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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 April of 2018 and looks forward to certain events occurring in upcoming months.

Follow-up on March’s upcoming events:

1. April 16-18 - Organizational session of the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. This was broadcast live on UN web tv. It was organizational in nature, taking 3 days to define what the final product may look like.
2. April 30–May 5 – Albacore Working Group meeting to be held in La Jolla. At present, there is no Agenda available for this meeting. I spoke with Steve Teo at the March 28 MSE Workshop and the Agenda for the ALBWG Agenda had not yet been finalized – but he did note it was not a public meeting.
3. Something that wasn’t noted on the March Report was the April 18 NMFS listening session. This was originally proposed to focus on the upcoming MSE workshop for Pacific Bluefin tuna; but was eventually expanded to provide an update on the MSE for North Pacific Albacore. There is still much confusion – from most everyone who participated; and it is hoped that further refinements will show positive results.

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
Apr 2	Uncoated Groundwood Paper From Canada Scheduling of the Final Phase of Countervailing Duty and AntiDumping Duty Investigations	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-04-02/pdf/2018-06565.pdf
Apr 3	U.S Intl Trade Administration finds a Canadian producer/exporter of citric acid and certain citrate salts from Canada, did not sell subject merchandise at prices below normal value (NV).	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-04-03/pdf/2018-06721.pdf
Apr 13	US Intl Trade Administration amends the scope of the Amended Preliminary Countervailing Duty Determination for certain Uncoated Groundwood Paper From Canada:	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-04-13/pdf/2018-07723.pdf

There were no federal register publications which directly impact the North Pacific albacore fishery

Other items of interest:

1. *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)*. S. 1129, which included provisions to exempt commercial fishing vessels from having to comply with the EPA's vessel discharge permitting issues; was defeated in the Senate. As such, you will be required to have proper documentation on your vessel. Vessel's less than 79 feet in length can use the document in the attached link: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-08/documents/svgp_2014_pari.pdf. Print it out, fill out the form beginning during the first quarter of this year, and have it readily accessible should you be asked for it. If your vessel is 79 feet or longer, your required paperwork is much more complex and what is required depends on a number of factors. See - <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/vessels-vgp>.
2. *Mexico receives positive certification for addressing IUU fishing*. In 2017, Mexico was negatively certified by NMFS under the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act. In April, NMFS withdrew that negative certification because of Mexico's efforts to establish economic disincentives, improve monitoring and surveillance, target recidivists, and prosecute fishermen apprehended by the U.S. Coast Guard See - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNOAAFISHERIES/bulletins/1e6da71>
3. *US seafood not included in Chinese retaliatory trade*. China has issued increased tariffs in response to the US tariffs on steel and aluminum imports. The Chinese government has proposed increases on 128 US products – none of which are seafood products. “Last year, the US exported \$1.3bn worth of seafood to China, making China the US' largest seafood export market, according to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).” See - <https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2018/04/02/us-seafood-not-included-in-chinese-retaliatory-trade-tariffs/>.
4. *Decision document from April meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council*. Although there were no Highly Migratory Species agenda items, there may be items of interest if you participate in other fisheries under the Council's jurisdiction. See - https://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/0418_Decision_Summary_Document.pdf.
5. *Relocation of sea lions not enough to protect Willamette fish runs*. Interesting article on intersection between the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. http://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2018/04_april/042318.asp
6. San Diego's "Fishy" History: The Birth of Tuna Fisheries. Great piece about the history of tuna fishing and the Port of San Diego. <http://www.thelog.com/local/san-diegos-fishy-history-the-birth-of-tuna-fisheries/>

Upcoming items of interest

1. May 14–18, 2018 – IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting. The Provisional Agenda for this meeting has an Item, “North Pacific albacore tuna: update on management strategy evaluation (MSE) work.” See - <https://www.iattc.org/Meetings/Meetings2018/SAC-09/PDFs/Docs/English/SAC-09-Provisional-agenda.pdf>. I plan to follow-up to see when and whether or not we will be invited to attend.
2. June 7 – 13 – Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting – Spokane, Wa. Highly Migratory Species is on the Agenda and an update on the North Pacific Albacore MSE is scheduled.
3. July 11 – 16 – ISC Plenary. We expect to have additional clarification on the MSE process and whether this will be discussed during the ISC. Initial reports out of the Albacore Working Group are that the MSE model is much more complex than originally thought; and that it may have to be revisited in order to be effective.