore. This closure was extended south to just above the San Clemente Pier on October 5 - [Southern California Fisheries Closure Implemented Due to Oil Spill – Marine Management News \(wordpress.com\)](http://wordpress.com). The length of the fishery closure remains unknown

This is the current schedule of upcoming events/meetings (as of 10/5)

- 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 10 – PFMC Marine Planning Committee Meeting

- November 15 – 22 – November PFMC meeting
- November 19 – California Air Resources Board Meeting
- November 29 – December 7 – 18th meeting of the WCPFC

