



What **AAFA** Is Doing For You

Sustainability into 2021

AAFA seeks to ensure responsible fishery management practices and the participation of vital fishing communities. It supports education regarding responsible fishing methods and promotes the health benefits of tuna consumption along with environmental benefits of sustainable fishery practices.



Updates Mike Conroy Reports

2021 INSIDE

THE OCEAN-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS ACT ("THE ACT")

- Senator Merkley (D-Or) introduced a similar bill towards the end of the last Congress which did NOT include Title's II, III and VIII of the Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act
- Dr. Ray Hilborn, on behalf of other prominent Marine Scientists sent a letter to Congress indicating that the 30 x 30 initiative was not the best way to protect biodiversity in the Ocean. You can read that here: - [An Open Letter to the 116th Congress from U.S. Marine Fishery Scientists - Sustainable Fisheries UW](#) (sustainablefisheries-uw.org)

COVID-19

- Legislation signed into law on December 27 includes another \$300M for fisheries assistance. The Act also requires the Secretary of Agriculture to spend no less than \$1.5B on purchases of food and agricultural products, including seafood. At present there has been no guidance issued on either of those provisions. This legislation also provides additional funds in the Paycheck Protection Program.
- California businesses: The State of California is making available up to \$25,000 in Grant funds for businesses. The amount you can apply for is based upon Eligible Businesses An-

nual Revenue (EBAR).

- If your EBAR is between \$1,000 - \$100,000, the Grant amount available is \$5,000.
- If your EBAR is between \$100,000 - \$1,000,000, the Grant amount available is \$15,000.
- If your EBAR is between \$1,000,000 - \$2,500,000, the Grant amount available is \$25,000.

For more information on the Program, please see the California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program's website at <https://careliefgrant.com/>. If you think you qualify; and are interesting in specific about how to apply, please [see online](#) (Caveat - 69 pages). You must register by January 13 to access the Grant.





REGULATORY RESPONSE

- The State of Washington has submitted its spend plan to NOAA; but as of January 6, it has not been approved.

NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE - MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION (“MSE”)

- AAFA received a verbal commitment from the modelers to provide a presentation during the 2021 annual meeting.
- The 5th MSE Workshop is likely to be held sometime in the middle of March of 2021.

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

- Intersessional work took place over the fall; but in our conversations with the State Department we learned, this was “not a formal negotiation but just an opportunity for delegations to continue informally exchanging views in a more organized way before the rescheduled IGC meeting convenes sometime next year.”

WIND FARMS OFF THE WEST COAST

Three notable actions took place in December which will impact offshore wind.

- Legislation was passed that requires offshore wind

projects to be compliant with the Jones Act

- The Secretary of the Interior determined that the developer of the Vineyard Project (east coast) formally withdrew their Application. This in response to the developer’s request to temporarily withdraw the Application.

- The Department of the Interior’s Office of the Solicitor issued a legal memorandum which gives the fishing industry much more say in the offshore wind permitting process.

We suspect the third item above will be replaced by a new memorandum when the new Administration takes over. It remains to be seen what the new Administration can do with the second item above.

- AAFA’s consultant and the Executive Director of RODA had a meeting with California State Senator McGuire. He notified us that State legislation was imminent which would streamline the permitting process. He promised to let us review and comment on the legislation. We provided a laundry list of asks, from research funding, to creating a fisheries working group with the power to make binding recommendations, to required compensatory mitigation, to an independent study on realized job creation from OSW, and more.

- We are beginning to see a ramp up in activities re offshore wind in the State of Oregon. There are webinars on Siting of Renewable Energy in Oregon and an introduction to the Oregon Offshore Wind Mapping Tool (OROW-indMap). The Tool can be viewed [here](#).

OTHER ITEMS & UPDATES

AAFA

CONGRESSMAN YOUNG (R-AK) HAS INTRODUCED LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD REAUTHORIZE THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT.

Congressman Huffman (D-Ca) circulated a discussion draft of a bill with the same purpose in December. AAFA's consultants will be offering comments on both and will remain engaged throughout the process.



In addition to a significant shift toward rapid development of offshore wind farms, the Biden/Harris Administration already is signaling its intent to pursue more conservation-oriented fisheries management policies. The first senior political appointment to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is Karen Hyun, a former Obama Administration official, who comes in straight from the Audubon Society. She brings significant experience from her prior government service, and will be an effective manager and policy expert at the agency. Also appointed to NOAA policy positions were Letise LaFeir and Emily McAuliffe, the former from an eNGO and the latter is a Democratic staffer from the House Natural Resources Committee. By filling these positions with seasoned environmental advocates, the new Administration is expected to advance fisheries management policies that emphasize the precautionary approach, prioritize climate change impacts, and elevate the protection of living marine resources (especially marine mammals).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MARCH 2-12:
PACIFIC FISHERY
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

MID TO LATE MARCH:
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
EVALUATION WORKSHOP FOR
NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE

APRIL 1ST:
GENERAL MEETING VIA ZOOM