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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 **March 11, 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 \(psmf.org\)](#)
- Oregon – Oregon’s “Round 2” spend plan was approved on December 23 (see - [OR-CARES-2.0-spend-plan.pdf \(psmf.org\)](#)). It is anticipated that “Round 2” applications will become available in mid-late **Spring**. See - [Oregon CARES Act Information – Fisheries Relief \(psmf.org\)](#)
- 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 \(psmf.org\)](#)). It is anticipated that “Round 2” applications will become available in **March** 2022. See - [Washington CARES Act Information – Fisheries Relief \(psmf.org\)](#)

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.

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.

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 USG 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 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.
- 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 – 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.

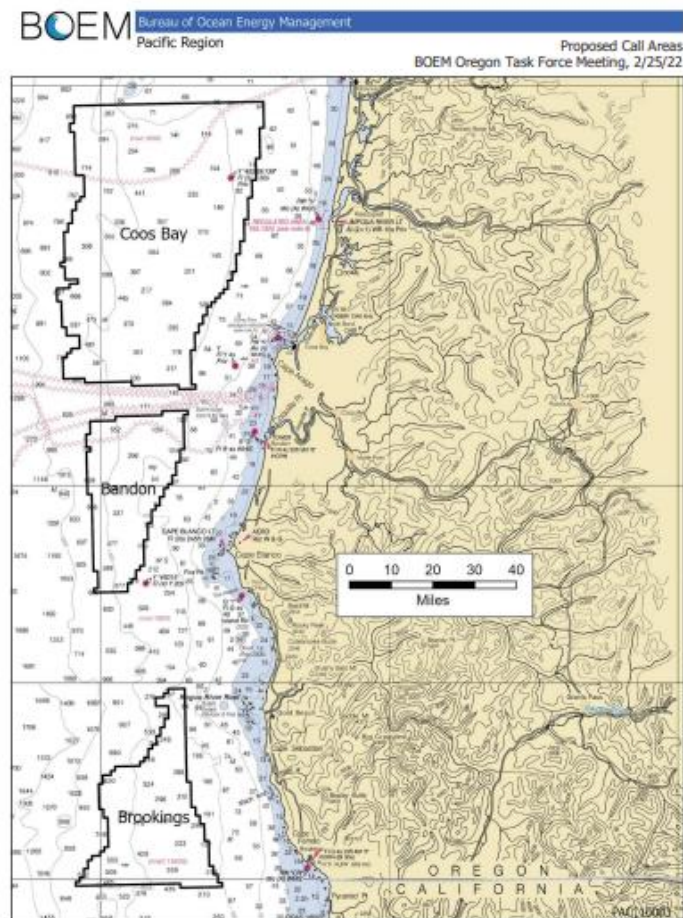
Wind farms off the California Coast

- 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. 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.
- 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.
- 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:

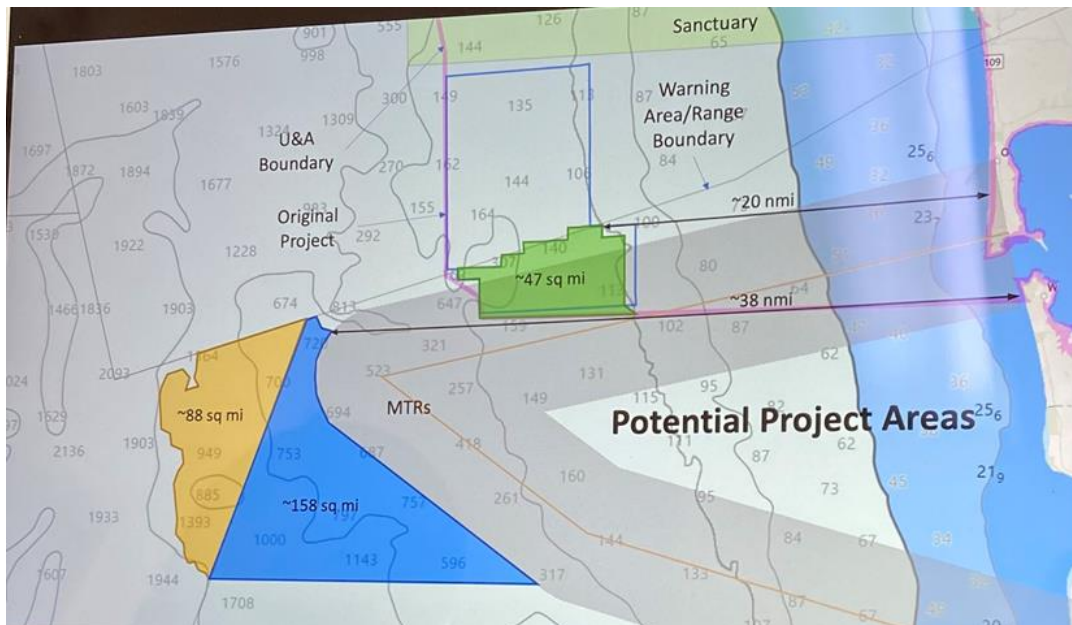


- The proposed Call Areas off Oregon encompass 2,181 square miles. By comparison, the two WEAs off California encompass 582 sq miles. The map of the three Call Areas off Oregon follows:
 - [The Coos Bay and Bandon Call Areas on NOAA Chart 18580](#)
 - [The Brookings Call Area on NOAA Chart 18600](#)

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.

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 March 11, 2022

- 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.
- [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

Table outlining upcoming meetings/deadline for March/April

This is the current schedule of upcoming events/meetings (as of 3/11)

4-4	MSC	Public comment deadline on Revised Standards	
4-5	NMFS	Stakeholder meeting to discuss NPA harvest strategies	https://www.federalregister.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)

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