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WHAT AAFA IS DOING FOR YOU – 2020

This new format, approved by the Board in April, is designed to be more user friendly and more conscious of your time. It will be submitted on a monthly basis and will be a living document in the sense that we will be adding to (or deleting from) it throughout the course of the month. Text which is new for a given month, will be presented in **red** so that you won't be burdened with rereading content previously published.

Through **March 8, 2020**

As a reminder – the AAFA General Meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday, April 3rd at Sycuan Casino and Resort in El Cajon, Ca. Mike will be giving a presentation which will recap 2019 and discussing what has and likely will be taking place during 2020. There will also be time set aside for Q&A should you have any questions on items listed below, or any other items you feel warrant discussion

North Pacific Albacore – Management Strategy Evaluation (“MSE”)

- We don't envision any work on the MSE until later this year (at the earliest) after the Stock Assessment is finalized

US – Canada Pacific Albacore Treaty

- AAFA participated in two US Government Treaty-related calls during the month of January. (1) The postponed 2019 annual Pacific Albacore Treaty consultation; and (2) A call with Dave Hogan clarifying items contained in our May 2019 letter seeking additional information from the Canadian Govt.
- AAFA in communications with Dept of State and Commerce seeking clarification on outstanding Treaty related issues: Proposed MPA off West Coast of Canada and 2019 fishery data.
- AAFA was represented at the March PFMC meeting where the Treaty was discussed. AAFA's concerns were included in the [Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel's Statement](#). The Council, generally, supported the HMSAS Statement and encouraged the State Department representative to address them.
- AAFA had a sit-down discussion with the State Department representative and conveyed our concerns.

UN Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction – ABNJ/BBNJ

- The 4th Session of the Intergovernmental Conference has been scheduled for this Spring. An updated draft of the ABNJ Text is available at - <https://undocs.org/en/a/conf.232/2020/3>
- AAFA submitted written comments to and participated in a public meeting on BBNJ for U.S. stakeholders on February 25, 2020.

Domestic Management – PFMC

- AAFA participated in the January 23 and 24, TNC/PFMC workshop entitled, *Developing Future Scenarios for Climate Change in the California Current Ecosystem*. This is part of the Council's Climate and Communities Initiative under its Fishery Ecosystem Plan. It was made clear that this scenario planning will not result in any immediate regulations; but is designed to describe possible responses to events which may occur in the future. While some of the items covered were surely climate related (warming oceans and sea level rise) others were not (trade policies, changing values, etc).

Wind farms off the West Coast

- Representative from west coast membership of RODA are working to establish lines of communication with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center and the West Coast Region of NMFS.
- AAFA is reviewing the February 7 Notice of Availability published by the California Energy Commission entitled, "Outreach on Additional Considerations for Offshore Wind off the Central Coast of California"
- Two meetings which AAFA will attend: March 9 – BOEM California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting; and April 2 - BOEM Oregon Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting

Other items which arose previously and continued through **March 8.**

This section will appear monthly and highlights issues, etc that aren't likely recurring items

1. AAFA noted and tracked the following:
 - a. Increased efforts pushing the 30 by 30 initiative. Senate Resolution 372 would establish a national goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the land and ocean of the United States by 2030. California AB 3030 is functionally the same except it sets the State's goal.
2. USCG published [Safety-Advisory 01-20](#) which advises that certain products with a high THC content could result in positive drug tests.
3. Those of you who rely upon non-citizen crew may want to start thinking about alternatives should the impacts of the Coronavirus make it impossible for foreign crew to get to the U.S

Upcoming meetings:

- AAFA General Meeting on Friday, April 3rd at Sycuan Casino and Resort in El Cajon, Ca