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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 **May 1, 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. If you have questions about PMA or want to learn more – please contact Mike at 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 \(psmfc.org\)](#)
- 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 any issues to arise as a result.**

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.
- **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 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.
- 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 – Generally

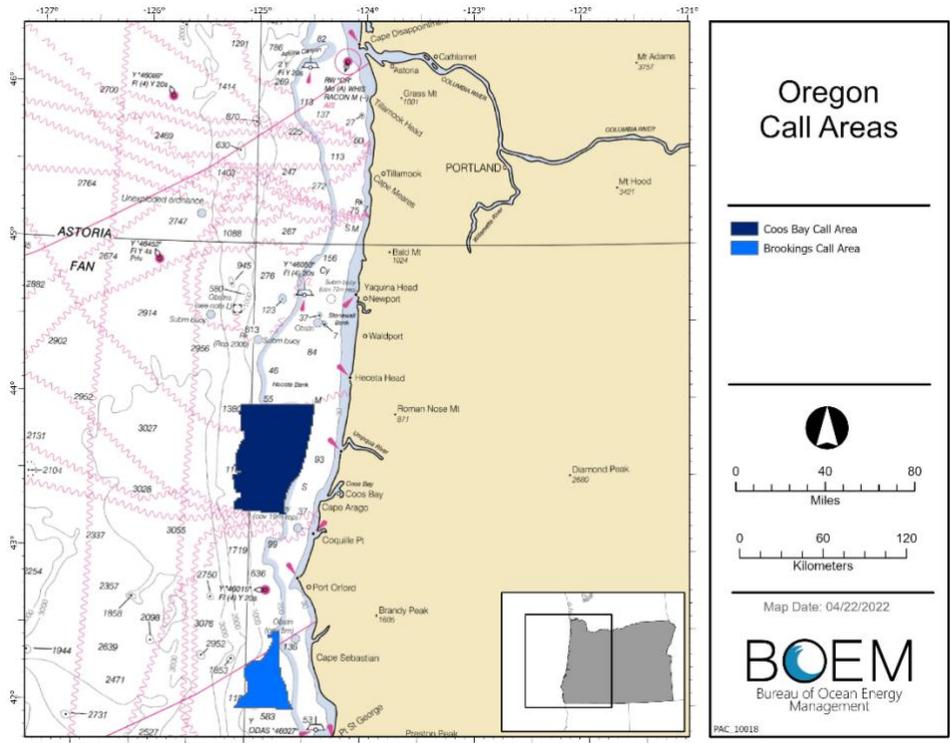
- RODA’s 2021 year-in-review is available here: [Year in Review \(rodafisheries.org\)](#)
- There are a number of lawsuits which resulted from the permitting of the Vineyard Wind Project. One was filed by RODA and challenges a number of actions which resulted in the permitting. Another filed on behalf 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.
 - 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.
- BOEM has expressed an intention to conduct lease sales for both WEAs in the Fall of 2022.

Offshore Renewables off the Oregon Coast

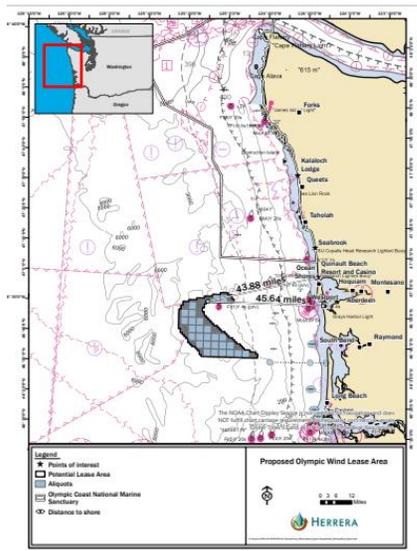
- In January, 2022 BOEM issued its [Data Gathering and Engagement Summary Report for Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Planning](#).
- On April 28, BEOM published in the Federal Register the Call Areas off Oregon – see <https://www.regulations.gov/document/BOEM-2022-0009-0001>. In total, the cover roughly 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.
- To note – the Southern border of the Brookings Call Area is roughly 51 miles above the Northern border of the Humboldt WEA.
- 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 **May 1, 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.
- 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-uscg-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 compliance 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 \(govinfo.gov\)](#). 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.

Table outlining upcoming meetings for May/June where AAFA will have a presence

This is the current schedule of upcoming events/meetings (as of 5/1)

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