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

Follow-up on July's upcoming events:

1. August 16 – 30 – IATTC & AIDCP Annual Meetings in San Diego, Ca. Two actions taken at the IATTC could impact the North Pacific Albacore fishery:
 - a. A Resolution regarding effort in the North Pacific Albacore fishery - https://www.iattc.org/PDFFiles/Resolutions/IATTC/English/C-18-03_Amendment%20to%20C-13-03%20North%20Pacific%20albacore.pdf. Canada had proposed setting effort levels based on a timeframe which would have advantaged them – at US expense. Thankfully we were able to pull that language out of the final Resolution.
 - b. A Resolution regarding information required for vessels on the IATTC vessel registry - https://www.iattc.org/PDFFiles/Resolutions/IATTC/English/C-18-06_Amendment%20to%20C-14-01-Regional-Vessel-Register.pdf. This proposal, from the Govt of Japan, initially was going to require IMO numbers for all vessels listed on the IATTC vessel register. After a number of conversations, it appears that IMO numbers will only be required for vessels “authorized to fish in the high seas of the Convention Area.” Thus – it appears it will only impact AAFA members who possess a high seas permit.
2. While not on the July upcoming events, I do want to let you know the dates for the North Pacific Albacore MSE workshop have been set. This coming out of the Northern Committee meeting that just finished – March 4 -8, 2019 in Yokohama, Japan. This potentially conflicts with the March PFMC meeting.

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
Aug 6	Documents filed with NAFTA Secretariat requesting termination of panel review in the Supercalendered Paper from Canada: Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination. This the direct result of the termination of the Determination last month.	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-08-06/pdf/2018-16688.pdf
Aug 27	Dept of Commerce's International Trade Administration makes a preliminary determination that large diameter welded pipe from Canada is being, or is likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value.	https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-08-27/pdf/2018-18488.pdf

1. August 17 – The US Coast Guard issued a notice and request for comments regarding Lifejacket Approval Harmonization. In short, the US and Canada are harmonizing personal flotation device (PFD) standards so as to comply with the requirements of ISO 12402. “This policy does not impact existing PFD approvals, and does not require any action on the part of boaters or mariners who have approved PFDs onboard”; but it may lead to action in the future if your PFD is determined to be insufficient. Level 70 PFDs are preferred and it looks like Level 50 PFDs will eventually be phased out. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-08-17/pdf/2018-17799.pdf>
2. August 22 – The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management provided notice of availability re Programmatic Environmental Assessment for BSEE Permitted Activities in the Southern California Planning Area. The PEA reviews the potential environmental impacts of regulated oil and gas activities on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf (POCS). <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-08-22/pdf/2018-18107.pdf>

Other items of interest:

1. August 9 – Wall Street Journal article entitled, *Fish Caught in America, Processed in China Get Trapped by Trade Dispute* points out that a growing trend of shipping seafood to China for processing purposes may be impacted by the ongoing tariff dispute with China. See - <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-seafood-industry-vulnerable-to-tariffs-aimed-at-china-1533812400>
2. August 15 – USCG issued a Marine Safety Alert re poor reception on VHF frequencies used for radiotelephone, digital selective calling (DSC) and automatic identification systems (AIS) when in the vicinity of light emitting diode (LED) lighting on-board ships (e.g., navigation lights, searchlights and floodlights, interior and exterior lights, adornment). See - https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/b66831_07ab7c8ce2c74aafb6057bfac38aff8d.pdf
3. August 15 – A propaganda piece supporting the closure of fishing on the high seas under the UNs BBNJ initiative. See - <https://www.newsdeeply.com/oceans/articles/2018/08/15/could-the-high-seas-be-closed-to-fishing>. During a recent stakeholder meeting hosted by the State Department, we expressed support for leaving high seas fisheries under the purview of the RFMOs. The IATTC and WCPFC are much better situated to address fishery related issues.
4. August 31 – US and Canada fail to reach a deal on rewriting NAFTA. This after the announcement earlier in the week that the US and Mexico had reached a trade deal (see - <https://www.foxbusiness.com/economy/us-mexico-could-reach-agreement-on-trade-very-soon>). <https://www.cnn.com/2018/08/31/politics/nafta-deal-deadline/index.html>

Upcoming items of interest

1. September 3 – 7 – Northern Committee of the WCPFC meeting. In looking at the documents submitted in advance of the meeting, there doesn't appear to be any focused discussions on the albacore fishery. There was an informational item which shows catch and effort for 2016 and 2017 which is attached to this report.

2. September 5 – 12 – Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting in Seattle, Wa. Highly Migratory Species are on the Agenda; but no albacore specific items are on the Agenda. At this time, we are unaware of any albacore related items being on the Agenda; but there may be follow-up conversations on the License Requirement and/or other matters which may arise before the PFMC meeting.
3. September 4 – 17 – UN Intergovernmental Conference session in ABNJ/BBNJ. Additional information on this is available at <https://www.un.org/bbnj/>.
4. September 17 – Bureau of Ocean Energy Management holding a meeting of the California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force. Agenda for the meeting available here - <https://www.boem.gov/note09072018/>
5. NOAA Listening Sessions: As noted in last month's overview, NOAA is hosting a number of meetings during the fall to "provide information about the implementation of the Department of Commerce's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, and also offer you the opportunity to give your input. Topics will include the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017, reducing the seafood trade deficit, and supporting maritime commerce, fisheries, recreation, and tourism." West Coast meeting dates are as follows:
 - Thursday, October 4 – Seattle, Wa. Agenda: To discuss the implementation of The Weather Act, including the development of a community-based weather model.
 - Friday, November 9 – San Diego, Ca. Agenda: To discuss opportunities to improve the efficiency of U.S. ports, promote domestic aquaculture production, and expand exploration of the nation's Exclusive Economic Zone.
6. October 11 – 12 – Permanent Advisory Committee to the WCPFC meeting to be held in Honolulu, Hi.