



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 28th 10AM-4PM via Zoom

BOD Seat: there are 2 seats up. 1 board seat and 1 Fisherman at large - (5 years as a Captain of an AAFA Vessel member in good standing)

Consultant Reporting: Mike Conroy

March 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 Spring. 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 March 2022. See - [Washington CARES Act Information - Fisheries Relief \(psmfc.org\)](#)

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

NMFS is hosting a virtual U.S. stakeholder meeting on April 5, 2022, to discuss harvest strategy options with a focus on preparing to potentially propose limit and target reference points to the IATTC. **This is the next step in developing management measures for the north pacific albacore fishery and we strongly encourage your participation.** We

are linking the [Federal Register notice](#) for instructions on how to register for the meeting. **If you plan to participate, they would like you to register before March 29.** Note - the Federal Register references Hawaii Standard time, the meeting time is scheduled to run from noon - 4PM. Depending on interest, we may hold a webinar beforehand to brief interested persons on the MSE process and how that plays into potential management of the fishery. Please let the AAFA office know if you plan to attend and would like to attend a primer webinar beforehand.

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Consultant Reporting: Mike Conroy - Continued

UN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON MARINE BIODIVERSITY OF AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION - ABNJ/BBNJ

The US Govt held a stakeholder meeting on February 23rd in advance of the fourth session. The meeting started by the announcement that the suggested changes/comments that the USC had submitted to the last draft of the treaty in March of 2020 had been reviewed by the Biden administration. Some of those comments would remain as the US negotiating position but many had been changed or eliminated. Fishery representatives on the call emphasized the fishermen's concerns that nothing in the BBNJ treaty should undermine the competence or authority of RFMOs to manage fisheries.

DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT - PFMC

There was a lengthy Agenda item on Marine Planning. In addition to the items described above, there was discussions about the recently unveiled proposed Call Areas off the Oregon Coast.

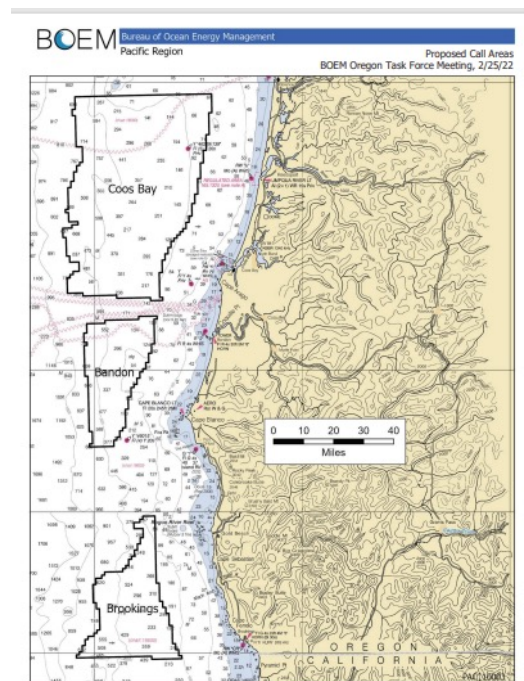
WIND FARMS OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST

The Draft EA for the Morro Bay WEA has not been published yet. During the March PFMC meeting, BOEM expected this to be published during the Spring in order to meet the BOEM timeline for lease sales in the Fall.

OFFSHORE RENEWABLES OFF THE OREGON COAST

The proposed Call Areas off Oregon encompass 2,181 square miles. By comparison, the two WEAs off California encompass 582 sq miles.

The map of the three Call Areas off Oregon follows:



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- [The Coos Bay and Bandon Call Areas on NOAA Chart 18580](#)
- [The Brookings Call Area on NOAA Chart 18600](#)

BOEM has indicated that it intends to engage with participants in fisheries who may be impacted. We will share dates of those meetings when they are scheduled.

OTHER ITEMS THROUGH MARCH 11, 2022

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/02/17/2022-03434/north-pacific-albacore-re-united-states-stakeholder-meeting-meeting-announcement>

On February 25, the [USCG published a notice seeking information and comments related to the Pacific Coast-Port Access Route Study](#) effort currently underway. In this notice, they seek “public comments regarding vessel traffic patterns in the areas near Point Mugu and south of the Channel Islands in the Pacific Missile Range, San Francisco Bay, and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Humboldt Bay and Morro Bay offshore Wind Energy Areas (WEAs). Information received will be used to make recommendations regarding establishing safety routing measures to improve waterway operations and vessel movement along the California coast.” There is a list of 28 questions the USCG is seeking input on. The public comment period closes on May 26. January 7 – USCG issued a Marine Safety Bulletin addressing Power Strips and Surge Protective Devices on commercial fishing vessels.

[Lease sales for offshore wind off New York raised \\$4.37B](#) for 488,000 acres. By comparison, the two Wind Energy Areas off California total about 375,000 acres. On March 1, AAFA and WFOA held a meeting to discuss coordinating and collaborating on management and other activities. This will likely have its own header in the future

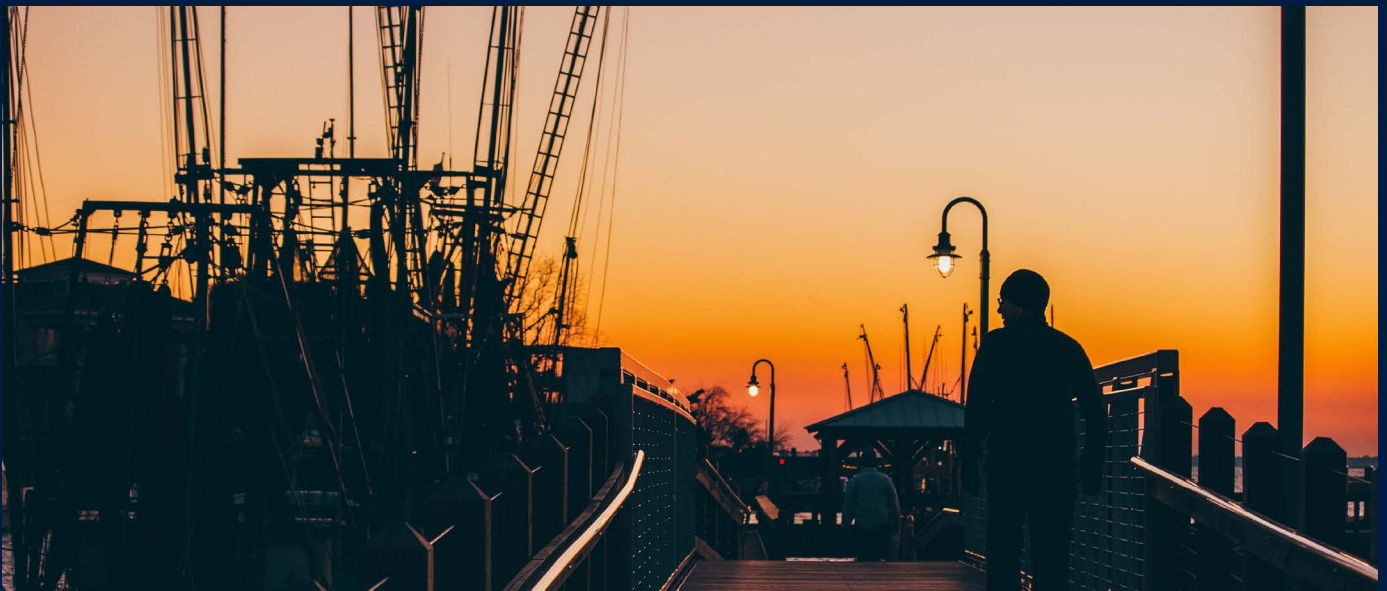
WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS!

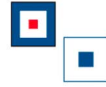
We use your photos for social media, these newsletters, the website, and more. If you take any high-resolution photos (or videos) of albacore tuna, you in action, or your boats please send them to us at: admin@americanalbacore.com



UPCOMING MEETINGS AS OF 3/11

| DATE | AGENCY | TOPIC | LINK FOR INFO |
|--------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4/4 | MSC | Public comment deadline on Revised Standards | |
| 4/5 | NMFS | Stakeholder meeting to discuss NPA harvest strategies | https://www.federal-register.gov/documents/2022/02/17/2022-03434/north-pacific-albacore-united-states-stakeholder-meeting-meeting-announcement |
| 4-6/ 4/13 | PFMC | April meeting | April 6-13, 2022 Council Meeting - Pacific Fishery Management Council (pcouncil.org) |
| 4-6/ 4/13 | PFMC | April Meeting | April 6-13, 2022 Council Meeting - Pacific Fishery Management Council (pcouncil.org) |
| 4/28 | AAFA | General Meeting via Zoom 10AM-4PM BOD Seat: there are 2 seats up. 1 board seat and 1 Fisherman at large - (5 years as a Captain of an AAFA Vessel member in good standing) | |





WINDWARD STRATEGIES LLC

Consultant Reporting: Jay Sterne Windward Strategies DC Update March 2022

Loss to the U.S. Fishing Industry

Congressman Don Young (R-AK) passed away on Friday, March 18 at the age of 88. The longest serving Republican House member, Mr. Young was first elected in 1973 and was the last remaining Member of Congress who was directly involved in the passage of what is now known as the Magnuson-Stevens Act. He was a champion of the commercial fishing industry throughout his entire career, and his commitment to Alaska and fishermen around the country will be missed.

Federal Appropriations

On March 10, President Biden signed the \$1.5 trillion FY22 Omnibus Appropriations bill to fund the federal government through the end of the current fiscal year, September 30, 2022. Although the FY22 spending bill brought a seven percent increase to non-defense spending and six percent for defense, it was still a disappointment to many in the science, environment, and ocean communities based on their expectations from the original House and Senate FY22 proposals.

Both the House and Senate bills, not to mention the President's Budget, originally had 10-20+ percent increases for many programs and agencies that fund these efforts. In negotiations for parity with defense spending, and the need for additional funds to support Ukraine, those numbers were largely slashed to single digit increases, with few programs managing to keep their

expected gains. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) overall funding levels increased by \$450 million over the FY21 enacted level.

FY 21 Enacted - \$5.43B
FY 22 House - \$6.46B
FY 22 Senate - \$6.28B
FY 22 Final - \$5.88B

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will receive \$1,015,955 for Operations, Research, and Facilities. The Explanatory Statement accompanying the Omnibus included the following provisions of interest to AAFA:

Offshore Wind Energy. -The agreement provides no less than \$6,250,000 for the requested initiatives to support the growth of offshore wind energy, including no less than: \$2,000,000 in Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species; \$3,000,000 in Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services; and \$1,250,000 in Fisheries Management Programs and Services. Further, within the increase provided for Fish Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, NMFS shall prioritize efforts to mitigate impacts to scientific surveys of the development of offshore wind facilities.

Transition to Climate-Ready Fishery Management. - The agreement modifies House language on "Transition to Climate-Ready Fishery Management" to encourage NMFS to adapt its fishery management practices to the reality of the changing climate and to deliver the climate informed advice needed for effective marine resource manage-

ment in rapidly changing oceans.

Seafood Import Monitoring Program. -NOAA is encouraged to pursue the most efficient, effective, and sustainable mechanisms to determine a chain of custody for fish or fish products, and to improve systems used to identify and bar fish or fish products sourced using convict, child, forced, or indentured labor. NOAA is encouraged to consult with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Labor, and other relevant agencies to develop a strategic plan to develop, mature, and adopt artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies to detect imports of fish and fish products at risk of being associated with IUU fishing.

The President is expected to release his FY23 Budget Request on March 28, which will officially start the next round of the federal appropriations process.

Fisheries and Seafood Developments

On Friday, March 11, President Biden signed an Executive Order banning the import of Russian seafood products effective March 24. This EO adds to the U.S. economic sanctions intended to pressure Russia to cease military operations in the Ukraine.

On Thursday, March 17, 2022, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a legislative hearing on five bills:

H.R. 3431 (Rep. Chris Pappas, D-NH-01) Increasing Community Access to Resiliency Grants Act of 2021. To

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CONSULTANT REPORTING (CONTINUED)

Jay Sterne

Consultant Reporting: Jay Sterne Windward Strategies DC Update February 2022

require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of NOAA, to establish a website providing information about grants available to assist State, Tribal, and local governments with climate resiliency, adaptation and mitigation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6491 (Rep. Jared Huffman, D-CA-02) To require the identification of salmon conservation areas and salmon strongholds, and for other purposes. Salmon Focused Investments in Sustainable Habitats (FISH) Act.

H.R. 6651 (Rep. Don Young, R-AK-AL) To establish an Alaska Salmon Research Task Force. Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Act.

H.R. 6785 (Rep. Seth Moulton, D-MA-06) To assist in the conservation of the North Atlantic right whale by supporting and providing financial resources for North Atlantic right whale conservation programs and projects of persons with expertise required for the conservation of North Atlantic right whales, and for other purposes. Right Whale Coexistence Act of 2022.

H.R. 6987 (Rep. Rick Larsen, D-WA-02) To establish programs to reduce the impacts of vessel traffic and underwater noise on marine mammals, and for other purposes. Chair Jared Huffman (D-CA) discussed how these bills protect vulnerable ecosystems and species and increase climate resiliency. He discussed his bill, H.R. 6491, the Sal-

mon FISH Act, which would identify core areas of salmon abundance and ensure these areas get protection and funding. He noted that more needs to be done to protect salmon and all the communities who depend on them, and said it is important to proactively work to protect pristine salmon habitat.

Ranking Member Cliff Bentz (R-OR) discussed how three of the bills authorize new taxpayer funded programs without streamlining the underlying statute they amend, and also noted that he has concerns about federal grant programs that have zero or low cost shares. He said the Alaska Salmon Research Taskforce Act instead provides a different solution by seeking scientific answers. He expressed concerns that the Salmon FISH Act could allow for designation of areas to be made without water users' input.

Ms. Janet Coit, Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, testified that it is critical to address the impacts of accelerating climate change on ocean and marine resources. She testified that NOAA supports all the bills under consideration and noted that they would complement and expand NOAA's work to promote resilience and conserve species.

Chairman Huffman asked about challenges to cross-agency collaboration. Coit answered that the Salmon FISH Act would promote long term conservation that engages all stakeholders and would provide another way to bring people together by providing incentive to take action to proactively protect salmon habitat. Huffman asked about ocean noise and commercial

shipping impacts. Coit answered that H.R. 6987 would expand tools and help increase innovation and R&D to advance conservation efforts to reduce noise, and noted that NOAA developed a strategy in 2016 to address ocean noise. Huffman asked about coordination between the U.S. and Canada on North Atlantic Right Whales. Coit answered that they have made significant strides on science and adaptive management.

Ranking Member Bentz asked which bill would help the most with respect to climate change. Coit answered that the Salmon FISH Act would be the most helpful, especially as a complement to ongoing work to remove dams and restore degraded salmon habitat. Bentz asked about the importance of ocean conditions compared to inland and upstream conditions for salmon. Coit answered that the entire salmon life cycle is important and that both need to be addressed. Bentz asked about NOAA's concerns regarding the Salmon FISH Act, and Coit answered that their concerns are about provisions on transboundary pollutants and how the bill would fit into existing authorities.

The Senate Commerce Committee is scheduled to mark up S. 3850, the Ocean Shipping Reform Act, which would seek to address import and export logistical challenges at U.S. ports. It is expected to be approved by the Committee, and would still need to be passed by the full Senate. The House-passed version of the bill was included in the America COMPETES Act, and this issue will be negotiated in the House-Senate conference.