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WHAT AAFA IS DOING FOR YOU – 2021 AAFA MEMBERSHIP VERSION

This new format 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 wont be burdened with rereading content previously published.

Through **March 11**, 2021

The Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

On January 27, the President issued the [aforementioned Executive Order](#). Included are two provisions which could have impacts on AAFA operations:

1. Section 207- Renewable Energy on Public Lands and in Offshore Waters. This establishes a “goal of doubling offshore wind by 2030 while ensuring robust protection for our lands, waters, and biodiversity and creating good jobs.”
2. Sec. 216. Conserving Our Nation’s Lands and Waters. This establishes a “goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.” We note the focus in on “conserve” as opposed to “protect” but the E.O. does NOT define conserve. There is a very truncated timeline by which NOAA has to initiate efforts (involving the Councils, fishermen, etc) on “how to make fisheries and protected resources more resilient to climate change, including changes in management and conservation measures, and improvements in science, monitoring, and cooperative research.” AAFA will remain engaged as the E.O is implemented.
3. **We still do not have clarity on what the E.O. may mean to U.S. commercial fishermen. AAFA and its representatives remain engaged in conversations as the process unfolds.**

COVID-19

It goes without saying that COVID-19 has, is having, and will have profound impacts on the fishing industry. For purposes of this part of the Report – I will break down what has transpired by various groupings.

We provide the following, State specific, updates regarding disbursements from the \$300M included in the CARES Act from last spring.

- Checks have been mailed to qualifying applicants for both Oregon and California. Checks were mailed to Oregon’s qualifying applicants on or about January 29. Checks were mailed to California’s qualifying applicants in November of last year.
- The State of Washington, **applications are now available and have to be returned to the State no later than March 25, 2021. The full application package is available here - [Washington Sec. 12005 CARES Act Fisheries Assistance Complete Application - 20210208 \(psmfc.org\)](#)**

- The State of Alaska - I am including this to note that the final spend plan now excludes commercial permit holders who live in other Pacific states like Washington and Oregon

The December Consolidated Appropriations Act included an additional \$300M in fisheries assistance but no additional guidance as to how those funds will be allocated and/or disbursed.

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

The 5th Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Workshop for Managers Web Meeting for Canada and USA has been scheduled and will take place March 22 – 25 from 9AM until 12:30PM. **Registration closes on March 15.**

US – Canada Pacific Albacore Treaty

- We just completed the first year of a new three-year regime.
- Upon AAFA’s request, the State Department reached out to the Canadian Government regarding any progress on the possible establishment of an MPA encompassing the Pacific Offshore Area of Interest. Covid has slowed this down; so there has been no action on this yet.

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

- **The Fourth Session of the Conference has been scheduled for August of this year.** It is very likely that the change in Administration will result in increased U.S. participation and leadership in the BBNJ discussions.

Domestic Management – PFMC

- The PFMC is meeting in March and we do not envision that Albacore will be on the Agenda. The Council will be getting an update on Marine Planning (offshore wind & aquaculture).
- **The March PFMC meeting did not have any Agenda items which directly impact the albacore fishery.**

Wind farms – Generally

- RODA published its year-in-review document. It is available here: <https://rodafisheries.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/RODA-Year-in-Review-2020-FINAL-1-6-21-for-web.pdf>.
- Since February, BOEM has taken the following: (1) announced the Vineyard Project was not formally withdrawn; it wasn’t withdrawn at all; and (2) on March 8 announced they have completed the environmental analysis of the proposed Vineyard Wind I offshore wind project. RODA has been all over the news speaking about this.
- On February 24, the PFMC’s Habitat Committee held a lengthy webinar which included an update about OSW off the US West Coast. The webinar met its max capacity of 100 participants, so many who had hoped to tune in, couldn’t. **The meeting is recorded is now viewable.** The first part covers the Aquaculture Opportunity Area in Southern California. The second part was BOEM’s presentation on offshore wind. The wind part begins at the 1 hour, 40 minute mark. I would suggest watching from that point to the 2 hour, 28 minute mark as it will give you a good idea where BOEM is in their process. In short: Wind Energy Areas are likely to be announced off the California Coast by the end of the Spring (this is the step before leasing; but will still take significant time). We should also expect additional Call Areas off the Oregon and California Coasts by the end of the year.

Wind farms off the California Coast

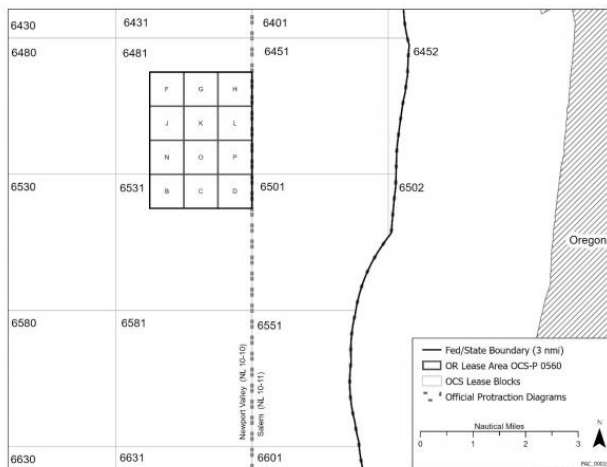
- Two bills were introduced which address offshore wind in California. SB 413 and AB 525. AAFA is following those and will engage when appropriate.
- There are [two proposed pilot projects in California State Waters](#) (just above Pt Arguello). We have already begun engaging with State Lands Commission Staff on this matter.

Offshore Renewables off the Oregon Coast

- The Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment (ORESAs) mapping tool has been published. See - [Oregon Renewable Energy Review Maps | Galleries | Data Basin](#). I am not going to lie to you – it is not very user-friendly

Other items which arose previously and continued through **March 11**.

- On Feb 16, BOEM announced a lease for Wave Energy Research Project in Federal Waters Offshore Newport Oregon. From what we have learned, this was a much more inclusive project than the OSW conversations and the locations were chosen with input from local fishing groups.



- We are tracking the following State legislation:
 - California AB 564 – looks to further expand upon Governor Newsom’s 30 x 30 Executive Order
 - California AB 534 – while not directly impacting AAFA operations, it will require ropeless fishing gear for ALL of the State’s trap fisheries (so it will clearly impact AAFA members)
 - California AB 525 – sets a goal for offshore wind production off California Coast (3 GW by 2030 and 10GW by 2040)
 - California SB 413 – Offshore wind assessments and establishing the California Energy Commission as the permitting authority
 - Oregon SB 592 – would ban use of lead for fishing and hunting purposes

This is the current schedule of upcoming meetings (as of 3/11)

- March 15 – 17 - ICES Workshop on the Socio-Economic Implications of Offshore Wind on Fishing Communities. Mike is a panelist
- March 16 – California Air Resources Board Hearing on Commercial Harbor Craft. No changes proposed (for commercial fishing vessels) from what we learned last September.
- March 22 - 25 – MSE Workshop
- May 3 – 4 – MSC Surveillance Audit
- April 6 – 14 – PFMC Meeting (HMS is not on the Agenda)
- May 18 – 20 – Tuna Conference
- June 22 – 29 – PFMC Meeting (HMS will be on the Agenda)