



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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

AAFA General Meeting will be on April 20th via ZOOM

Please see attached Canadian Fisheries Compliance - Information from DFO. (Page 07)

Remember that AAFA applies for a Canadian Fishing License for every vessel on the roster.

Consultant Reporting: Mike Conroy | **February 2022**

COVID-19 - SECOND ROUND OF FISHERIES ASSISTANCE

California - Disbursements are likely to occur during the first quarter of 2022. See - [California CARES Act Information - Fisheries Relief \(psmfc.org\)](#)

Oregon - Oregon's "Round 2" spend plan was approved on December 23 (see - [OR-CARES-2.0-spend-plan.pdf \(psmfc.org\)](#)). It is anticipated that "Round 2" applications will become available in mid-late February 2022. See - [Oregon CARES Act Information - Fisheries Relief \(psmfc.org\)](#)

The Washington "Round 2" spend plan was approved on 11/01/2021 (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 February 2022. See - [Washington CARES Act Information - Fisheries Relief \(psmfc.org\)](#)

NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE - MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION ("MSE")

NMFS is planning to hold a stakeholder workshop in April to get domestic harvesters thoughts and ideas on a potential harvest strategy. AAFA will attend and will encourage AAFA members to participate in this conversation

MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (MSC)

On February 1, the MSC released proposed changes to the MSC Fisheries Standard, Fisheries Certification Process and all associated program documents. Stakeholders are invited to take part in an [online survey](#) and comment on whether the proposed revisions to the Standard are effective and can be feasibly applied and audited. AAFA will be reviewing and having discussions on this.

US - CANADA PACIFIC ALBACORE TREATY

We are entering the final year of the most recent three-year regime.

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Consultant Reporting: Mike Conroy - Continued

We will have to think about AAFA position and then seek to understand other association's position(s) as well.

DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT - PPMC

There are no albacore items on the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Agenda for March; but I suspect there will be in June. If for no other reason than to provide a report out on the April stakeholder meeting.

The Council's Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met on February 1. Topics discussed included offshore wind, the Aquaculture Opportunity Area in Southern California, the Federal 30 x 30 initiative, and various policy documents.

- Offshore wind.
 - Updates were provided on offshore wind moving forward off California and Oregon
 - The presentation provided to the MPC by BOEM is available here.
- Aquaculture Opportunity Area off Southern California
 - The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science provided an overview of the Atlas for the Southern California Bight which identified ten (10) discrete areas that have "the highest potential to support three to five marine aquaculture operations off the coast of Ventura and Santa Monica.
- Federal 30 x 30 initiative
 - We received an update from NOAA staff about the state of the Federal 30x30 initiative.

WIND FARMS - GENERALLY

RODA's 2021 year-in-review is available here: [Year in Review \(rodafisheries.org\)](https://rodafisheries.org)

There are a number of lawsuits which resulted from the permitting of the Vineyard Wind Project. One was filed by RODA and challenges a number of actions which resulted in the permitting. Another filed on behalf of six (I think) commercial fishermen, trade associations, and a shoreside businesses.

WIND FARMS OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST

There are two Wind Energy Areas (WEA) which have been designated off California.

Humboldt WEA.

- In mid-January BOEM published a Draft Environmental Assessment for the Humboldt WEA (Draft EA).
- It is expected that BOEM will allow the lease sales for the Humboldt WEA to go forward as planned in the Fall of 2022.

Morro Bay WEA

- The Draft EA for the Morro Bay WEA has not been published yet. We expect it will be soon.

BOEM has expressed an intention to conduct lease sales for both WEAs in the Fall of 2022.

OFFSHORE RENEWABLES OFF THE OREGON COAST

In January, 2022 BOEM issued its [Data Gathering and Engagement Summary Report for Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Planning](#).

CONSULTANT REPORTING

MIKE CONROY

The BOEM-Oregon Intergovernmental Task Force is scheduled to meet on February 25. They are expected to be unveil at least two proposed Call Areas during this meeting. Meeting materials will be posted to the [BOEM Oregon Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force website](#).

The PFMC's Marine Planning Committee will be coordinating a public meeting with BOEM on March 4 to discuss the proposed Oregon Call Areas.

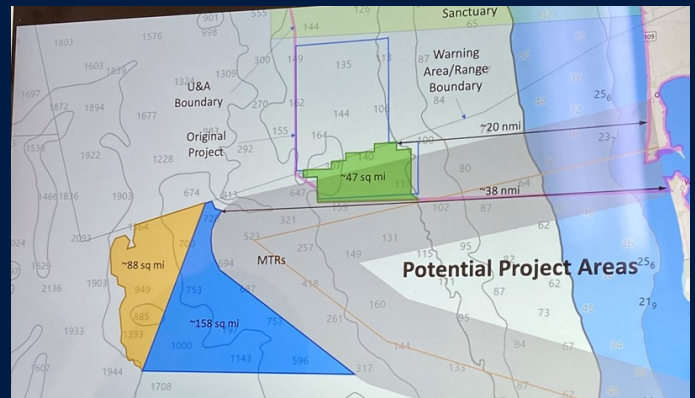
OFFSHORE RENEWABLES OFF THE WASHINGTON COAST

We are unaware of any definite projects proposed or likely to be proposed imminently off Washington. That is not meant to be interpreted as there is not interest in doing so. The following is a map of an area off Washington which was of interest to at least one potential developer

OTHER ITEMS THROUGH FEBRUARY 4, 2022

The California Natural Resources Agency released its [Draft Pathways to 30 x 30 document](#). Those of you have fisheries which may operate in California State waters may find that of interest.

January 7 - USCG issued a Marine Safety Bulletin addressing Power Strips and Surge Protective Devices on commercial fishing vessels.



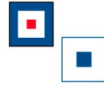
WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS!

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



UPCOMING MEETINGS AS OF 2/4

DATE	AGENCY	TOPIC	LINK FOR INFO
2/14 2/15	MSC	Webinars on MSC	Consultation on Review of the Fisheries Standard Marine Stewardship Council (msc.org)
2/25	BOEM	BOEM-Oregon Intergovernmental Task Force	BOEM Oregon Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force website
3/4	PFMC/ BOEM	Meeting to discuss proposed Call Areas off Oregon	TBD
3/8 3/14	PFMC	March Meeting	March 8-14, 2022 Council Meeting - Pacific Fishery Management Council (pfcouncil.org)
4/5	NMFS	Stakeholder meeting to discuss NPA harvest strategies	TBA
4/6 4/13	PFMC	April meeting	April 6-13, 2022 Council Meeting - Pacific Fishery Management Council (pfcouncil.org)
4/20	AAFA	AAFA General Meeting via ZOOM	TBD



WINDWARD STRATEGIES LLC

Consultant Reporting: Jay Sterne
Windward Strategies DC Update
February 2022

America COMPETES Act

The House spent the first week of February considering the America COMPETES Act (H.R. 4521), a major legislative package intended to increase US competitiveness with China. America COMPETES is the House companion to the United States Innovation and Competitiveness Act (USICA, S. 1260), which passed the Senate in May 2021. From a seafood and fisheries perspective, there are several provisions that were included in the Bill, including the following:

- **H.R. 3075 Illegal Fishing and Forced Labor Prevention Act (Rep. Jared Huffman, D-CA-02)**

This bill, minus the seafood traceability and labeling title, is included in the COMPETES Act. The provision would authorize \$20 million per year through FY2026 to expand illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing identification through data from non-governmental stakeholders, the public, and the seafood import monitoring program. It would expand the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) to cover all seafood and seafood products imported into the US within two years of enactment. It would also expand US authority to revoke port privileges for fishing vessels from nations identified for IUU fishing.

- **H.R. 404 Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act (Rep. Ted Lieu, D-CA-33)**



This bill would phase out the use of drift gillnets with a mesh size of 14 inches or larger in the US Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) within five years.

- **Buy American Seafood,** part of H.R. 3764 Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act (Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-AZ-03)

This provision would authorize the Secretary of Commerce to use Saltonstall-Kennedy grant funds to promote the consumption of domestic, climate friendly, invasive, or well-managed but less known seafood.

- **H.R. 2188 Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act (Del. Gregorio Sablan, D-MP-AL)**

Shortly before noon on Friday, February 4, the House passed the amended bill on a 222-210 vote. The next step will be a "conference" between the House and Senate to reconcile the differences between America COMPETES and USICA, and the agreed-upon package will need to go back through both chambers for another vote before it is signed into law. It is not clear yet whether the Senate will accept any or all of the above provisions in the conference version of the Bill.

FY 2022 Appropriations

With just two weeks left until government funding runs out, here is still no sign of a FY 2022 omnibus funding package. The major outstanding issue is "parity" between defense and non-defense spending; Republicans want to see

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CONSULTANT REPORTING (CONTINUED)

Jay Sterne

Consultant Reporting: Jay Sterne Windward Strategies DC Update February 2022

parity in any increase in spending between social programs and the Pentagon, while Democrats refuse to agree to that condition. parity in any increase in spending between social programs and the Pentagon, while Democrats refuse to agree to that condition.

At this point, a three-week continuing resolution (CR) is looking likely. If the two sides are close to an omnibus agreement, Congress could opt for a short-term stopgap. If not, lawmakers may choose to fund the government on a CR through the end of FY 2022. The Pentagon has never been funded by a full-year CR, and military officials have publicly warned that doing so would hurt military readiness.

FY 2023 Budget

During her confirmation hearing to be the permanent director of the Office of Management and Budget, acting director Shalanda Young told Senators that President Biden will release his fiscal 2023 budget around the time of his State of the Union speech to Congress on March 1.

Infrastructure and Reconciliation

The Build Back Better Act (BBB) is still stalled after negotiations broke down between President Biden and Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV). Last



week, the Congressional Progressive Caucus called on the party to pass the bill by the State of the Union address on March 1, a deadline White House press secretary Jen Psaki and Speaker Pelosi both dismissed. week, the Congressional Progressive Caucus called on the party to pass the bill by the State of the Union address on March 1, a deadline White House press secretary Jen Psaki and Speaker Pelosi both dismissed.

CANADIAN FISHERIES COMPLIANCE - INFORMATION FROM FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA (DFO)

FISHERY OFFICER J. GIBSON

***Note from AAFA:** AAFA applies for every vessel on the roster for a Canadian Fishing License.

Dear clients and fishers in the United States, as well as vessel agents located in Canada; the attached information is provided in advance of the 2022 fishing season in order to help commercial fishing vessel owners, vessel masters, and vessel agents understand and remain in compliance with the lawful requirements of accessing Canadian waters and Canadian ports.

Please read this information and provide it to all Captains / Vessel Masters of commercial fishing vessels and fish-packer/transport vessels.

For Albacore Tuna fishers wishing to apply early for their EEZ Fishing Licences, a reminder that you must first contact NOAA and have your vessel listed on the Pacific Albacore Tuna Treaty participant list. DFO is not yet accepting EEZ tuna fishing licence applications until details of the fishery are finalized and the NOAA participant list is published, which normally occurs in late May or early June.

I am available by email to answer any questions you may have about Canadian fisheries law compliance in the future.

Thank you, and have a good day.

JG

Fishery Officer J. GIBSON

Regional Enforcement Coordinator – Foreign Vessels and Tuna
Conservation & Protection

Senior Compliance Program Officer, Enforcement Operations

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Links to documents:

[DFO Compliance Issues Outreach - Feb 2022.pdf](#)

[Fishery Notice 0004.pdf](#)

[EEZ Application Form - 2022.pdf](#)

[EEZ - Authorized Canadian Agents - Sep 2014.pdf](#)