



# What **AAFA** Is Doing For You

## OFFICE UPDATES

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 OR & WA 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.

There are tagged fish swimming around out there! See - [Albacore Tagging Reward Poster \(noaa.gov\)](#)



## Consultant Reporting: Mike Conroy | May 2022

### 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 \(psmfc.org\)](#)

### 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. A write-up on the Workshop was submitted to the PFMC by NMFS before the June

PFMC meeting – it can be accessed at [NPALB Apr 5 Meeting Summary \(pcouncil.org\)](#) (while it is a lengthy document, pay particular attention to the first 5 pages).

### 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.

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## Consultant Reporting:

Mike Conroy - Continued

### US - CANADA PACIFIC ALBACORE TREATY

AAFA participated in the US-Canada Treaty Consultation meeting on June 7. By and large it was a review of information provided during the Data Working Group Call. There are plans for an in-person formal negotiation this fall.

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

On May 30, a Further revised draft text of an agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction was published – see [IGC 5 - Further revised draft text final \(un.org\)](#). We have not yet had a chance to carefully review the full draft.

### DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT - PPMC

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). AAFA will be represented at the PPMC meeting

### WIND FARMS OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST

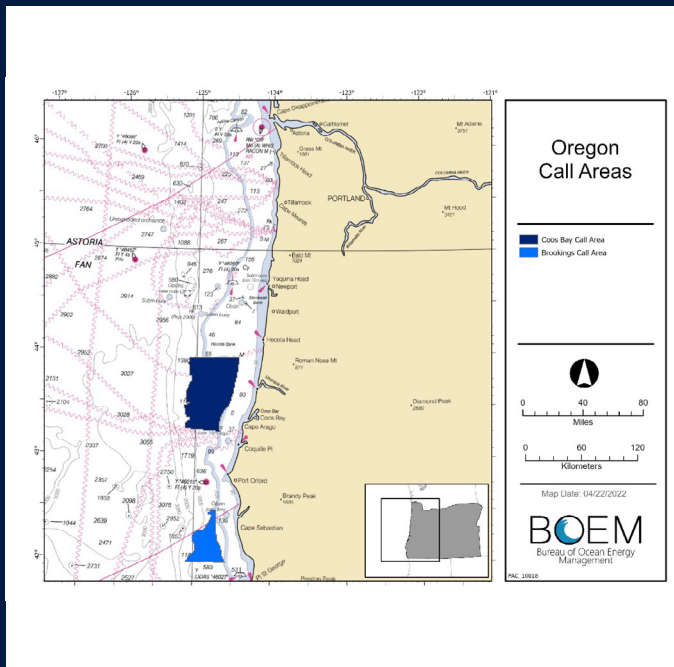
On April 7, the California Coastal Commission held a hearing to consider BOEM's request for a Consistency Determination for activities which would be allowed pursuant to lease sales in the Humboldt WEA. The Commission conditionally concurred. It is expected the Commission will make a similar conditional concurrent when it meets to discuss lease sales in the Morro Bay WEA on June 8.

On May 31, BOEM published a [Proposed Sale Notice](#) for the two Wind Energy Areas (Humboldt and Morro Bay) off the California Coast. The public comment period for that closes on August 1. It is envisioned that a Final Sale Notice will be published shortly after September 1, and the lease sales will take place before the end of the year.

### 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>. The Public Comment period closes on June 28. In total, the areas 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:





## OTHER ITEMS THROUGH JUNE 7, 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.

The USCG submitted its annual report to the PFM. 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 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 PFM 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.



# UPCOMING MEETINGS AS OF 6/7

DATE	AGENCY	TOPIC	LINK FOR INFO
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 (pccouncil.org)</a>
6/17	BOEM	BOEM Fisheries Mitigation Draft Guidance Public Meeting - Pacific Coast	<a href="#">Meeting Registration - Zoom</a>
6/29 - 6/30	IATTC	U.S. General Advisory Committee and Scientific Advisory Subcommittee	
7/26 - 8/5	IATTC	Annual Meetings of the IATTC	



## 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](mailto:admin@americanalbacore.com)