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

Follow-up on January’s upcoming events that occurred during February:

1. February 13 - Webinar for US stakeholders to present and solicit input on the results of the initial North Pacific albacore MSE. This lengthy webinar was not very helpful. It was far too technical and industry representatives on the call expressed extreme disappointment. Note – given the lack of clarity, a follow-up call was held on February 28 in an attempt to offer some additional clarity.

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 |
|-------------|---|---|
| Feb 1 | Dept of Commerce’s International Trade Administration is conducting an expedited review of the countervailing duty (CVD) order on certain softwood lumber products (softwood lumber) from Canada. | https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-01/pdf/2019-00745.pdf |
| Feb 1 | Dept of Commerce’s International Trade Administration published a Notice of Completion of NAFTA Article 1094 Panel Review in the matter of Uncoated Groundwood Paper From Canada. The Panel Review was terminated on procedural grounds (lack of a formal Complaint filed by an interested Party) | https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-01/pdf/2019-00774.pdf |
| Feb 1 | Dept of Commerce’s International Trade Administration published a Notice of Completion of a NAFTA Article Panel Review in the matter of Certain Uncoated Groundwood Paper From Canada: Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination. Here the Canadian Govt and a number of Canadian Corps requested termination of the Review Panel | https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-01/pdf/2019-00775.pdf |
| Feb 1 | Dept of Commerce’s International Trade Administration published a Notice of Completion of a NAFTA Article Panel Review in the matter of Certain Uncoated Groundwood Paper From Canada: Final of Sales at Less Than Fair Value. Here the Canadian Govt, US Dept of Commerce and a number of Canadian Corps requested termination of the Review Panel | https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-01/pdf/2019-00780.pdf |

| Date | Topic | Link |
|--------|---|---|
| Feb 11 | US International Trade Commission provided notice of the institution of investigations and commencement of preliminary phase antidumping and countervailing duty investigation re imports of fabricated steel from Canada, China and Mexico | https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-11/pdf/2019-01730.pdf |
| Feb 27 | Dept of Commerce's International Trade Administration issued a determination that imports of large diameter welded pipe (welded pipe) from Canada is being, or is likely to be, sold in the US at less than fair value (LTFV) during the period of investigation (POI) 1/1/2017 – 12/31/2017. | https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-27/pdf/2019-03316.pdf |

1. Feb 19 – For those of you who may participate in the commercial fishery for Pacific Bluefin tuna either before or after the albacore season, NMFS reissued its proposed rule for the 2019 – 2020 time-frame. See - <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-19/pdf/2019-02576.pdf>

Other items of interest:

1. Ban on use of FADs extended to allow tuna stocks to continue to revive. See - <https://postcourier.com.pg/bans-tuna-fishing-devices-pacific-continue/>.
2. Review of a new study which contends that levels of Mercury in seafood is more closely linked to where it was harvested. The study is based on bigeye, yellowfin and albacore caught in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. <https://atuna.com/pages/mercury-in-tuna-related-to-location-caught-new-study-finds-2>
3. Humboldt Bay Harbor District approves 30-Year Lease (to a Norwegian Company) for massive, land-based fish farm on Samoa Peninsula. This farm will produce salmon and/or steelhead. See - <https://lostcoastoutpost.com/2019/feb/11/harbor-district-agrees-sign-lease-massive-fish-far/>
4. Video produced by the Fisheries Survival Fund shows the potential impact of offshore wind farms on US fisheries. See - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wLaCE7p5kU&feature=youtu.be>.
5. Interesting article about how conservation policies designed to reduce environmental impacts in one area, may result in worse impacts in other areas. An example – “no-take marine protected areas often increase fishing pressure outside the area being protected, nullifying the protection. In some cases, displacing fishing pressure benefits the ecosystem, but often it does not.” See - <https://sustainablefisheries-uw.org/environmental-impact-displacement/>
6. California Governor Newsom appoints Samantha Murray to the Fish and Game Commission. If you are unfamiliar with her past, a quick Google search will be instructive in determining how her appointment may impact the State's fisheries. See - <https://timesofsandiego.com/politics/2019/02/28/scripps-biodiversity-expert-named-to-state-fish-and-game-commission/>

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. March 5 – 7 – MSE Workshop in Yokohama, Japan.
2. March 5 – 12 – PFMC meeting in Vancouver, Wa. There are items on the Agenda which may impact the Albacore fishery.
 - a. There is an item on Fishing Effort within the albacore fishery – see https://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/J2_Att2_Summary-of-US-NPALB-fishing-effort-estimates-MAR2019BB.pdf;
 - b. There is another item, more informational in nature, focused on the ongoing efforts to develop a Management Strategy Evaluation for North Pacific albacore. The following, submitted to the Council’s Briefing Book for the March meeting, is meant to be a brief primer on Management Strategy Evaluations and provides a general overview of the results from the first run of the Model. https://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/J2b_Supp_NMFS_Rpt4_MARCH2019BB.pdf
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Sept 2 – 6 – WCPFC Northern Committee meeting in Portland, Ore. Will update with Agenda items when they are available.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Dec 5 – 11 – WCPFC Meeting in Port Moresby, PNG. Will update with Agenda items when they are available.