



# What **AAFA** Is Doing For You

## OFFICE UPDATES

Please send in updated permits for Vessels into the office if they are expired or will expire during the season.

Make sure to get your Fishing Licenses for Oregon & Washington before the season starts. not all of our unloading stations are equipped to get them on the fly and you cannot unload without them.

Please return the Vessel packet if you haven't.

Please answer the survey Joshlyn sent out about preferred forms of communication (On and Off-Season).



## Consultant Reporting: Mike Conroy | April 2022

We wanted to thank everyone who attended the AAFA general meeting on April 28. We covered a lot of the material presented here, just in more detail and devoted time to answering questions to those in attendance.

### AAFA PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT ARM

In addition to the Board of Directors, AAFA formed a group known as the Professional Management Arm. See - [Professional Management Arm \(PMA\) - American Albacore Fishing Association](#). The information contained on that link is in the process of being updated. PMA is focused on providing advice to the Board on issues that may have an impact on the operation of the fishery. This is

a chance for any AAFA member to ensure they are made aware of potential issues and the ability to participate in a relatively small group to ensure your voices and concerns are heard as the Board considers AAFA's positions and/or actions. PMA is always seeking enthusiastic individuals who wish to have a say in the future of your fishery. There is no set schedule of meetings; but rather it meets as necessary as potential items arise. Issues that will likely be at the forefront of PMA discussions this year will be offshore renewable energy, potential management of the fishery, the US-Canada albacore Treaty, and international efforts related to biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. If you are interested in volunteering - please contact Joshlyn at [Admin@AmericanAlbacore.com](mailto:Admin@AmericanAlbacore.com).

[com](#). If you have questions about PMA or want to learn more - please contact Mike at [Mike@wecofm.com](mailto:Mike@wecofm.com).

### COVID-19 - SECOND ROUND OF FISHERIES ASSISTANCE

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

*continued on next page*





## Consultant Reporting:

### Mike Conroy - Continued

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") & FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THE FISHERY**

NMFS hosting a virtual U.S. stakeholder meeting on April 5, 2022, to discuss harvest strategy options with a focus on preparing to potentially propose management objectives, limit, and target reference points to the IATTC. This is the next step in developing management measures for the north pacific albacore fishery. AAFA was well represented and conversations continue, both within AAFA and with other industry stakeholders, to derive an industry position in management objectives and reference points.

#### **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. AAFA has participated in a number of calls/meetings about these proposed changes. We are in the process of completing our annual surveillance audit and we aren't expecting and issues to arise as a result.

#### **US - CANADA PACIFIC ALBACORE TREATY**

AAFA participated in the US-Canada Data Working Group Call on April 20. The data didn't reveal any surprises. It is anticipated that bilateral consultations will begin in June of this year regarding a future Regime.

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

The fourth UN Intergovernmental Conference was held in March of this year. At the conclusion of the Conference, "delegates decided to hold a fifth session [by the end of the year] with the goal of finalizing a new treaty and stressed the need to facilitate greater participation to allow all countries and communities to have a say in how marine resources existing outside of national jurisdiction should be shared."

#### **DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT - PFMC**

It is expected that there will be discussions on albacore during the upcoming June meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council. We suspect the Council will be asked to provide guidance to NMFS regarding management objectives for the fishery and reference points (target and limit). The PFMC's Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel is meeting, via webinar, on June 2nd from 1 - 4:30PM. The Agenda is not yet available; but will be posted here before the meeting - [Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel to hold online meeting June 2, 2022 - Pacific Fishery Management Council \(pcouncil.org\)](#)

The PFMC's Marine Planning Committee is meeting on May 24, from 1 - 4:30PM to discuss offshore wind off the State of Oregon as well as other items. There has been no webpage created on the PFMC's website for this event; but it should be found here before the May 24 date - [Events Archive - Pacific Fishery Management Council \(pcouncil.org\)](#)

#### **WIND FARMS OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST**

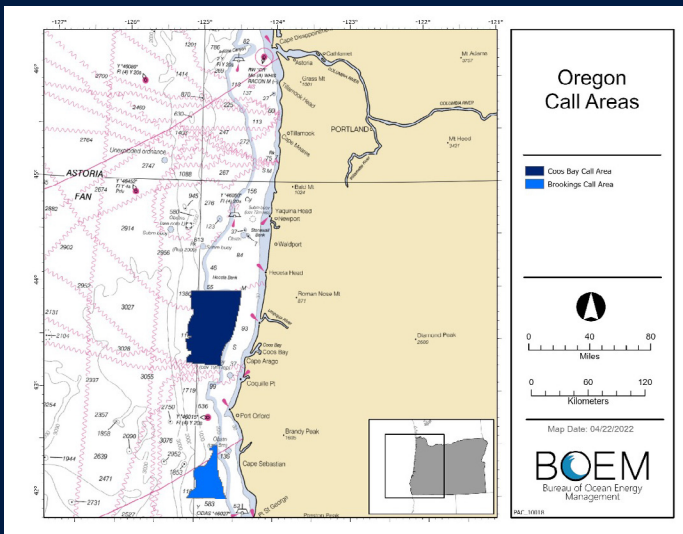
On April 7, the California Coastal Commission held a hearing to consider BOEM's request for a Consistency Determination for activities which would be allowed pursuant to lease sales in the Humboldt WEA. The Commission conditionally concurred.

#### [Morro Bay WEA](#)

The Draft EA for the Morro Bay WEA was published on April 6. The public comment period closes on May 16. On April 19, the Small Business Administration convened a workshop to hear from folks whose small business may be impacted by the Morro Bay WEA. AAFA was represented on this call.

## OFFSHORE RENEWABLES OFF THE OREGON COAST

On April 28, BEOM published in the Federal Register the Call Areas off Oregon – see <https://www.regulations.gov/document/BOEM-2022-0009-0001>. In total, the cover roughly 1,200 square miles. By comparison, the two WEAs off California encompass 582 sq miles. The map of the three Call Areas off Oregon follows:



In response Call Areas off the Oregon Coast, a fishing industry rally is being planned for May 10 in Coos Bay.

## OTHER ITEMS THROUGH MAY 1, 2022

On March 1, AAFA and WFOA held a meeting to discuss coordinating and collaborating on management and other activities. Both organizations agreed on a statement acknowledging the increased collaborations between the two organizations.

On March 25, NOAA and BOEM published a Draft Federal Survey Mitigation Strategy to address anticipated impacts of offshore wind energy development on NOAA Fisheries' scientific surveys. This will not impact the albacore fishery; but could have profound impacts on groundfish and coastal pelagic fisheries.

The USCG submitted its annual report to the PFMC. See <https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2022/03/i-1-a-us-cg-report-1-u-s-coast-guard-2021-report-to-the-pacific-fishery-management-council-april-2022-prepared-by-thirteenth-and-eleventh-coast-guard-district-and-thirteenth-coast-guard-district.pdf/>. Of interest:

"Two Canadian tuna trollers were boarded while fishing in the U.S. EEZ this year with no violations detected. All other Canadian vessels observed or queried were in com-

pliance with applicable treaty provisions"

"The Coast Guard is particularly concerned with continued reporting from the U.S. and Canadian Albacore fleets of net marked fish and potential movement of the Chinese fleet toward the US EEZ. Any fishermen with specific reports of vessel names, dates, and/or locations of Chinese vessels operating in the Northeastern Pacific Ocean are encouraged to make a report to any of the PFMC Enforcement Consultants." To this end – if you are fishing and see any vessels matching this description – please forward that information to myself and the AAFA office and we will ensure it is communicated.

Page 7 includes a discussion on High Seas Illegal, Unregulated, Unreported (IUU) Fishing.

"CGC BERTHOLF patrolled for 51 days, covered 27,000 NMs and completed 27 boardings on foreign flagged vessels, finding 42 potential violations during NPG 2021. Canada provided aircraft, shipriders, and intelligence support for this year's operation. Global Fishing Watch (GFW) contributed with intelligence support, including targeting and patrol planning analysis. NPG 2021's improved information and intelligence sharing between the U.S., Canada, Japan, Korea, and GFW produced intelligence-driven targeting which resulted in this Operation's highest ever number of violations per boarding, with over half of the violations detected being serious violations"

On April 14, NOAA published, in the Federal Register, a request for information re identifying Nations or Entities Engaged in Illegal, Unreported, or Unregulated Fishing, Bycatch of Protected Living Marine Resources, or Shark Fishing on the High Seas. See - [2022-07944.pdf \(govinfo.gov\)](https://www.govinfo.gov/2022-07944.pdf). The public comment period closes on 12/31/2022. If you see anything that looks suspicious while fishing, please document what you saw (ideally with pictures) and let us know!

On April 26, the House of Representatives, by a vote of 404-11, passed the American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act. That bill has previously passed the Senate, so now it goes to the President for his signature. See - <https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/s497/BILLS-117s497enr.pdf>. Its primary purpose is to ensure the fishing industry has a say in how S-K Grants funds are utilized. The Act defines "fishing community" as "harvesters, marketers, growers, processors, recreational fishermen, charter fishermen, and persons providing them with goods and services." Depending on how the Act is implemented, it could make the S-K Grant process much more political.

On April 29, members of the AAFA Board met with AFRF. Bottom line, AFRF is seeking AAFA's participation. We are still reviewing the materials the forwarded.

# UPCOMING MEETINGS AS OF 5/1

| DATE        | AGENCY | TOPIC                              | LINK FOR INFO   |
|-------------|--------|------------------------------------|---|
| 5/16 - 5/20 | IATTC  | Science Advisory Committee Meeting | <a href="https://www.iattc.org/en-US/Event/DetailEvent/Event-SAC-13">https://www.iattc.org/en-US/Event/DetailEvent/Event-SAC-13</a>   |
| 5/24        | PFMC   | Marine Planning Committee meeting  | Will share information when it is available   |
| 6/2         | PFMC   | HMSAS Virtual Meeting              | <a href="https://www.pcouncil.org/events/highly-migratory-species-advisory-subpanel-to-hold-online-meeting-june-2-2022/">https://www.pcouncil.org/events/highly-migratory-species-advisory-subpanel-to-hold-online-meeting-june-2-2022/</a> |
| 6/7 - 6/14  | PFMC   | June Council Meeting               | Information, when available, will appear here - <a href="#">June 8-14, 2022 Council Meeting - Pacific Fishery Management Council</a> . ( <a href="http://pcouncil.org">pcouncil.org</a> )   |

## AAFA GENERAL MEETING

### BOARD MEMBERS:

- Tim Thoms
- Carl Nish
- Rodney McVicker
- Eric Hopfer
- Eathan Wraith
- Jimmy Phillips
- Ryan Vantress
- Jake McMaster
- Arthur Lorton

### VESSELS CHOSEN FOR FUEL GRANT:

- F/V Millie G
- F/V Piky
- F/V Royal Dawn (alternate)

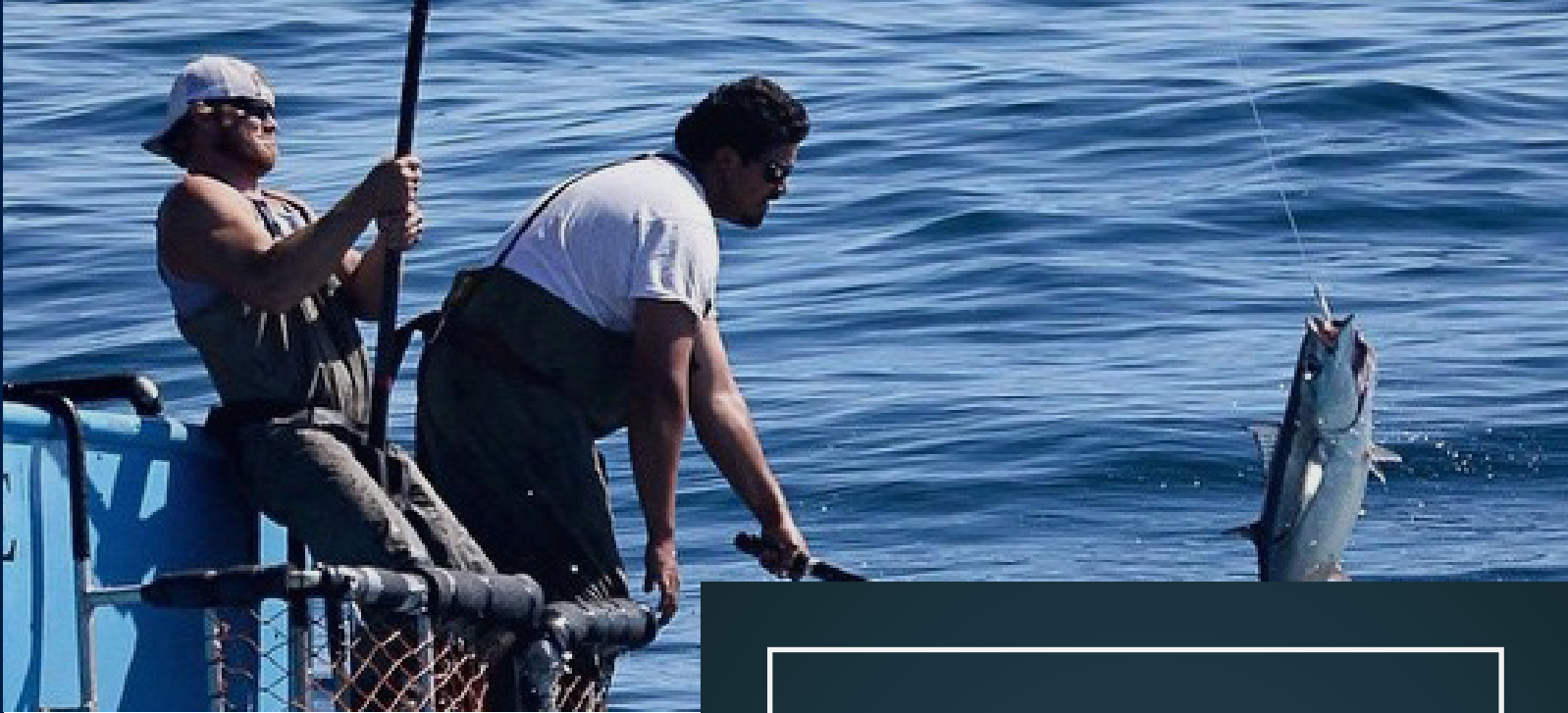
### OFFICE POSITIONS PER THE FOLLOWING:

- Tim Thomas - President
- Carl Nish - Vice-President
- Eric Hopfer - Secretary
- Rodney McVicker - Treasurer



### WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS!

We use your photos for social media, these newsletters, the website, and more. Please send us any high-resolution photos & videos of albacore tuna, you in action, or vessels: [admin@americanalbacore.com](mailto:admin@americanalbacore.com)



## Re AFAC

Mike Conroy

The American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act is intended to enable the fishing industry to have a say in how S-K Grants funds are allocated.

The primary purpose of the Act is to create an industry-led committee, the American Fisheries Advisory Committee (the "Committee") to assist in administration of fisheries marketing research and development grants.

Alaska Senator, Dan Sullivan, indicated that once the bill is signed into law, "our fishermen will again have a seat at the table to offer appropriate input and oversight of the Saltonstall-Kennedy grant process, identify opportunities for improvement and growth...".

The Committee will be comprised of representatives from the commercial fishing industry, the recreational fishing industry, processors, etc. As with most legislative initiatives that pass the Congress, the real work will begin when the Act's provisions are implemented by the Secretary of Commerce.

We hope the Secretary will engage all fishing community members to ensure the Committee is structured in a way that leads to its success

## S. 497: THE AMERICAN FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT PASSES HOUSE, GOES TO THE PRESIDENT NEXT

A bill to establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants, and for other purposes was passed by Congress on April 26, 2022 and goes to the President next.

This vote was taken under a House procedure called "suspension of the rules" which is typically used to pass non-controversial bills. Votes under suspension require a 2/3rds majority.

Yes - 404  
 No - 11  
 Other - 15

| Totals     |     | All Votes | Democrats | Republicans |
|------------|-----|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Yea        | 97% | 404       | 212       | 192         |
| Nay        | 3%  | 11        | 0         | 11          |
| Not Voting |     | 14        | 8         | 6           |

Passed. 2/3 Required. Source: [house.gov](https://www.house.gov).