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## WHAT AAFA IS DOING FOR YOU – 2022 AAFA MEMBERSHIP VERSION

The start of a new year – 2022. We expect the following will be items worthy of attention: offshore wind off all three states, 30 x 30 initiatives federally, in some states and internationally, albacore management, treaty regime, MSC standards and how those may impact fisheries, etc.

Through **February 4, 2021**

### **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 reviewing and having discussions on this.

### **US – Canada Pacific Albacore Treaty**

- We are entering the final year of the most recent three-year regime.
- We will have to think about AAFA position and then seek to understand other association’s position(s) as well.

## Domestic Management – PFMC

- 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 \(rodafisheries.org\)](#)
- 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](#).
- 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

