



What **AAFA** Is Doing For You

OFFICE UPDATES

Hope everyone had a safe and successful season. Now that the “offseason” approaches, there will likely be a number of things that come up in the next 6 or so months that will require some attention. In no particular order: (1) The US-Canada Treaty, (2) Offshore wind, (3) Harvest Control Rule discussion and decisions, (4) MSC recertification, (5) and likely more things!



Consultant Reporting: Mike Conroy

September & October 2022

COVID-19 – SECOND ROUND OF FISHERIES ASSISTANCE

California – Disbursements are likely to occur by the end of 2022. See - [California CARES Act Information – Fisheries Relief \(psmfc.org\)](#)

Oregon – Oregon’s Amended “Round 2” spend plan was approved in July of 2022 (see - [OR-CARES-2.0-spend-plan_2022.07.22.pdf \(psmfc.org\)](#)). Oregon’s “Round 2” CARES Act Fisheries Assistance applications became available at midnight on Thursday, September 1st, 2022. Applicants will have until 11:59 pm (PST) on Monday, October 31st, 2022 to apply. 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 \(psmfc.org\)](#)). The application period closed at 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 hosted 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. During its July meeting

the IATTC agreed upon a Harvest Strategy for North Pacific albacore (NPA). A recommended measure which was based on the IATTC Resolution was adopted by the Northern Committee in early October (see below). AAFA was well represented at both the IATTC and NC meetings.

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. The annual surveillance audit was completed

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Consultant Reporting:

Mike Conroy - Continued

and no issues were found. We are still learning about the new Fisheries Standard and its potential impact on future certifications. However, given the agreed upon measures related to future management of the fishery, we are less concerned about potential problems with the certification.

US - CANADA PACIFIC ALBACORE TREATY

We just completed 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. An in-person negotiation has been scheduled to take place virtually and in Vancouver, BC on November 8 & 9. The State Department has scheduled a U.S. stakeholder call for October 28. Dave Hogan, State Dept, has implied that he may provide an update on the Treaty during the November PFMC meeting. AAFA will be present at all of these.

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

The fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Conference on BBNJ took place in August. AAFA participated in a US Stakeholder call on July 26.

DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT - PFMC

The September meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council did not have any items specific to NPA on its Agenda. That being said, the Council did take the advice of the HMSAS and recommended that the NC follow the lead of the IATTC when considering a harvest strategy for NPA.

The Council's Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met on September 30. Topics discussed included the status of offshore wind off all three west coast states, utilization of a spatial suitability model in informing draft wind energy areas off Oregon (see below), and the US Coast Guard's draft Pacific Coast Port Access Route Study (PAC PARS), and an update on the West Coast Ocean Alliance. The MPC posted an overview of the meeting in the Council's Briefing Books - see <https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2022/10/c-6-a-mpc-report-1.pdf/>.

It is possible that the State Department will provide an update on the US-Canada Treaty during the November PFMC meeting.

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT

The NC held a virtual met October 3 – 5. AAFA attended and participated in the meeting. Although there was an effort to have the NC include harvest control rules in their recommended measure to be forwarded to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, the NC opted to adopt a recommendation that largely mirrored the IATTC Resolution. See - [DRAFT Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore Fishery \(16Sep\) - Rev.02 \(Adopted\) | WC-PFC Meetings](#). This recommendation will now be forwarded to the full WCPFC for adoption (or rejection) during its meeting later this year

WIND FARMS – GENERALLY

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.

NOAA and BOEM jointly announced an effort to acquire and use the best available information and knowledge in its decision making. BOEM is improving its processes for identifying future offshore wind energy sites. The Bureau will apply these changes to ongoing planning efforts in the Gulf of Mexico, Central Atlantic and Gulf of Maine, and off the Oregon coast. BOEM will employ a spatial model that analyzes entire marine ecosystems to identify the best areas for wind energy sites in the above locations. The model is being designed and developed by NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS).

WIND FARMS OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST

There are two Wind Energy Areas (WEA) which have been designated off California.

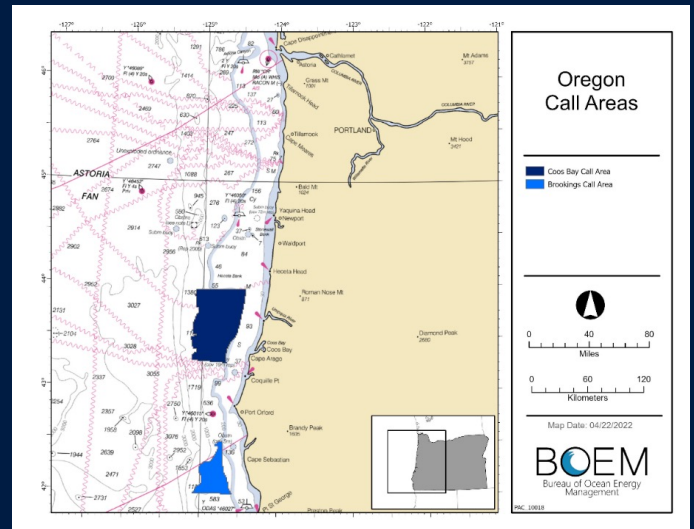
[Humboldt WEA](#)

The California Coastal Commission conditionally concurred on both WEAs earlier this year.

[Morro Bay WEA](#)

The Final EA for the Morro Bay WEA was published on October 5.

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.



OFFSHORE RENEWABLES OFF THE OREGON COAST

As noted above, BOEM has indicated it will be utilizing a spatial suitability model to assess areas within the Call Areas which are the least conflicted. These will then be published as Draft Wind Energy Areas (WEAs). This is a change in BOEM's process. We expect this will delay the identification of those draft WEAs until the first quarter of 2023.

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 two requests are as follows:

[Olympic Wind](#) – 292 sq miles (See page 10 of the ULR for a map of the area)

[Cascadia Wind](#) – 403 sq miles (See page 13 of the ULR for a map of the area)

OTHER ITEMS THROUGH OCTOBER 15, 2022

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. Governor Newsom signed this into law in August.

The US Coast Guard publish its Draft Pacific Coast Port Access Route Study in August. The public comment deadline was initially October 25; but that has been extended until November 8. The [following link](#) will take you to a website that shows the proposed Fairways off the US West Coast, provides a link to the Draft Study, and has recordings workshops the USCG held on the Draft Study.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AS OF 10/15

DATE	AGENCY	TOPIC	LINK FOR INFO
TREATY 10/28 11/8-9	DELEGATION BILATERALS		
11/2 - 11/8	PFMC	November Council Meeting - Garden Grove, Ca	
11/27-12/3	PFMC	19th Regular Session of the Commission	19th Regular Session of the Commission WCP-FC Meetings



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