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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 won't be burdened with rereading content previously published.

Through **December 31, 2021**

### **The Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad**

On January 27, the President issued the [aforementioned Executive Order](#). Included were two provisions which could have impacts on AAFA operations, one of which saw activity in October:

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. On October 29, NOAA published a Notice and Request for Information on NOAA actions to implement this portion of the Executive Order- see [2021-23590.pdf \(govinfo.gov\)](#)

### **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.

- California - The CA DFW spend plan was approved on August 27. The deadline for submitting your application was November 17.
- Oregon - it does not appear Oregon has submitted a draft spend plan to NOAA for approval. See - <https://relief.psmfc.org/oregon-cares-act-information/> for additional information
- 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

## **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/>.

NMFS and ODFW have been working on an app that is intended to help managers and stakeholders understand the North Pacific Albacore Tuna Management Strategy Evaluation (Albacore MSE). Because management of North Pacific Albacore is likely imminent, this tool will let you explore how different management styles may impact the fishery. See - [https://pfmc.shinyapps.io/Albacore\\_MSE/](https://pfmc.shinyapps.io/Albacore_MSE/)

## **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.
- A number of AAFA members and representatives participated in the Annual Data Working Group call on April 20.
- 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.

## **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. **During the Council’s November meeting, appointments were made to the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel. AAFA will continue to have representation on the HMSAS.**
- 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.
- The PFMC's November Agenda does not have anything specific to albacore on it. AAFA will attend should anything related to albacore come up.

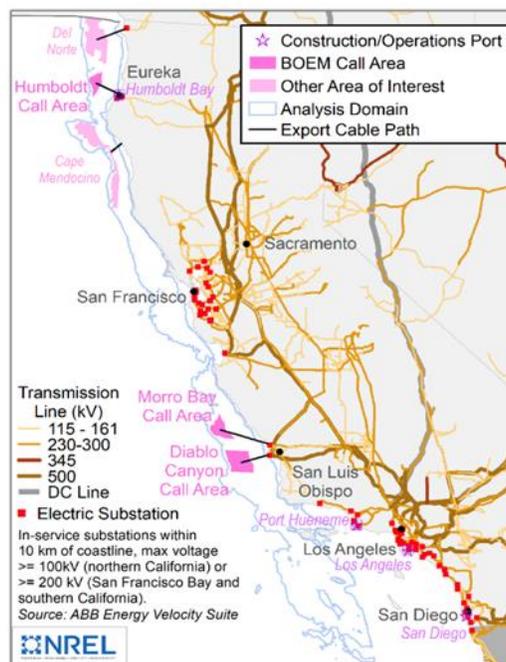
## Wind farms – Generally

**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.
- On November 22, BOEM published a Request for Information on Offshore Wind Fisheries Mitigation. You can read that here - <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/BOEM-2021-0083-0001.pdf>. BOEM has also scheduled a number of regional workshops to discuss the RFI. The one for the West Coast is scheduled to occur on December 13 at 10AM. Information on the workshops as well as a link to register for the meeting is available here - <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/request-information-reducing-or-avoiding-impacts-offshore-wind-energy-fisheries>. The Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy is hosting a roundtable on this on December 14 to gather specific small entity input and presentations on the request for information. If you wish to attend, you must email Prianka Sharma, Assistant Chief Counsel, Agriculture, Energy, and Natural Resource Policy at [prianka.sharma@sba.gov](mailto:prianka.sharma@sba.gov). AAFA will have representation on all of these meetings. The public comment period closes on January 7 and I strongly suggest AAFA consider submitting comments on this; and will hope to get input from AAFA members.
- **We will be gauging interest trying to host another workshop/webinar describing OSW efforts off the US West Coast.**

## Wind farms off the California Coast

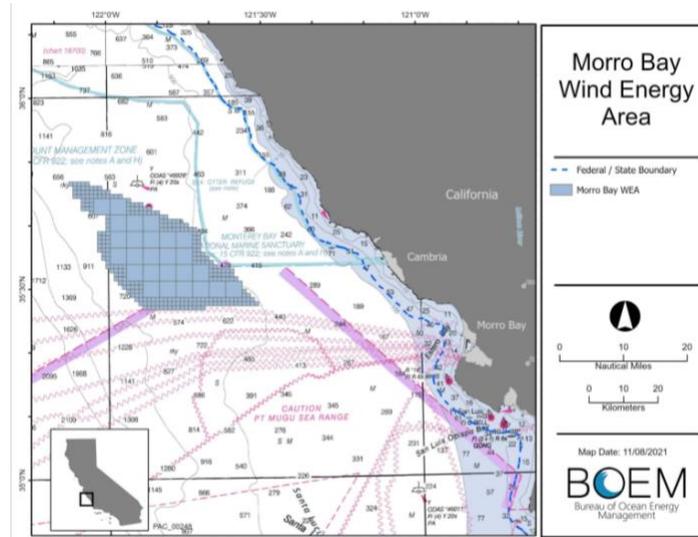
- Two bills were introduced which address offshore wind in California. SB 413 and AB 525. AAFA is following those and will engage when appropriate.
- There are [two proposed pilot projects in California State Waters](#) (just above Pt Arguello). We have already begun engaging with State Lands Commission Staff on this matter. On July 16, the California State Lands Commission released a Draft Preliminary Environmental Assessment for public review on the two pilot projects. On October 21, the State Lands Commission voted to move forward with an environmental review of the Projects. This does not mean the Project(s) are approved, just that further analysis is necessary to fully determine if those projects are in the State's interest.
- 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.

- On November 12, BOEM announced it was designating 376 miles off Morro Bay as a Wind Energy Area (WEA).



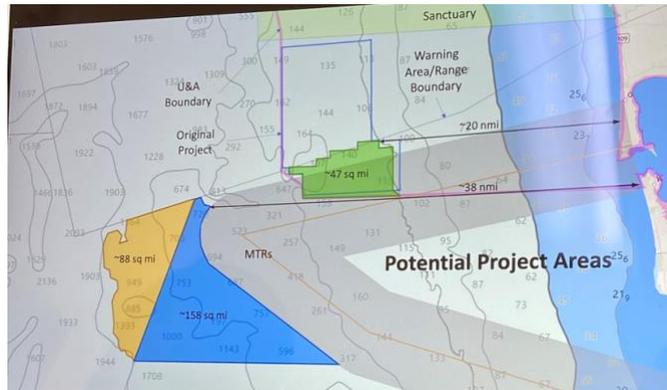
BOEM will now prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), to consider potential impacts from site characterization activities (e.g., biological, archeological, geological, and geophysical surveys) and site assessment activities (e.g., installation of meteorological buoys) within the WEA. BOEM's preparation of the EA will initiate a public comment period (which ends on January 11) along with two virtual public meetings: December 1<sup>st</sup> and January 5<sup>th</sup>. AAFA has representation on the December 1 meeting and expects to have representation on the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting as well.

### 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 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 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 met on October 21. Draft Call Areas were not announced; but they are expected to be announced during the January 2022 BOEM-Oregon Task Force meeting. The meeting lasted all day and covered a few topics: (1) Overview of Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Planning and Engagement Activities; (2) OROWindMap Overview and Data Sets Discussion; (3) Floating Offshore Wind Technology and Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Studies; and (4) Next Steps toward Offshore Wind Energy Leasing. If you are interested in watching any of these webinars or reviewing the presentations – you can do so via the following link: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/2021-task-force-meeting-nine>. We don't yet know where offshore wind will be proposed off Oregon – we just know that it will.

### 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](#)
- The project proponents are now considering new locations off the State of Washington. The following was shared with us and begs the question will this impact albacore operations? Note – the green area appears to be in a Military Training Area (light grey) so that is not likely going to be considered.

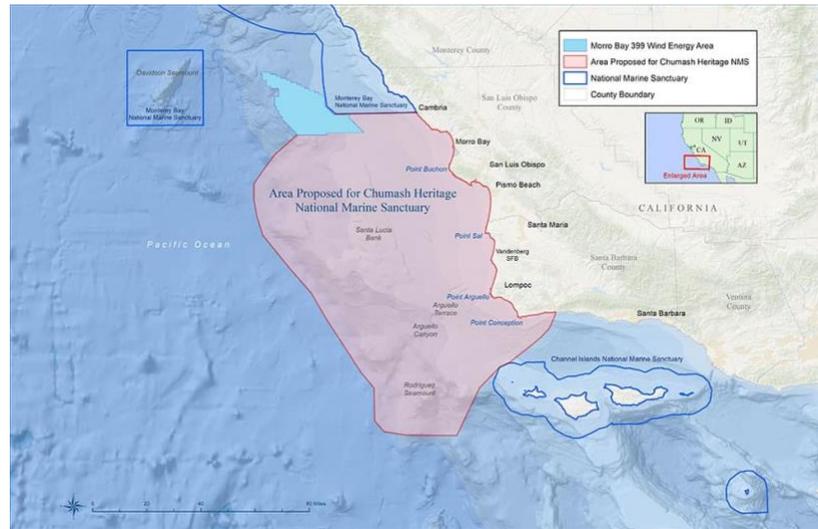


### US Coast Guard – Pacific Port Access Route Study

Over the summer, the USCG announced it is conducting a Port Access Route Study (PARS) to evaluate safe access routes for the movement of vessel traffic proceeding to or from ports or places along the western seaboard of the United States and to determine whether a Shipping Safety Fairway (“Fairway”) and/or routing measures should be established, adjusted or modified. The PARS will evaluate the continued applicability of, and the need for modifications to, current vessel routing measures. The data gathered during this Pacific Coast PARS (PACPARS) may result in the establishment of one or more new vessel routing measures, modification of existing routing measures, or disestablishment of existing routing measures off the Pacific Coast between Washington and California. The public comment period ends on January 25. You can view the Notification of Study and Request for comments here - [2021-15923.pdf \(govinfo.gov\)](#)

### Other items which arose previously and continued through **December 3, 2021.**

- As a reminder – if you encounter any net marked fish this summer, please report those here - [Net-marked albacore \(netmarkedalbacore.com\)](#).
- 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://texaspolicy.com/tppf-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>

This is the current schedule of upcoming events/meetings (as of 12/31)

Date	Agency	Topic	Link for information
1/5	BOEM	Scoping meeting re Morro Bay Wind Energy Area	<a href="https://kearnswest.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xo3n6qsiSFqRYDhMXF3Z9g">https://kearnswest.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xo3n6qsiSFqRYDhMXF3Z9g</a>
1/6	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.	<a href="https://www.gotowebinar.com">Registration (gotowebinar.com)</a>
1/7	BOEM	Public comment deadline re Guidance for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and Recreational Fisheries from Offshore Wind Energy Development November 22, 2021	<a href="https://www.regulations.gov">Regulations.gov</a>
1/11	BOEM	Public comment deadline – on Morro Bay WEA Designation	<a href="https://www.boem.gov/BOEM-Designates-Wind-Energy-Area-off-Central-California">BOEM Designates Wind Energy Area off Central California   Bureau of Ocean Energy Management</a>
1/25	USCG	Public comment deadline – Pacific Port Access Route Study	<a href="https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/01/25/2021-02141/port-access-route-study-the-pacific-coast-from-washington-to-california">Federal Register :: Port Access Route Study: The Pacific Coast From Washington to California</a>
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	<a href="https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/01/25/2021-02141/port-access-route-study-the-pacific-coast-from-washington-to-california">Federal Register :: Notice of Intent To Conduct Scoping and To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary</a>

