



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.



Consultant Reporting: Mike Conroy | **August 2021**

COVID-19

The CA DFW submitted a draft spend plan to NOAA in mid-July. As of August 2, they had not yet received a response from NOAA as to whether or not it has been approved. We are unaware of where ODFW or WDFW are in the process. The CA DFW submitted a draft spend plan to NOAA in mid-July. As of August 2, they had not yet received a response from NOAA as to whether or not it has been approved. We are unaware of where ODFW or WDFW are in the process.

WIND FARMS - GENERALLY

In middle July, RODA distributed two surveys for fishing industry participants to fill out regarding offshore wind. The first survey asks about research priorities and the second highlights what a compensation program might look like for fishermen displaced by wind projects. Below are links to the surveys:

Research Priorities: Please fill out this [Google form](#); Impact Fees/Compensatory

Mitigation: Review this [short synopsis](#) of the current and potential approaches for impact fees for the fishing industry, then fill out this [online survey](#).



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Consultant Reporting: Mike Conroy - Continued

WIND FARMS OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST

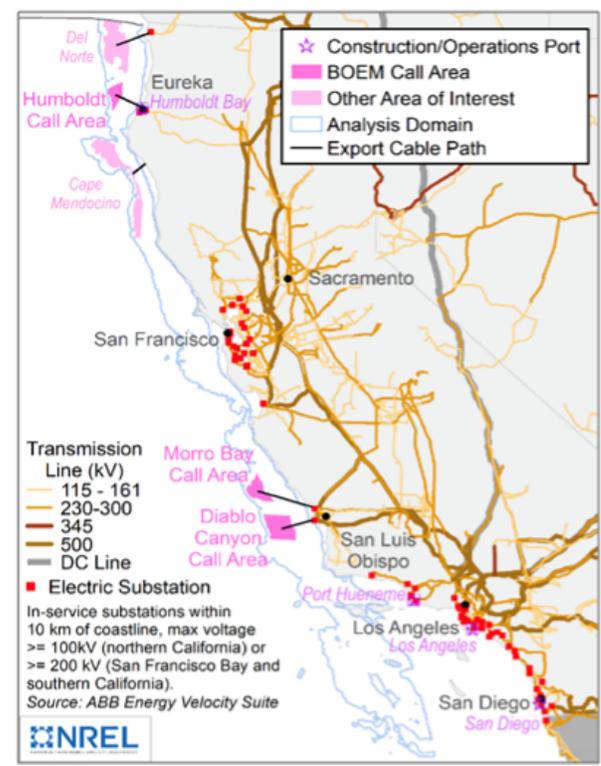
On July 16, the California State Lands Commission released a Draft Preliminary Environmental Assessment for public review on the two pilot projects. Comments are due by September 13.

AAFA participated in BOEM-California Intergovernmental Task Force Meeting (July 13); and (2) A two-day (July 22nd and 23rd) PFMC meeting covering marine planning and offshore development.

The BOEM-California Intergovernmental Task Force Meeting met on July 13, 2021. While much of it was nothing more than a review of what we already knew, there were some interesting details unveiled. For example, BOEM and the State are hoping to develop up to 12.8 GW of offshore wind energy off Northern California. A slide was shown during the webinar – a screenshot of that is provided below.

On July 28, BOEM announced it was (1) publishing a Call for Information and Nominations (Call) to request information from the public and determine industry interest in commercial offshore wind energy development for two new areas within a 399-square-mile area located off

central California, identified as the [Morro Bay Call Area East and West Extensions](#); and (2) designating the Humboldt Call Area as a Wind Energy Area (WEA) and conducting an environmental assessment (EA) of the WEA. Public comments for each of these actions will be accepted through September 13.



OFFSHORE RENEWABLES OFF THE OREGON COAST

On August 4 and 11, (BOEM) and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) are hosting data review virtual workshops. Aug 4 is the Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Planning Data Review Virtual Workshop; and Aug 11 is the Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Planning Fisheries Data Review Virtual Workshop. AAFA intends to attend the Aug 11 Workshop.

OFFSHORE RENEWABLES OFF THE WASHINGTON COAST

On July 10, we learned that Oregon Initiative 13 has received sufficient sponsorship signatures and now needs 112,020 signatures to be placed on the 2022 Oregon Ballot. This Ballot initiative would criminalize most, if not all, animal protein production in Oregon. We are engaged with fishing groups in Oregon. If you want to read the language, you can do so here [013text.pdf \(oregonvotes.org\)](#). Note, the Colorado Supreme Court recently found that similar language proposed in Colorado would have been illegal.

July 20 article in the Chinook Observer noting the slow start to the albacore season - [Tuna too few: Commercial season off to standard slow start | News | chinookobserver.com](#)

July 26 - Congressmen Huffman and Case introduce the Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act of 2021. We are still digesting the language.

On July 27, MSC issued a press release which indicated, "Twenty-two tuna fisheries in the Western Central Pacific Ocean could face suspension of their certification to the Marine Stewardship Council's Standard for sustainable fishing unless an international agreement is reached on how to set controls on catch limits between 26 countries." This does NOT impact the albacore fishery in the Eastern Pacific; but may impact the South Pacific Albacore fishery. See - [Progress in critical Western Central Pacific tuna fisheries talks needed to ensure sustainable fishing | Marine Stewardship Council \(msc.org\)](#)

On July 28, at about 11:00PM out time - an 8.2 earthquake hit in the Gulf of Alaska. I am wondering if there was an impact on catch in the days preceding or following the quake.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AS OF 7/31

AUGUST 4 & 11

BOEM - OREGON DATA WORKSHOPS

AUGUST 16 - 27

98TH IATTC MEETING TO BE HELD VIA WEBINAR

AUGUST 17:

CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY WEBINAR ADVANCING 30X30: CONSERVATION OF COASTAL WATERS

SEPTEMBER 8-15

PFMC MEETING TO BE HELD VIA WEBINAR

OCTOBER 5 - 7

NORTHERN COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD VIA WEBINAR

OCTOBER 11 - 15

IATTC MEETING (IF NECESSARY)

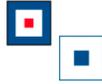
NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 7

18TH MEETING OF THE WCPFC

- Mike Conroy

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: tunamedia@americanalbacore.com



WINDWARD STRATEGIES LLC

Consultant Reporting: Jay Sterne Windward Strategies Report July 2021

Congress

If June was oceans month, July was the bug build up to infrastructure legislation. Late Sunday evening Senate Infrastructure negotiators reached agreement on a 2700+ bill to invest in a very broad array of infrastructure categories. In the oceans and fisheries framework, NOAA would receive significant funding boosts.

- \$2.611B for NOAA Operations, Research & Facilities (ORF) over five years:
- \$492M for Coastal Security Fund grants
- \$491M for technical assistance of restoring marine, estuarine, coastal, or Great lakes ecosystem habitat, or constructing or protecting ecological features that protect coastal communities from flooding or coastal storms
- \$492M for coastal and inland flood inundation mapping and forecasting, and next generation water modeling activities

- \$25M for data acquisition pursuant to the Water Resources Development Act of 2020
- \$50M for wildfire prediction, detection, observation, modeling, and forecasting
- \$150M for marine debris assessment, prevention, mitigation, and removal
- \$50M for marine debris prevention and removal through the National Sea Grant College Program
- \$207M for habitat restoration projects under the Coastal Zone Management Act
- \$77M for habitat restoration projects through the National Estuarine Research Reserve System
- \$100M for supporting improved and enhanced coastal, ocean, and Great lakes observing Systems
- \$56M for Regional Ocean Partnerships to coordinate interstate and intertribal management of ocean and coastal resources and to implement their priority actions
- \$20M for consultations related to the Endangered Species

Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and Essential Fish Habitat

- \$400M for restoring fish passage

\$180M for NOAA Procurement, Acquisition, & Construction (PAC) for two years:

- \$50M for observation and dissemination infrastructure used for wildfire prediction, detection, and forecasting
- \$80M for research supercomputing infrastructure used for weather and climate model development
- \$50M for coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes observing systems

These funds would primarily flow to NOAA and OAR, with some also to NMFS, OMAO, NSDES, and NWS. However, the bill's text is spartan in many areas, including with the NOAA sections, and the absence of Report language to provide additional Congressional intent and direction to NOAA will make implementation interesting.

The Senate is working through its procedures leading up to a final vote on the bill as early as this weekend.





CONSULTANT REPORTING (CONTINUED)

Jay Sterne

On the House side, the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a legislative hearing on 15 bills, including H.R. 274, the Keep Finfish Free Act, and H.R. 3075, the Illegal Fishing and Forced Labor Prevention Act. The hearing was broken up into three panels: Congressional, administration, and non-federal witnesses.



Chairman Jared Huffman (D-CA-02) discussed his Illegal Fishing and Forced Labor Prevention Act, and said that illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing is tied to other crimes including slavery and human trafficking. He said that a report found that 11 percent of seafood, or \$2.4 billion of value, was caught illegally in 2019. He said that the legislation would expand the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) to cover all species and expand data and reporting requirements to assist with seafood traceability, and would expand the definition of IUU to include human trafficking and forced labor.

Janet Coit, Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, testified that NOAA is committed to fighting IUU fishing and supports the goals of the bill, but pointed out that the SIMP and AIS requirements were problematic. On SIMP, she said that NOAA currently covers 13 of the most at-risk for IUU species groups, which comprise over 1,000 individual species. She said NOAA would reevaluate the initial species risk assessment and

add more species as needed. The bill would also require AIS on all US fishing, processing, or tender vessels greater than 50 feet, but Coit said that would be duplicative of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirements.

Huffman said that Congress has asked NOAA to expand the definition of "IUU" several times, most recently in the December 2020 omnibus, and asked when a draft rule to change the definition would be introduced for public comment. Coit replied that NOAA takes forced labor in seafood very seriously, but she did not know when a draft rule would be ready, and that NOAA needs input from other agencies. Huffman said there is an obligation for the administration to produce a new definition. He said the traceability on seafood under SIMP currently only applies to 40 percent of seafood and pointed out that the original intent was to expand the program to cover all seafood imports, and asked if NOAA would commit to expanding SIMP to all seafood within the next year. Coit said that NOAA is reassessing the species covered by SIMP and will expand the number based on that reevaluation, but she could not commit to expanding it to all species immediately.

NOAA/NMFS

President Joe Biden tapped Jainey Bavishi to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Conservation and Management at NOAA. Bavishi most recently served as the director of the New York Mayor's Office of Climate Resiliency. If confirmed, she will report directly to NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad as a Deputy Administrator and will oversee the oceans/fisheries conservation and management components of the agency.

On July 19, AAFA participated on a call with NMFS headquarters and regional staff to discuss problems associated with access to refrigerated containers and increasing shipping costs adversely affecting the Albacore fishery. Natalie Webster provided an overview on how COVID-19 has disrupted traditional logistics, increased overall operational costs, and is continuing to hurt fishermen. The NOAA officials had been unaware of the specific impacts on the Albacore fleet, and AAFA is continuing to work with the agency to develop potential solutions.