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

Follow-up on August’s upcoming events:

1. October 17 – 19 – MSE Workshop on North Pacific Albacore. While we were unable to attend, we did participate in the pre-Workshop US delegation call. A 15-page DRAFT Report covering the meeting results. We will review and submit a separate analysis at a later date.

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. Rather than take up space delving into each – we will 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
Oct 13	Preliminary determination that certain aircraft from Canada are being, or is likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-10-13/pdf/2017-22203.pdf
Oct 19	Postponement of Preliminary Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation on softwood products from Canada.	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-10-19/pdf/2017-22686.pdf
Oct 20	Rescission of Administrative Review of Antidumping re Polyethylene Terephthalate Resin from Canada. Canada sought review of the duty; but later abandoned that.	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-10-20/pdf/2017-22806.pdf
Oct 27	Schedule for final determination of Countervailing Duty and Antidumping Duty Investigations re airplanes from Canada	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-10-27/pdf/2017-23430.pdf

1. October 4 – NMFS issues notice of a test and a request for comment on the electronic submission of certain data required under the Seafood Import Monitoring Program. The notice is unclear how one not participating in the test would be able to comment, or even what they would comment on. See -

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-10-04/pdf/2017-21330.pdf>. If AAFA imports any fish from Canada, it may be advantageous to participate.

2. October 12 – NMFS publishes the draft List of Fisheries for 2018 (LOF). The LOF classifies every US fishery based on its level of interactions with Marine Mammals – and is required by the Marine Mammal Protection Act. As you can imagine, the “WA/OR/CA albacore surface hook and line/troll” fishery (with 705 participants) is proposed to be a Category III fishery with no documented interactions with any Marine Mammals. Other fisheries AAFA members participate in: “WA coastal Dungeness crab pot”; “OR Dungeness crab pot”; “CA Dungeness crab pot” and “CA thresher shark/swordfish drift gillnet (≥14 in mesh)” are all propose to be Category II fisheries. There are no Category I fisheries off the US West Coast except the “HI deep-set longline” fishery. All others are Category III. See - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-10-12/pdf/2017-21837.pdf>
3. October 24 – NMFS seeks comments on logbook used in the “Pacific Hook and Line fishery” These comments can be limited to the current logbook, or could include comments on what we would like to see in the logbook. Comments are due December 26. See - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-10-24/pdf/2017-23055.pdf>

Other items of interest:

1. *Canning operations in Oregon impacted by slow albacore season*. Short supply leads to reduced canned product for two local canneries: Northwest Wild Products and Sportmen’s Cannery. See - <http://www.dailyastorian.com/CRBJ/20171010/canning-conundrum-slow-tuna-season-cuts-cannery-production>
2. *Closure of Spanish fishery for Atlantic albacore*. Estimated that by Oct 13, the quota of 14,196,152 kilos (roughly 15,650 tons) will be exhausted. See - <http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&country=0&special=&monthyear=&day=&id=94217&ndb=1&df=0>
3. *WTO Dolphin-Safe Tuna labeling*. The World Trade Organization rules in favor of US in ongoing dispute with Mexico over its dolphin-safe tuna labeling requirements. Changes, made by the US in 2016, “either removed discriminatory treatment to Mexican tuna products or were justified as exceptions to WTO rules on the grounds they were necessary for the conservation of exhaustible natural resources.” See - <http://thehill.com/policy/finance/357437-us-wins-trade-case-over-dolphin-safe-tuna-labeling>
4. *Fatality on California squid seiner*. Freak accident resulted in death of a crew member. The mast on the Pamela Rose snapped and fell onto the vessel’s deck. This is included because it highlights that things we don’t normally check (masts, etc) can be compromised. Not sure how the USCG will respond in terms of vessel inspections; but one thing we have heard being discussed is requiring inspection plates on masts in order to detect if there is any rust. I have spoken to a number of purse seine vessel operators; and very very few even thought of checking the structural integrity of their masts prior to this event. See - <https://www.nationalfisherman.com/west-coast-pacific/calif-squid-fisherman-killed-mast-snaps/>
5. *Meeting of the Permanent Advisory Committee (“PAC”) to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission*. The PAC met on October 24 and 25. Natalie attended as she is now a Committee member. We reviewed the Agenda and meeting materials in advance of the meeting; and didn’t think the North Pacific Albacore fishery was a primary topic of conversation.

Upcoming items of interest

1. November 14 – 20 - Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting to be held in Costa Mesa, Ca. Proposed Agenda has nothing on it related to albacore; but I imagine a review of the MSE workshop will be discussed.
2. December 2 – 7 – Annual meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. Provisional Agenda attached at Attachment 1.
3. December 5 – West Coast Regional Planning Body Annual Meeting. This meeting will discuss coordination, policy and planning for our West Coast ocean. I was invited to participate and will surely attend.

Attachment 1 – Provisional Agenda for Upcoming WCPFC meeting
(Italicized portions added for your convenience)

AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING

- 1.1 Adoption of agenda
- 1.2 Statements from Members and Participating Territories
- 1.3 Meeting arrangements
 - 1.3.1 Establishment of small working groups (CNMs, CMS, Others)

AGENDA ITEM 2. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AGENDA ITEM 3. MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER APPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Status of the Convention
- 3.2 Update on observer status
- 3.3 Applications for Cooperating Non-Member status
 - 3.3.1 Participatory rights of CNMs

AGENDA ITEM 4. NEW PROPOSALS

AGENDA ITEM 5. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES

- 5.1 Updated checklist evaluation of SIDS special requirements (FFA)
- 5.2 CCM reports on the implementation of Article 30
- 5.3 Review of implementation of CMM 2013-07 (Paragraph 20)

AGENDA ITEM 6. HARVEST STRATEGY

Discussion will focus on the 2017 elements of the Agreed Work Plan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06, covering skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin, and South Pacific albacore.

- 6.1 Management objectives (all stocks/fisheries)
- 6.2 Acceptable levels of risk (all stocks)
- 6.3 Review of rebuilding timeline (bigeye)
- 6.4 Target reference point (SP albacore)
- 6.5 Harvest control rules (SP albacore and skipjack)
- 6.6 Management strategy evaluation (SP albacore and skipjack)
- 6.7 Monitoring Strategy (all stocks/fisheries)
- 6.8 Harvest Strategy for Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific albacore
- 6.9 Review of Work Plan

AGENDA ITEM 7. WCPO TUNA STOCKS

Relevant outcomes from meetings of subsidiary bodies, intersessional working groups and other relevant sources will be presented to facilitate discussions under this Agenda Item.

- 7.1 General overview of stock status (bigeye, Pacific bluefin tuna, skipjack, NP albacore, SP albacore and yellowfin)
- 7.2 Draft Bridging CMM on Tropical Tunas (bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin)
- 7.3 Draft Bridging CMM on SP albacore
- 7.4 CMM 2005-03 on North Pacific albacore
- 7.5 CMM 2016-04 on Pacific bluefin tuna
- 7.6 Others

AGENDA ITEM 8. BYCATCH MITIGATION

Relevant outcomes from meetings of subsidiary bodies, intersessional working groups and other relevant sources will be presented to facilitate discussions under this Agenda Item.

8.1 Sharks (CMMs: 2010-07; 2011-04; 2012-04; 2013-08; 2014-05)

8.1.1 Comprehensive approach to shark and ray conservation and management

8.2 CMM 2015-03 on Seabirds

8.3 CMM 2008-03 on Sea Turtles

8.4 Others

AGENDA ITEM 9. ADOPTION OF REPORTS FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES

The reports of the subsidiary bodies will be taken as read and will not be presented to the Commission. Recommendations not addressed under other agenda items will be considered here.

9.1 SC13 (*Science Committee*)

9.2 NC13 (*Northern Committee*)

9.3 TCC13 (*Technical and Compliance Committee*)

AGENDA ITEM 10. COMPLIANCE MONITORING SCHEME

10.1 Consideration and adoption of the Final Compliance Monitoring Report

10.2 Update on Independent Review of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme

10.3 Expiry of CMM 2015-07 at the end of 2017

AGENDA ITEM 11. ADOPTION OF THE 2018 IUU VESSEL LIST

AGENDA ITEM 12. REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

12.1 Report of the Eleventh Finance and Administration Committee

12.2 Budget approval for 2018 and Indicative Budgets for 2019 and 2020

AGENDA ITEM 13. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

13.1 Strategic Plan

13.2 Research projects

13.2.1 ABNJ Project (*Area Beyond National Jurisdiction – aka High Seas*)

13.2.2 WPEA Project (*West Pacific East Asia*)

13.3 Election of officers

13.4 Future meetings

AGENDA ITEM 14. OTHER MATTERS

AGENDA ITEM 15. SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WCPFC14

AGENDA ITEM 16. CLOSE OF MEETING