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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 November and looks forward to certain events occurring in upcoming months.

Follow-up on October's upcoming events:

1. November 1 – 8 - Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting held in Del Mar, Ca. There were a couple items which were related to north pacific albacore that were scheduled to be discussed. (A) Dave Hogan, from the State Dept, attended the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel meeting in an effort to gauge industry's thoughts on a future regime under the US-Canada Albacore Treaty. WFOA reportedly hadn't polled their members before the Council meeting; but it was readily apparent that Washington Trollers Assn will likely support a future regime. The HMSAS statement on a possible Treaty regime is available here - https://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/J2a_Supp_HMSAS_Rpt1_NOV2018BB.pdf. Negotiations may start next Spring. (B) There was a discussion about how to best define "effort" for purposes of complying with an IATTC Resolution. While there was much discussion in the HMSAS, it wasn't carried over to the Council floor. We were told there will be a NMFS workshop early next year where this will be discussed. We will be arguing that effort should not include travel time and should only include those days where fish were caught. (C) In advance of the upcoming meeting of the WCPFC we brought to the attention of members of the US delegation – the recovery of what appears to be discarded drift nets on the high seas. We submitted a follow-up letter, which included pictures of the recovered net, to the US delegation.

Federal Register Items of Interest:

No reported actions taken against Canadian importers and industry by the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce and The United States International Trade Commission during the month of November.

1. November 9 – Department of Labor issues proposed rule re H2B visa application process. In short, this will require you to use an electronic advertisement (as opposed to newspaper) when applying for a temporary labor certification that there are no domestic workers available See - <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-11-09/pdf/2018-24498.pdf>.
2. November 20 – NOAA publishes notice of an intent to collect certain information re west coast commercial fisheries, namely – about when fishers access one fishery over another and appears to be looking at a number of factors: availability, social and economic concerns. A "a full understanding and predictive

capacity for these movements of fishermen across fisheries in the context of ecological and social variability presents a significant gap in management-oriented knowledge.” See - <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-11-20/pdf/2018-25276.pdf>

Other items of interest:

1. *Pacific Fishery Management Council Winter Newsletter*. Highlighting recent actions taken by the Council, the following is contained in the link provided below, “The Highly Migratory Species advisory bodies will work together to summarize historical North Pacific albacore catch and effort to support IATTC discussions. They will report back in March. Currently, the IATTC does not allow its member nations to increase fishing beyond current levels. NMFS will hold a stakeholder meeting in February to prepare for the North Pacific albacore management strategy evaluation workshop to be held by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in Yokohama, Japan. See - <https://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/PFMC-Newsletter-Winter-2018.pdf>
2. *12 Little Wharves*. Interesting video (short) highlighting problems of retaining commercial fishing berthing, facilities and infrastructure in Ports and Harbors. We are dealing with the same thing in San Diego as the downtown area (including Tuna Harbor and the G Street Mole) are within the area proposed for redevelopment. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ze42bSAHfk&t=94s>
3. *Oceana’s Seafood Fraud Program*. Univ of Washington’s Sustainable Seafood blog takes aim at Oceana’s methodologies and publications regarding its seafood fraud campaign. See - <https://sustainablefisheries-uw.org/seafood-fraud-oceana/>
4. *East Coast wind farms*. Article highlights a growing divide between the commercial and recreational sectors over wind farms. While it takes away grounds from commercial fishing, the recreational sector benefits from structures built to anchor the turbine infrastructure – which function as artificial reefs. See - <https://www.ecori.org/renewable-energy/2018/11/12/fishermen-divided-on-wind-farms>
5. *Two tough years for tuna Pacific Northwest fishermen*. https://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2018/11/two_tough_years_for_tuna_pacif.html
6. *West coast crab sue 30 fossil fuel companies, citing economic losses due to climate change*. Personally, I think this is a publicity stunt and the case has very little chance of moving forward; but interesting nonetheless. See - <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/West-Coast-crab-fisherman-sue-30-fossil-fuel-13392283.php>
7. *Coast Guard Reauthorization Act*. Both houses of Congress passed this and sent it to the President’s desk. This provides a permanent exemption for fishing vessels from the Environmental Protection Agency’s incidental discharge regulations (which could have included dumping your bait tanks, pumping out your fish holds, etc.). See - <https://www.seafoodharvesters.org/2018/11/14/seafood-harvesters-applaud-passage-of-coast-guard-authorization-act-of-2018/>
8. *Consumer buying trends and seafood*. A recent study found that American seafood consumers are willing to pay a premium for seafood labeled as sustainable. See - <https://swfsc.noaa.gov/news.aspx?ParentMenuId=39&id=23151>

Upcoming items of interest

1. December 2 – 7 – Annual meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. Provisional Agenda attached at Attachment 1. Attachment 2 highlights items of potential interest and/or directly related to North Pacific albacore.

Attachment 1 – Provisional Agenda for Upcoming WCPFC meeting

AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING

- 1.1 Adoption of agenda
- 1.2 Statements from Members and Participating Territories
- 1.3 Meeting arrangements
 - 1.3.1 Establishment of small working groups (CNMs, CMR, others)
 - 1.3.2 Hosting arrangements for WCPFC annual sessions hosted by SIDS

AGENDA ITEM 2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AGENDA ITEM 3. MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER APPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Status of the Convention
- 3.2 Update on Observer status
- 3.3 Applications for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status
 - 3.3.1 Participatory rights of CNMs

AGENDA ITEM 4. NEW PROPOSALS

AGENDA ITEM 5. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES

- 5.1 Implementation of Article 30 of WCPFC Convention and CMM 2013-07 (SIDS special requirements)
- 5.2 Strategic Investment Plan by the FAC Special Requirements Fund Virtual Working Group

AGENDA ITEM 6. WCPO TUNA AND BILLFISH STOCKS

Relevant outcomes from meetings of subsidiary bodies, intersessional working groups and other relevant sources will be presented to facilitate discussions under this agenda item. Some elements of the Harvest Strategy Work Plan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 are integrated into the discussions under this agenda item.

- 6.1 General overview of stock status (bigeye, skipjack, SP albacore, yellowfin, Pacific bluefin, NP albacore and NP swordfish)
- 6.2 South Pacific Albacore
 - 6.2.1 Roadmap for effective conservation and management of SP albacore
 - 6.2.2 Target reference point
 - 6.2.3 Harvest control rules
 - 6.2.4 Management strategy evaluation
 - 6.2.5 Review of CMM 2015-02 (SP albacore)
- 6.3 Bigeye, Skipjack and Yellowfin
 - 6.3.1 Review of CMM 2017-01 (bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin)
 - 6.3.1.1 FAD Management Options-IWG report
 - 6.3.2 Target reference point (bigeye and yellowfin)
 - 6.3.3 Harvest control rules (skipjack)
 - 6.3.4 Management strategy evaluation (skipjack)
- 6.4 Pacific bluefin
 - 6.4.1 Review of CMM 2017-08
- 6.5 North Pacific albacore
 - 6.5.1 Review of CMM-2005-03
- 6.6 North Pacific striped marlin

6.6.1 Designation as a Northern stock and rebuilding plan

6.7 Others

AGENDA ITEM 7: HARVEST STRATEGY

Discussion will focus on the remaining 2018 elements of the Agreed Work Plan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06, covering South Pacific albacore, skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin not integrated into agenda item 6. The Northern Committee will provide update on harvest strategies relating to Northern stocks.

7.1 Management objectives (all stocks/fisheries)

7.2 Monitoring Strategy (all stocks/fisheries)

7.3 Harvest Strategy for Pacific bluefin, NP albacore and NP Swordfish

7.4 Terms of Reference for a Science-Management Dialogue

7.5 Review of Work Plan

AGENDA ITEM 8: WCPO SHARK STOCKS AND BYCATCH MITIGATION

Relevant outcomes from meetings of subsidiary bodies, intersessional working groups and other relevant sources will be presented to facilitate discussions under this agenda item.

8.1 Report of the Shark-IWG, including Proposal for a Comprehensive CMM for Sharks and Rays

8.2 Proposal for Best Practice Guidelines for Safe Release of Sharks

8.3 North Pacific blue shark – designation as a Northern stock

8.4 Review of CMM 2017-06 on Seabirds

8.5 Review of CMM 2008-03 on Sea Turtles

8.6 Others

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF REPORTS FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES

The reports of the subsidiary bodies will be taken as read and will not be presented to the Commission. However, recommendations of subsidiary bodies not addressed under other agenda items will be considered under this agenda item. A list of those recommendations will be provided in dedicated reference document.

9.1 SC14

9.2 NC14

9.3 TCC14

9.4 ERandEM-IWG3

AGENDA ITEM 10: COMPLIANCE MONITORING SCHEME

10.1 Consideration and adoption of the Final Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR)

10.2 Review of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme

10.2.1 Report from the Independent Panel to review the Compliance Monitoring Scheme

10.2.2 Report of the CMS-IWG, including Proposal for a CMM for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme

10.3 Expiry of CMM 2017-07 at the end of 2018

AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF THE 2019 IUU VESSEL LIST

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

12.1 Report of the Twelfth Finance and Administration Committee

12.2 Budget approval for 2019 and Indicative Budgets for 2020 and 2021

AGENDA ITEM 13: ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

13.1 Corporate Plan

13.2 Kobe Process

13.3 Research projects

13.3.1 ABNJ Project

13.3.2 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project

13.3.3 WCPFC Tissue Bank – application of Nagoya Protocol

13.3.4 WPEA Project

13.4 Election of officers

13.5 Future meetings

AGENDA ITEM 14: OTHER MATTERS

AGENDA ITEM 15: SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WCPFC15

AGENDA ITEM 16: CLOSE OF MEETING

Attachment 2 – items of potential interest and/or directly related to North Pacific albacore (NPA)

* Current through documents posted as of 12/4/18

A. Reference document for review of CMM 2005-03 and CMM 2014-06

(<https://www.wcpfc.int/node/32669>)

CMM 2005-03, relates to management of NPA. Highlights from linked document:

1. ISC Workshop on albacore MSE to be held in Yokohama, Japan. “The purpose of the workshop is to provide information on the evaluation of candidate target reference points through MSE as requested in the adopted Harvest Strategy 2017-01.”
2. As noted when reviewing the last stock assessment – future projections (showing constant catch and/or constant fishing intensity) show a declining biomass. To what degree, remains in question - (See page 6).
3. Interim management objective for NPA:
The management objective for the North Pacific albacore fishery is to maintain the biomass, with reasonable variability, around its current level in order to allow recent exploitation levels to continue and with a low risk of breaching the limit reference point. (See page 7)

B. Report to WCPFC on Progress of the Project Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the ABNJ (<https://www.wcpfc.int/node/32933>). Highlights from linked document:

1. This, by itself, will not impose any mandates upon the RFMOs; but rather assist in “accelerating existing initiatives” which include: Sustainable management, Reduce IUU fishing and Reduce impacts on biodiversity. (Page 2)
2. Just describes a number of activities which have been undertaken in furtherance of this initiative.

C. Northern Committee 14 Summary Report (<https://www.wcpfc.int/node/31946>).

1. Pages 13 – 14 (Paragraphs 40 – 52) cover items related to NPA, which were outlined in our Sept 2018 report.

D. Updated information on north Pacific Albacore catch and effort data as reported by CCMs

(<https://www.wcpfc.int/node/32641>).

1. Average catch (2006 – 10) for US: 13,236mt Canada: 5,911mt
2. Table 2 (starting on page 6) lists Fishing effort for NPA between 2005 – 2017 and compares to baseline (2002-04) average per CMM 2005-03. US exceeded its allowable effort (13,311 days) in 2009 (13,339 days); 2011 (13,983 days); 2012 (15,218 days); and 2013 (13,509 days)