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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 **August 15, 2022**

Tagged albacore.

As a reminder, there are tagged fish swimming around out there! If you happen to catch an albacore with two types of tags – a Dart Tag and an Archival Tag – there are cash awards available to turning those in (up to \$500. See - [Albacore Tagging Reward Poster \(noaa.gov\)](#) – for instructions on how to claim the award if you catch a tagged fish.

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. **We are very happy to hear of the early season success with the fishery. We hope everyone remains safe and continues to catch!**

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 **within the third 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 \(psmfc.org\)](#)). It is anticipated that “Round 2” applications will become available **by mid-August of 022**. 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 \(psmfc.org\)](#)). **Applications are now available. They must be completed and submitted no later than 11:59 pm (PST) on Friday, October 14th, 2022.** See - [Washington CARES Act Information – Fisheries Relief \(psmfc.org\)](#) **for the Application.**

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 and 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.
- 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

- 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.”
- 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 \(un.org\)](#).

- The fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Conference on BBNJ is scheduled to take place in August. AAFA participated in a US Stakeholder call on July 26.

Domestic Management – PFMC

- The June meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council did have a discussion about the development of a harvest strategy for North Pacific Albacore. AAFA's positions were communicated to the PFMC and the PFMC adopted the industry's recommendations.
- The Council's Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met on July 26. Topics discussed included offshore wind, the Aquaculture Opportunity Area in Southern California, and the policy document.
 - Offshore wind.
 - Updates were provided on offshore wind moving forward off all three states
 - Aquaculture Opportunity Area off Southern California
 - NOAA plans to issue a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement towards the end of the year
- It is not expected that North Pacific Albacore will be a primary topic of conversation during the September PFMC meeting.

International Management

- During the recently completed IATTC meeting, a [Resolution presented by the US, Canada and Japan](#) was adopted which identified a harvest strategy for North Pacific Albacore. AAFA and WFOA worked together to ensure any language creating harvest control rules was removed until next year when industry had a chance to review and make recommendations.

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.
- On June 23rd, BOEM published [DRAFT Guidelines for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and Recreational Fisheries on the Outer Continental Shelf Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585](#). AAFA is coordinating with RODA in developing comments.

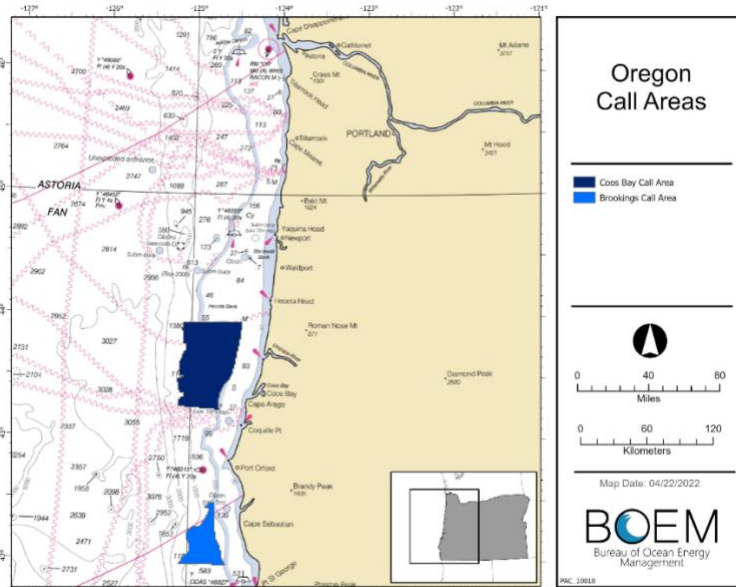
Wind farms off the California Coast

- 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.
 - **The California Coastal Commission conditionally concurred on both WEAs earlier this year.**
- [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.
- On May 31, BOEM published a [Proposed Sale Notice](#) for the two Wind Energy Areas (Humboldt and Morro Bay) off the California Coast. 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.
- On August 11, the California Energy Commission (CEC) adopted its Final Report on Offshore Wind Planning Goals for 2030 and 2045. It established goals of 2-5 GW by 2030 and 25 GW by 2045. AAFA

consultant, Mike Conroy, was on a panel during a recent (June 27) CEC meeting arguing against increasing the 2030 goals beyond those numbers.

Offshore Renewables off the Oregon Coast

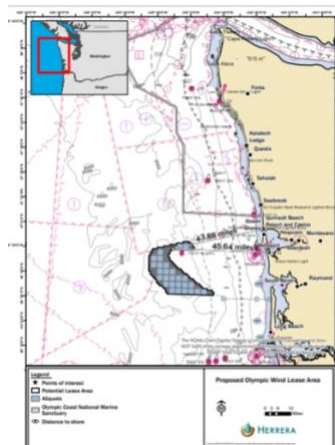
- In January, 2022 BOEM issued its [Data Gathering and Engagement Summary Report for Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Planning](#).
- On April 28, BEOM published in the Federal Register the Call Areas off Oregon – see <https://www.regulations.gov/document/BOEM-2022-0009-0001>. In total, the areas cover roughly 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:



- 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.
- AAFA and WFOA submitted a joint comment letter in response to the Call For Information. It is expected that BOEM will announce Wind Energy Areas off the Oregon Coast later this year

Offshore Renewables off the Washington Coast

- There have been two unsolicited lease request submitted for federal waters off the State of Washington. BOEM is still reviewing the lease applicant’s ability to perform under the lease request. The following is a map of an area off Washington which was of interest to at least one potential developer.



Other items through **August 15, 2022**

- 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.
- The USCG submitted its [Annual Enforcement Report to the Pacific Fishery Management Council West Coast Enforcement Division in June](#). There was one reported violation for a commercial Albacore tuna fishing vessel. The citation was for failure to record two trips in the fishermen’s logbook. A \$500 settlement was paid.
- President Biden signed a National Security Memorandum to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and Associated Labor Abuses. The Fact Sheet is available here - [FACT SHEET: President Biden Signs National Security Memorandum to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and Associated Labor Abuses - The White House](#). Depending on how it is implemented, it may help even the playing field for U.S. harvesters.
- The commercial fishing exemption under California’s AB5 expires at the end of the year. AAFA consultant has been working with friendly legislators in Sacramento to get that exemption extended for another three years. As of early August, AB 2955, appears to be headed for passage.
- The USFWS published the Congressionally mandated *Feasibility Assessment: Sea Otter Reintroduction to the Pacific Coast*. This could impact other fisheries AAFA members participate in in Northern California and Oregon.

Table outlining upcoming meetings where AAFA will have a presence

This is the current schedule of upcoming events/meetings (as of 8/15)

9/9 – 9/14	PFMC	September Council Meeting – Boise, Idaho	Meeting Agenda available here - https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2022/08/september-2022-council-meeting-agenda.pdf/
10/4 – 10/7	NC	18 th Regular Session of the Northern Committee	18th Regular Session of the Northern Committee WCPFC Meetings
11/2 – 11/8	PFMC	November Council Meeting – Garden Grove, Ca	
11/27 – 12/3	WCPFC	19 th Regular Session of the Commission	19th Regular Session of the Commission WCPFC Meetings