



What **AAFA** Is Doing For You

Sustainability into 2022

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

2022 Vessel Renewals went out last week!

Please check HMS, High Seas Permit, and Document to make sure it has not expired, getting your permits renewed in advance of the season is best due to lag time of NOAA and other agencies.

Consultant Reporting: Mike Conroy | January 2022

COVID-19

Each State will develop its own spend plan.

•The Washington "Round 2" spend plan was approved on 11/1/2021 (see - [Microsoft Word - 11.1.21 Final WA CARES Round 2 Spend Plan \(psmfc.org\)](#)). It is anticipated that "Round 2" applications will become available in mid-late January, 2022. See - [Washington CARES Act Information - Fisheries Relief \(psmfc.org\)](#) - for additional information

US - CANADA PACIFIC ALBACORE TREATY

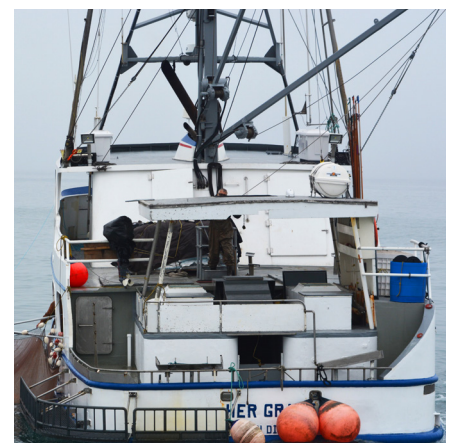
•2022 is the last year of the current three-year regime.

•As of December 31, there is no update of the status of the proposed MPA off the Canadian West Coast.
•U.S. and Canadian industry and government representatives met virtually on December 14 to begin the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty annual consultation process. This will include a review of the 2019 and 2020 fishing seasons, to the degree possible. AAFA will be represented on the call.

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. During the Council's November me-

eting, appointments were made to the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel. AAFA will continue to have representation on the HMSAS.



continued on next page





Consultant Reporting: Mike Conroy - Continued

WIND FARMS – GENERALLY

We will be gauging interest trying to host another workshop/webinar describing OSW efforts off the US West Coast.

OTHER ITEMS WHICH AROSE PREVIOUSLY AND CONTINUED THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021

- On November 10, NOAA published a [Notice of Intent To Conduct Scoping and To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary](#). This implies the Sanctuary will be designated. A map of the newly revised boundaries is replicated below:

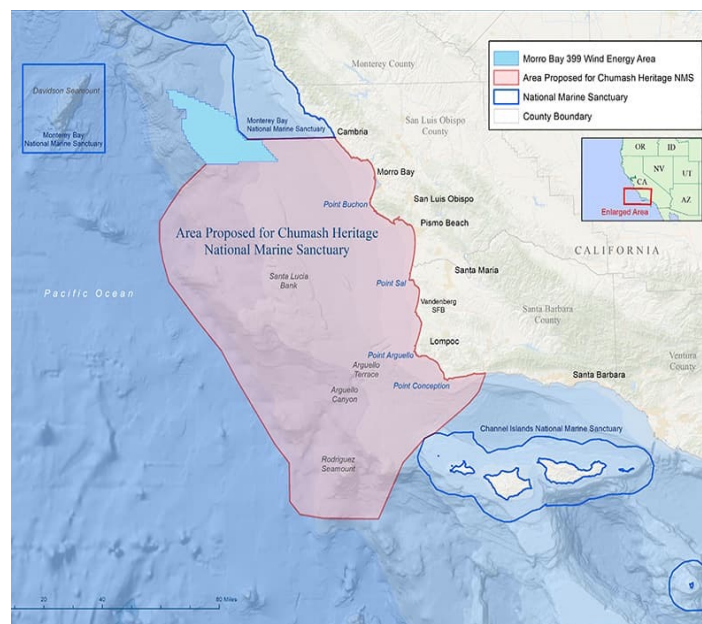
Of note, you will notice the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area has been carved out of the Sanctuary Boundary. We have been engaging with the local fishing associations for how to best approach this item in terms of commenting. The public comment period was extended until January 31, 2022.

- Sustainable Fisheries (University of Washington Blog) published an article explaining why the recent retraction of a flawed MPA study could pull out the rug on other recent MPA studies. See - <https://sustainablefisheries-uw.org/flawed-mpa-science-retracted/>

- On December 15, the Texas Public Policy Foundation's Center for the American Future filed a federal lawsuit against the Biden administration challenging the approval of the Vineyard Wind Project off the coasts

of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York. They filed suit on behalf of six fishing industry plaintiffs. See - [TPPF: Vineyard Wind Project Violates Federal Law \(texaspolicy.com\)](https://www.tppf.org/vineyard-wind-project-violates-federal-law)

- NOAA issues a Tech Memo entitled U.S. Seafood Industry and For-Hire Sector Impacts from COVID-19: 2020 in Perspective. A series of measures taken globally to reduce the spread of COVID-19 had an immediate and profound impact on the seafood industry and for-hire sector. <https://spo.nmfs.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/TM221.pdf>



UPCOMING MEETINGS AS OF 12/3

DATE	AGENCY	TOPIC	LINK FOR INFO
1/05	BOEM	Scoping meeting re Morro Bay Wind Energy Area	https://kearnswest.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xo3n6qsiSFqRYDh-MXF3Z9g
1/06	NOAA	Chumash 4 - 7PM. To gather input on the scope and significance of issues to be addressed in the environmental impact statement that are related to designating this area as a national marine sanctuary. NOAA requests input on specific topics (see Federal Register Notice) including the sanctuary name, boundary alternatives, and analyses relevant to the proposed action. The results of the scoping process will assist NOAA with the designation process, including preparation and release of draft designation documents, and in formulating alternatives for the draft environmental impact statement.	Registration (gotowebinar.com)
1/07	BOEM	Public comment deadline re Guidance for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and Recreational Fisheries from Offshore Wind Energy Development November 22, 2021	Regulations.gov
1/11	BOEM	Public comment deadline - on Morro Bay WEA Designation	BOEM Designates Wind Energy Area off Central California Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
1/25	USCG	Public comment deadline - Pacific Port Access Route Study	Federal Register :: Port Access Route Study: The Pacific Coast From Washington to California
1/31	NOAA	Public comment deadline - Notice of Intent to conduct scoping on the prospect of designating waters off the coast of central California as a national marine sanctuary	Federal Register :: Notice of Intent To Conduct Scoping and To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

01/07/2022

Power Strips and Surge Protective Devices on commercial fishing vessels

Electrical devices that are not properly constructed, insulated or grounded for specific use in a marine environment can result in shipboard fires. Several recent catastrophic fires onboard commercial fishing vessels have been sourced to power strips or surge protective devices (SPDs) that were being used to recharge multiple electronic devices powered by lithium-ion batteries.

A power strip plugs into a single outlet to give you multiple outlets. A surge protective device (SPD) is a power strip that also defends against voltage spikes. All the power in a power strip or SPD comes from the single outlet it is plugged into, which means it doesn't have infinite energy, as every shipboard electrical circuit is designed to carry a certain maximum load. Plugging in a power strip or SPD and adding too many devices can result in overheating and electrical failure, which can lead to fire.

Mariners need to be aware there is no official Underwriters Laboratory standard for marine-use power strips or SPD's, despite numerous retailers advertising, "UL Marine 1449".

Lithium-ion batteries are rechargeable and used in many modern portable electronic devices. The batteries store and release electrical energy through electro-chemical reactions. Despite their technological promise, lithium-ion batteries still have a number of shortcomings, particularly with regards to safety. The batteries have a tendency to overheat and can be damaged at high voltages. In some cases this can lead to thermal runaway and combustion. The lithium salt, organic solvents and oxygen involved in the electrochemical process are sensitive to stressors such as excessive heat, vibration, and exposure to saltwater.

*Safety take-away: Power strips or SPDs plugged into a shipboard circuit with lithium-ion battery powered devices can be a serious fire hazard onboard your vessel.

The USCG recommends vessel owners and operators have defined procedures for checking the condition and grounding capabilities of any personal portable electrical equipment brought onboard. The Master should check and approve any power strip or SPD for compatibility with the vessel's electrical system prior to use.

If there's excessive use of power strips or SPD's, installation of additional permanent components like distribution panels, breakers, cabling and/or receptacles should be considered. Avoid jury-rigging of electrical equipment at all costs.

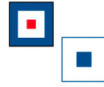
Any power strip or SPD should be removed from service if it is hot to the touch. Keep power strips and SPD's unplugged when not in use. Limit one power strip or SPD per single duplex outlet and never daisy-chain. Prevent use in excessively humid or moist areas, and ensure good air circulation around the device. Check with a certified marine electrician for any questions or more information.

[View Bulletin](#)



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 DC Update January 2022

Appropriations and Budget

The government is funded through February 18, at which point Congress will need to either pass its annual appropriations bills for the 2022 fiscal year, or pass another stopgap measure. Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patrick Leahy (D-VT) is pushing for an omnibus funding bill, saying, "Whether we do BBB or not, we have to have an omnibus. And I think we can have it before next month." Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-AL) is quoted as saying, "We know February 18 is coming up. I don't know if we'll meet that deadline."

There is some discussion on pairing Covid relief and other light social spending with an increase in defense spending as part of a budget deal, with some senior appropriators believing that enough votes could be found for a compromise to push the package through both chambers.

With FY2022 funding still in limbo, it is increasingly unlikely that the President will submit his FY2023 budget to Congress on time. The President typically submits a budget to Congress by the first Monday in February every year.

Reconciliation Bill (aka "Build Back Better Act")

The Build Back Better Act (BBB) was on the backburner this week as Congress focused on voting rights legislation and the anniversary of



January 6. It looks like lawmaker's attention will continue to be elsewhere until later this month.

Just prior to the holidays, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) released a statement that he cannot support the bill. This week, Manchin told reporters, "I'm really not going to talk about Build Back Better anymore because I think I've been very clear on that". Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) said that he had spoken to Manchin about BBB and that negotiations were underway. The opposing statements suggest that the two have a long way to go before reaching any sort of agreement.

Fisheries-Related Legislation

The word on the House side is that the Natural Resources Committee is gearing up for a mark-up of Congressman Huffman's MSA reauthorization bill. Progress in the House is expected, though it remains to be seen how bipartisan the effort will be. In the Senate, there is still skepticism that a broad-based MSA bill will garner enough interest to move this year.



CONSULTANT REPORTING (CONTINUED)

Jay Sterne

Consultant Reporting: Jay Sterne Windward Strategies DC Update January 2022

USDA Seafood Programs

In December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced two food and agriculture assistance programs that are intended to benefit the seafood sector.

1. Local Food Purchases

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has established the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program that will award up to \$400 million for emergency food assistance purchases of domestic local foods. These purchases will take place through awards made via non-competitive cooperative agreements with state and tribal governments. Eligible state and tribal governments can apply through April 5, 2022, and will then purchase eligible food items with these LFPA funds. Seafood is an eligible product under the Local Food Purchase cooperative agreement program, provided that the seafood item meets the same requirements as other food products, such as for local sourcing. More details can be found in this link [USDA Establishes Food Purchase Program to Transform the Food System, Build Back Better via Local Food Purchase | USDA](#).



2. Rural Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program

USDA's Rural Development agency has established the Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program, which is intended to provide financial support to qualified lenders whose loan applicants "want to start or expand middle of the food supply chain activities such as aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation, wholesale, or distribution of food." Seafood businesses can borrow funds from lenders approved by Rural Development to support eligible projects. Such projects include purchase and development of land, buildings, and associated infrastructure for commercial or industrial purposes; business conversion, enlargement, repair, modernization, or development; and obtaining working capital. Consistent with the program's emphasis on the middle of the supply chain, funds may not be used for "agricultural production." Borrowers (and lenders) under this program can be located anywhere in the country and need not be situated in a rural area. To get started, interested companies should contact their lenders to determine if the lender is approved by Rural Development. Because Rural Development "will accept applications from lenders until funds are expended," interested companies will want to be in contact with their lenders immediately. More information can be found here: [Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program \(usda.gov\)](#).