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

Follow-up on December's upcoming events:

1. January 7 – PFMC's Scientific and Statistical Committee's Ecosystem and HMS Subcommittees to Hold Webinar. This webinar did take place; but because of the Govt shutdown – nothing was accomplished.
2. January 16 - 18 – PFMC's Highly Migratory Species Management Team meeting in Portland, Ore. Cancelled because of Govt shutdown.
3. February 6 – 7 - NMFS will be hosting a US stakeholder meeting to present and solicit input on the results of the initial North Pacific albacore MSE. This was rescheduled to Feb 13 and will take the form of a webinar.

Federal Register Items of Interest:

Due to the Govt shutdown, there was nothing published in the Federal Register which impacted the albacore fishery during the month of January

Other items of interest:

1. A Bay-area company is trying to be the first to grow and market cell-based meat (including fish). See - <https://www.sfchronicle.com/food/article/Bay-Area-companies-race-to-get-the-first-13512738.php>. There is also a company in San Diego trying to do the same thing, Blue Nalu – which hopes to “produce real seafood products directly from fish cells, in a way that is healthy for people, humane for animals, and sustainable for our planet.” See - <https://www.bluenalu.com/>.
2. New Secretary of Natural Resources – State of California. Both the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Fish and Game Commission fall under this position. The individual chosen is Wade Crowfoot (most recently CEO of the Water Foundation). See - <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2019/01/11/governor-newsom-appoints-natural-resources-and-labor-secretaries-senior-advisors-and-communications-staff/>
3. Bumble Bee Foods, LLC, FCF Fishery Company, Ltd., and Ocean Outcomes have announced a major initiative to improve fishing practices of the albacore longline tuna fisheries in the Indian Ocean and Western and Central Pacific Ocean from which Bumble Bee sources. See - <https://fishfocus.co.uk/albacore-fisheries-sustainability-project/>

4. Tuna pouches emerging as competition for canned tuna products. “Tuna pouches now make up just over 16 percent of the shelf-stable seafood market, a market which accounts for USD 2.3 billion (EUR 2 billion) in sales” See - <https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/foodservice-retail/tuna-pouches-see-significant-growth-in-shelf-stable-seafood-market>
5. A United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission report concluded that China is a major contributor to IUU Fishing. China subsidies and under-reporting of catch are mentioned as examples. See - http://www.sobserver.ws/en/31_01_2019/local/40684/China-under-scrutiny-over-fishing-practices.htm.

Upcoming Items of interest on next page

Upcoming items of interest – this is not an exhaustive list; but shows those upcoming events which could impact the albacore fishery.

1. February 13 - NMFS will be hosting a webinar for US stakeholders to present and solicit input on the results of the initial North Pacific albacore MSE.
2. March 5 – 7 – MSE Workshop in Yokohama, Japan.
3. March 5 – 12 – PFMC meeting in Vancouver, Wa. HMS Items are on the Agenda; but unsure of anything related to albacore will be on the March Agenda. Draft agenda implies there wont be any, unless under the NMFS Report. See - https://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/I5_Supp_Att5_Mar_QR_NOV2018BB.pdf
4. April 9 – 16 - PFMC meeting in Rohnert Park, Ca. There aren't typically HMS items on the April meeting; but will confirm as that meeting approaches.
5. May 20 -23 – 70th Annual Tuna Conference in Lake Arrowhead, Ca. This year's topic is Data collection: emerging tools that address fundamental challenges in the research and management of large pelagic species. See - https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/ba25d2_5c7be90e1650485db300fdc839c24f44.pdf. Unlike the last few years, which seemed to be primarily focused on Pacific bluefin – this meeting seems to include items which may impact/benefit the albacore fishery.
6. June 4 – 5 – General Advisory Committee and the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee to the U.S. Section of the IATTC meetings – in La Jolla, Ca. Unknown at this time if any albacore related items will be on the Agenda.
7. June 18 - 25 - PFMC meeting in San Diego, Ca. There are typically HMS items on the June meeting. Don't yet know if anything albacore related will be on this meeting's Agenda.
8. Sept 2 – 6 – WCPFC Northern Committee meeting in Portland, Ore. Will update with Agenda items when they are available.
9. Sept 11 - 18 - PFMC meeting in Boise, Id. There are typically HMS items on the Sept meeting. Don't yet know if anything albacore related will be on this meeting's Agenda.
10. Nov 13 - 20 - PFMC meeting in Costa Mesa, Ca. There are typically HMS items on the November meeting. Don't yet know if anything albacore related will be on this meeting's Agenda.
11. Dec 5 – 11 – WCPFC Meeting in Port Moresby, PNG. Will update with Agenda items when they are available.