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Please share the following with the AAFA Board and Membership as it recounts items of interest that arose during the month of June and looks forward to certain events occurring in upcoming months.

PFMC Appointments

On June 27, the Secretary of Commerce announced appointments to the PFMC. Christa Svensson, Albers Seafood/Jesse’s Ilwaco is taking the Oregon seat being vacated by Dorothy Loman. The two California seats are being filled by Louis Zimm (recreational fishermen from San Diego) and Bob Dooley (Groundfish from Northern California). The big buyers in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska were instrumental here.

Follow-up on May’s upcoming events:

1. *June 7 - 13 – PFMC Meeting.* Although there were no Agenda Items specific to North Pacific Albacore, the Council was made aware of the recent actions taken by the Canadian Government with regard to the Treaty – the requirement for a license and the proposed expansion of the Endeavor Hydrothermal Vents MPA. The Council expressed support for US fishermen and tasked NMFS with keeping the Council updated.

Federal Register Items of Interest:

In past reports we have highlighted actions taken against Canadian importers and industry by the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce and The United States International Trade Commission. The intent was to show how there are some tensions between the two Nations on certain trade issues. We simply list the publication date in the Federal Register, the topic of the publication and provide a link if the reader wishes to learn more about the publication.

Date	Topic	Link
Jun 1	Canadian Govt seeks creation of dispute resolution panel under the World Trade Organization re anti-dumping measures for Softwood Lumber from Canada,	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-01/pdf/2018-11777.pdf
June 1	Canadian Govt seeks creation of dispute resolution panel under the World Trade Organization re countervailing measures for Softwood Lumber from Canada	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-01/pdf/2018-11776.pdf
June 15	International Trade Administration of the US grants an postponement of preliminary determination on less-than-fair-value investigation for large diameter welded pipe imported from Canada and other nations	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-15/pdf/2018-12899.pdf
June 25	Office of the Trade Representative of the US requests establishment of a dispute resolution panel under the World Trade Organization re the sale of wine in grocery stores in British Columbia which negatively impacted imported wine.	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-25/pdf/2018-13488.pdf

1. June 11 – This may not impact most, if not all AAFA vessels; but the USCG is proposing to revise merchant mariner credentialing regulations to remove obsolete portions of the radar observer requirements. This will impact anyone who has a radar observer endorsement on his/her USCG issued license. See - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-11/pdf/2018-12502.pdf>
2. June 11 – Dept of Commerce publishes its Semiannual Regulatory Agenda which looks ahead to actions which are planned to be published in the Federal Register in the second half of 2018. Items that may be of interest to AAFA: International Fisheries; South Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Implementation of Amendments to the South Pacific Tuna Treaty. See - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-11/pdf/2018-11235.pdf>
3. June 12 – NMFS publishes an advance notice of proposed rulemaking with a request for comments regarding whether to continue, or to revise, the management regime for fishing vessels that target tuna and other highly migratory fish species (HMS) in the area of overlap in jurisdiction between the IATTC and WCPFC. Comments requested on whether U.S. fishing vessels fishing in that area should be governed by conservation measures adopted by IATTC or conservation measures adopted by WCPFC. See - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-12/pdf/2018-12554.pdf>
4. June 22 – Executive Order 13840 revokes the Executive Order which created the National Ocean Policy. This new EO maintains and enhances benefits to the Nation (achieved via the ocean, coasts and Great Lake waters) through improved public access to marine data and information, efficient interagency coordination on ocean-related matters, and engagement with marine industries, the science and technology community, and other ocean stakeholders. To advance these national interests, this order recognizes and supports Federal participation in regional ocean partnerships, to the extent appropriate and consistent with national security interests and statutory authorities. See - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-22/pdf/2018-13640.pdf>
5. June 28 – Dept of Commerce seeks comment on the content of a report, Science and Technology for America's Oceans: A Decadal Vision. This document identifies pressing research needs and areas of opportunity within the ocean S&T enterprise for the coming decade, 2018–2028. Comments are due by August 27. See - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-28/pdf/2018-13926.pdf>. At the date of this writing, we have not yet read this document, as such we offer no comments as to the content or the need to comment.

Other items of interest:

1. *June 4* – Up to 54% of high seas fishing would not be profitable without government subsidies. See - <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2018/06/high-seas-fishing-subsidies-oceans-science/>
2. *June 14* – The AAFA and WFOA North Pacific Albacore fishery obtained MSC recertification for a 3rd time.
3. *June 18* – Bilateral call with US/Canadian Govts re the license requirement and proposed expansion of the MPA. The Canadian Govt agreed with our claims that the Endeavor Hydrothermal Vents MPA was never meant to disallow surface fishing. As such, that area remains open to licensed US vessels. The Canadian Govt admitted that the rollout of the new license requirement was less than satisfactory; but did not agree to not enforce this requirement this year.
4. *June 20* – Washington State announced release of its Marine Spatial Plan for Washington's Pacific Coast. See - <https://ecologywa.blogspot.com/2018/06/marine-spatial-plan-adopted-to-protect.html>. If you want to see the 566 Page report – see http://msp.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/WA_final_MSP.pdf. The goal of the Marine Spatial Plan is to provide “a tool to protect ocean resources and uses, to guide potential applicants as they develop proposals for new ocean uses, and to assist state agencies and others, including

local, tribal, and federal governments, in evaluating and engaging in those proposals more effectively.” AAFA participated with the Coalition of Coastal Fisheries (CCF) in ensuring areas important to the albacore fleets (fishing areas and bait areas) were noted and taken into account when developing the Marine Spatial Plan.

5. *June 22* – Chinese vessel caught with 80 tons of salmon harvested using driftnets on the high seas. See - <http://www.ktuu.com/content/news/Illegal-fishing-boat-detained-by-USCG-with-80-tons-salmon-on-board-486297201.html>
6. *June 29* – the Canadian Government announced a series of tariffs on US good in retaliation for the tariffs the US placed on steel and aluminum coming from Canada. It does not appear that any seafood products are included on the list. See - <https://www.fin.gc.ca/access/tt-it/cacsap-cmpcaa-1-eng.asp>.
7. *June 29* - US-Canada albacore treaty Data Working Group met, via webinar, to hold the annual data exchange. Below are some of the highlights from the data exchange.
 - Canadian fishermen landed 1,831 mt of Albacore in 2017. 75% of that from US waters; 13.8% from the high seas and 11.2% from Canadian waters.
 - US fishermen landed 7,216 mt of Albacore in 2017. 97.9% from US waters, 2% from the high seas and 0.1% from Canadian waters. Note – the US data is considered preliminary because only 42% of logbooks have been entered into the NMFS database. Further note – the 7216 mt ton number is assumed to be correct because it is derived from the PacFin database (which is based on landing receipts/fish tickets).
 - Canadian albacore vessels are required to have VMS if the vessel fishes on the high seas or is in excess of 24 meters (based on an IATTC Resolution). Most Canadian vessels permitted to fish in the US EEZ are not required to have VMS.
8. *June 29* – Report released which could lead the way to a consolidation of National Marine Fisheries Service (Dept of Commerce) with the Fish and Wildlife Service (Dept of the Interior). See - <https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/supply-trade/trump-administration-considering-national-marine-fisheries-service-and-fish-and-wildlife-services-merger>

Upcoming Items of Interest

1. July 11 – 16 – ISC Plenary. We expect to have additional clarification on the MSE process and whether this will be discussed during the ISC. Initial reports out of the Albacore Working Group are that the MSE model is much more complex than originally thought; and that it may have to be revisited in order to be effective.
2. August 16 – 30 – IATTC & AIDCP Annual Meetings in San Diego, Ca. We will monitor the Agendas and through out contacts to determine if North Pacific Albacore will be a topic of conversation.
3. September 5 – 12 – Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting in Seattle, Wa. Highly Migratory Species are on the Agenda; but no albacore specific items are on the Agenda. We will contact NMFS as the meeting approaches to see if any updates related to the Treaty may be presented under the International Management Activities or NMFS Report.
4. Sept 4 – 17 – UN Intergovernmental Conference session in ABNJ/BBNJ. We have been told there are plans for a public meeting to solicit stakeholder views on the ABNJ/BBNJ process – and that details will be announced in the Federal Register. Additional information on this is available at <https://www.un.org/bbnj/>.