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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 won't be burdened with rereading content previously published.

Covering **March 15 – May 2, 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 is 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. **The Department of the Interior submitted its required report on or about April 27. At the time of this writing, it has still not been publicly released.**

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.

- **Aside from the State of Alaska, all other west coast states have completed the application process for shares of the CARES Act \$300m from last spring Oregon.**

The December Consolidated Appropriations Act included an additional \$300M in fisheries assistance (**\$255M of which covers non-tribal or Great Lakes fisheries assistance**). **The allocations for the west coast states are as follows:**

California	\$15,485,930
Oregon	\$13,487,797
Washington	\$40,000,000.

Each State will develop its own spend plan

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. A U.S. Stakeholder meeting has been scheduled for June 1, 2020 from noon – 2PM to discuss the results from the MSE workshop.

US – Canada Pacific Albacore Treaty

- We just completed the first year of a new three-year regime.
- As of May 2nd, there is no update of the status of the proposed MPA off the Canadian West Coast.
- A number of AAFA members and representatives participating in the Annual Data Working Group call on April 20.

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 April PFMC meeting did not have any HMA items on its Agenda.
- The PFMC will be reviewing all advisory subpanels starting in June. It is likely there will be opportunities for AAFA members to participate in the Council’s management processes. We will keep folks informed as we learn more.

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.

- On March 29, President Biden (flanked by the Secretaries of Commerce, Interior, Energy, and Transportation) announced an ambitious plan to ramp up offshore wind off the US. This plan establishes “a Target of Employing Tens of Thousands of Workers to Deploy 30 Gigawatts (30,000 megawatts) of Offshore Wind by 2030.”

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 Wind California put on a webinar on March 29 entitled Going Big on California Offshore Wind: Lessons from Europe on Economies of Scale. If interested, you can watch that here - Going Big on California Offshore Wind: Lessons from Europe on Economies of Scale - YouTube](#)

Offshore Renewables off the Oregon Coast

- The Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment (ORESA) 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.
- [OR 3375](#), which is closely related to amended AB 525, passed out of the Oregon House on April 27 with a 56-0 vote.

Other items which arose previously and continued through **May 2, 2021**.

- The infomercial for a Vegan lifestyle, *Seaspiracy*, premiered in late March. Since its release, it has been universally panned. AAFA and RODA issued a joint statement – See - [The American Albacore Fishing Association & Responsible Offshore Development Alliance Respond to Seaspiracy - Responsible Offshore Development Alliance \(rodafisheries.org\)](#).
- The California Natural Resources Agency is hosting a series of 9 Regional Workshops on “meeting the State’s commitment to conserve 30 percent of California’s lands and coastal waters by 2030 and accelerate nature-based solutions to address climate change.” We have participated in two of the workshops (SF Bay Area and Central Coast).
- The California Air Resources Board continues to move forward with amending their commercial harbor craft regulations. The most recent version was released the evening of April 1. We have been engaging with ARB staff trying to get some clarification on some of the items. The final regulatory package went go before the ARB until early next year.
- AAFA signed on to two National fishing industry letters: one about the course of offshore wind and the other on the Biden E.O.
- A study came out last month entitled, *Rethinking sustainability in seafood: Synergies and trade-offs between fisheries and climate change*, which sought to look at climate change impacts of various US tuna fisheries. Somewhat surprisingly, the north pacific albacore fishery scored pretty well. In terms of climate impacts, the fishery scored better than chicken, shrimp and beef production. If interested, you can see that [here](https://online.ucpress.edu/elementa/article/9/1/00081/116726/Rethinking-sustainability-in-seafoodSynergies-and) - <https://online.ucpress.edu/elementa/article/9/1/00081/116726/Rethinking-sustainability-in-seafoodSynergies-and>
- 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 525 – see above
 - ✓ California SB 413 – Offshore wind assessments and establishing the California Energy Commission as the permitting authority

- ✓ California AB 1539 - would require a vessel used for commercial purposes to have a minimum of \$1,000,000 of protection and indemnity insurance to cover wreck removal costs of the vessel.
- ✓ Oregon SB 592 – would ban use of lead for fishing and hunting purposes
- ✓ Oregon HB 3375 – see above

This is the current schedule of upcoming *events/meetings* (as of 5/2)

- May 4 – Aquaculture Opportunity Area Webinar
- May 6 - Charting a Course for Offshore Wind Energy in California Webinar
- May 10 – Last day to be nominated for the WCPFC Permanent Advisory Committee
- May 12 & 13 – BOEM Oregon Public Webinars
- May 10 – 14 – IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee (a review of the 2020 NPA stock assessment; but nothing else albacore related)
- May 24– 25 – MSC Surveillance Audit
- May 18 – 20 – Tuna Conference
- June 1 – U.S. Stakeholder Meeting re North Pacific Albacore MSE
- June 22 – 29 – PFMC Meeting (HMS will be on the Agenda)