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## WHAT AAFA IS DOING FOR YOU - 2019

This new format, approved by the Board in April, 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.

### North Pacific Albacore – Management Strategy Evaluation (“MSE”)

- Process began in 2015 and AAFA has been participating since then.
- Participated in webinars, calls and meetings about the MSE process
- Dr. Steve Teo, NOAA scientist with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, will be attending the General Meeting in San Diego to go over MSE.
- Dr. Teo and Dr. Desiree Tommasi gave a lengthy presentation on the results of the first round of the MSE model run. While it was confusing, in parts, the conversation that accompanied the presentation helped clarify.
- Moving forward, these results will be presented to both the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (“IATTC”) and the Northern Committee (“NC”) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission’s (“WCPFC”) this summer and fall.
- Based on feedback received the MSE model will be tweaked and the next round of results are expected at the end of 2020 or beginning of 2021.

### US – Canada Pacific Albacore Treaty

- Current regime expires at the end of 2019. Bilateral discussions likely to be scheduled for the Spring of this year.
- Catch reporting from the U.S. is behind schedule.
- The Data Exchange for 2018 season took place on April 17. Representatives from the AAFA Board, PMA, Staff and Consultant were on the call. A number of questions resulted from the Data Exchange, which were further flushed out in a call with WFOA on April 24.

### UN Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction – ABNJ

- Following up U.S. Stakeholder discussions and the UN Conference last September, AAFA remains a participant in the process. AAFA’s current position, which aligns with WFOA,

American Tunaboat Association and the Hawaiian Longline Association, is that fisheries should be exempted from any coverage under ABNJ as there are already international bodies responsible for ensuring the sustainability of fishery resources – namely the Regional Fishery Management Organizations (“RFMOs”).

- Participated in U.S. Stakeholder calls leading up to the second session of the Conference (scheduled to begin on March 25).

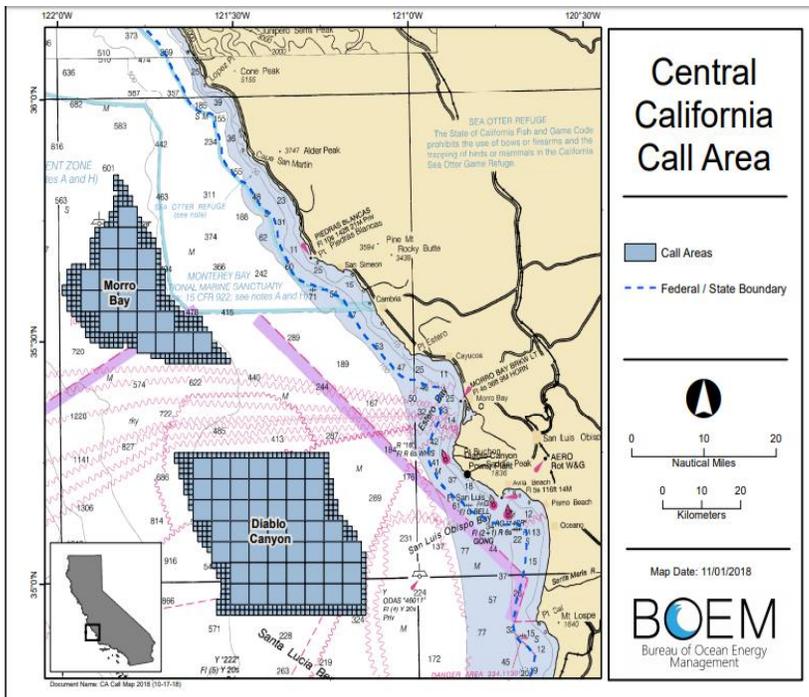
### Domestic Management – PFMC

- We have a representative attending each PFMC meeting where North Pacific albacore may be on the Agenda. Although, no AAFA members currently sit on the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel, AAFA consultant Mike Conroy does.
- Continued presence at meetings (domestic and international) where issues which could impact the albacore fishery are planned for discussion.

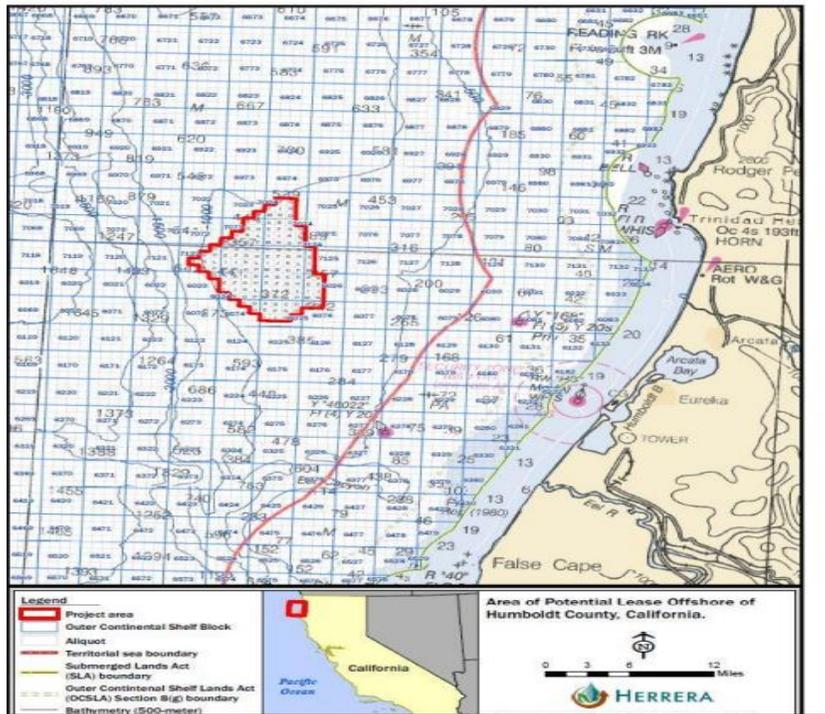
### Wind farms off the California Coast

- In January, Mike submitted a public comment on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”) federal register notice seeking input on the three areas off the California Coast which could support offshore wind energy: His comment focused on historic importance of the areas to the albacore fishery.

### Two Central California Call Areas:



## Northern California Call Area:



- BOEM has not yet published its response to the comments received.
- On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the California Legislature's Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture held a hearing, in Eureka, entitled *California's Fisheries and Wildlife: Can they co-exist with Offshore Wind Energy Development?* Panels were made up of: Federal, State and Local govt officials, Wind energy industry representatives, environmental organization representatives, and local fishing industry representatives. While nothing was settled, it is clear that the State wants wind farms, the Federal Govt wants wind farms, and the local Govts in the impacted areas want wind farms. Our job – ensure that the fishing industry's voice is heard and that adverse impacts to the albacore fishery are minimized to the extent possible.

## Proposed change to Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan

- Staying aware and involved as National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) publishes Amendment 17 to the CPS FMP which would ensure access to live bait (without the currently pre-specified incidental landing limit (currently 15%)) in the event a CPS stock (Pacific sardine, Northern anchovy, Pacific mackerel, Jack mackerel) is declared overfished.

Other items which arose in April and through May 7.

This section will appear monthly and highlights issues, etc that aren't likely recurring items

- Dungeness Crab Fisheries

- The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW”), Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Association (“PCFFA”), and the Center for Biological Diversity (“CBD”) executed a Settlement Agreement which profoundly impacts the California Dungeness Crab fishery. The States of Oregon and Washington are considering similar actions for their Dungeness Crab fisheries in hopes of fending off similar lawsuits

- International Maritime Organization Number

- On April 16, NMFS published a Proposed rule; request for comments - which expands the IMO number requirements to include, “motorized inboard fishing vessels of less than 100 gross tons GT that are at least 12 meters in length overall and that are authorized to operate outside waters under the national jurisdiction of the flag State” will be required to obtain an IMO number. **If you don’t possess a high seas permit (assuming your vessel doesn’t exceed 100 gross tons) you do not need to obtain an IMO number.**
- If you are required to obtain the IMO number, you will have until January 1, 2020 to comply.
- You can apply online at <https://imonumbers.lrfairplay.com/> and there is no cost to obtain the IMO number.
- The Proposed Rule does provide for an exemption if, “if “a fishing vessel owner, after following the instructions given by the designated manager of the IMO ship identification number scheme, is unable to ensure that an IMO number is issued for the fishing vessel.”

- Vessel Discharge Act of 2018

- As previously reported, the Act permanently exempted commercial fishing vessels (without regard to size) from the Vessel General Permit requirement. However, fishing vessels still have to comply with the Act’s rules regarding Ballast Water.
- Ballast Water is defined, in the Act, as follows:
  - The term ‘ballast water’ means any water, suspended matter, and other materials taken onboard a vessel—
    - “(I) to control or maintain trim, draught, stability, or stresses of the vessel, regardless of the means by which any such water or suspended matter is carried; or
    - “(II) during the cleaning, maintenance, or other operation of a ballast tank or ballast water management system of the vessel.