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

Follow-up on April’s upcoming events:

1. *May 14–18, 2018 – IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting.* After conversations with Science Center staff, we learned the planned revelation of the first round of MSE model results were not going to be presented. It was suggested that our presence would not be beneficial. David Itano did attend and reported back to AAFA his thoughts and impressions.

US Canada Treaty Developments:

During the month of May we learned of a change to the fishery in the Canadian EEZ: Vessel’s intending to fish in the Canadian EEZ will now need to obtain an EEZ Albacore Tuna Fishing Licence for U.S. Vessels (EEZ tuna fishing licence), before entering Canada’s EEZ to fish. At the time of this writing, we are still awaiting clarification from the Canadian Government re proper completion of the form; but this following link should prove helpful in getting started - http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery_management/hms_program/us_albacore_treaty/canada_eez_fishing_licence_29-may.pdf. Link to the required form - <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/licence-permis/forms/2015/EEZ-ZEE-eng.pdf>

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 |
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| May 7 | Softwood lumber or softwood lumber products – request for comments re subsidies provided by foreign countries between 7/1/17 – 12/31/17 | https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-05-07/pdf/2018-09631.pdf |
| May 7 | Presidential Proclamations extending exemption from Aluminum tariffs until June 1, 2018 for Canada and other nations | https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-05-07/pdf/2018-09840.pdf |
| May 7 | Presidential Proclamations extending exemption from Steel tariffs until June 1, 2018 for Canada and other nations: | https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-05-07/pdf/2018-09841.pdf |

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| May 14 | Request from Canadian Cos to revoke countervailing duty order on supercalendered paper from Canada due to changed circumstances. | https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-05-14/pdf/2018-10202.pdf |
| May 15 | Termination of NAFTA Panel Review re 100 – 150 Seat Large Aircraft from Canada. This on motion of all Parties involved | https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-05-15/pdf/2018-10229.pdf |
| May 21 | Partial Rescission of Expedited Review of Countervailing Duty Order the result of request from 25 Canadian Companies withdrawing the request for expedited review. | https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-05-21/pdf/2018-10779.pdf |

The following appeared in the Federal Register which may have an impact on AAFA vessels.

1. May 4 – The Department of Agriculture publishes a proposed rule on the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard. This will not impact AAFA vessel directly; but it may have an impact of the sales of seafood because bioengineered food has to be labeled as such. As genetically modified salmon are labeled such, it is foreseeable that sales of those products may suffer. See – <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-05-04/pdf/2018-09389.pdf>
2. May 7 – NMFS publishes Final Rule implementing Amendment 4 to the HMS Fishery Management Plan. This Amendment does not directly impact any HMS stocks; but rather changes some of the timing mechanisms as well as defines how to comply with requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act for stocks managed internationally. See - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-05-07/pdf/2018-09584.pdf>
3. May 22 – NMFS publishes a Notice/Request for Information regarding nations whose vessels are engaged in illegal, unreported, or unregulated (IUU) fishing, bycatch of protected living marine resources (PLMR), and/or fishing activities in waters beyond any national jurisdiction that target or incidentally catch sharks. See <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-05-22/pdf/2018-10859.pdf>

Other items of interest:

1. *MSC Recertification*. The final report and determination were released to the public in the middle of May. Assuming no objections are filed, we expect to have the new Certification before the current one expires on June 20.
2. *Tuna Canner CEO indicted*. As part of the investigation into alleged price fixing on canned tuna products, the Dept of Justice has charged Bumble Bee CEO with conspiracy. “The indictment, filed in San Francisco federal court, charges Lischewski with participating in a conspiracy to fix prices of packaged seafood beginning in or about November 2010 until December 2013.” See - <https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2018/05/17/bumble-bees-lischewski-indicted-on-price-fixing-charges/>

Upcoming items of interest

1. June 7-13 – Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Spokane, Wa. There are HMS items on the Agenda; but none focused on albacore fishery – although we do expect some mention of the Management Strategy Evaluation for North Pacific Albacore
2. 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.