



www.AmericanAlbacore.com  
4364 Bonita Rd Box 311  
Bonita, CA. 91902  
P (619) 941 2307 F (619) 863 5046

## 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.
- **Paying attention to the MSE for Pacific Bluefin tuna – which recently started – in order to gain insights to what strategies are proposed/considered for a fishery that is already saddled with severe management restrictions due to a low spawning stock biomass.**

### 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.
- **AAFA and WFOA jointly sent a letter to Dave Hogan (from US State Department) seeking clarification on the questions raised during the Data Exchange. To date, we have received no response.**

## **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 (began on March 25).
- The Council Coordination Committee (“CCC”), which gathers representatives from all of the Nation’s Fishery Management Council’s, met in May and were given a presentation on ABNJ. Depending on the outcomes of the CCC meeting, AAFA may be offering comments at the June PFMC meeting.
- The third UN Intergovernmental Conference on ABNJ will take place in August of this year. AAFA will continue to build relationships with the State Dept, PFMC, and other industry groups to ensure our concerns are heard and clearly understood.

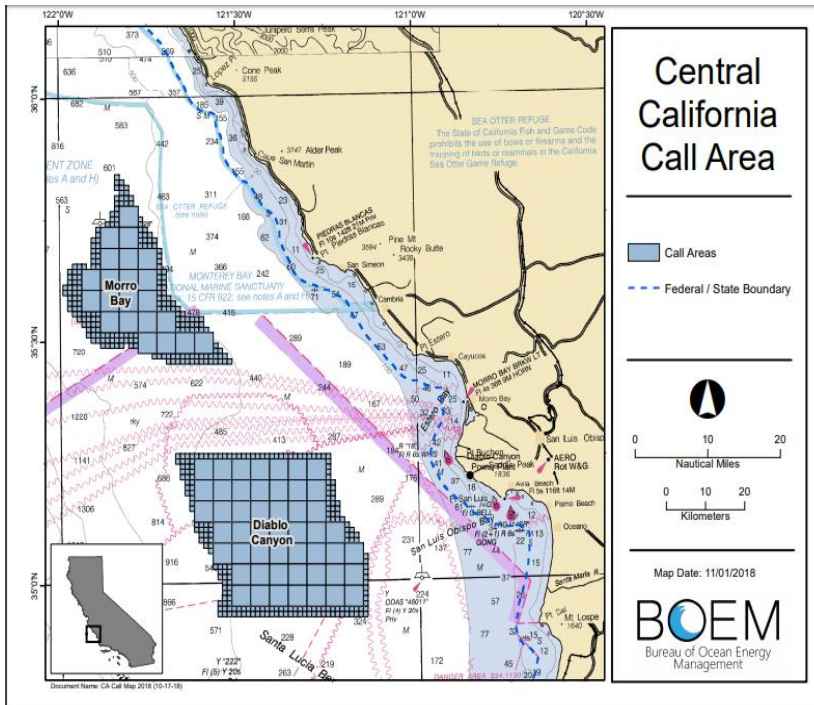
## **Domestic Management – PFMC**

- 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.

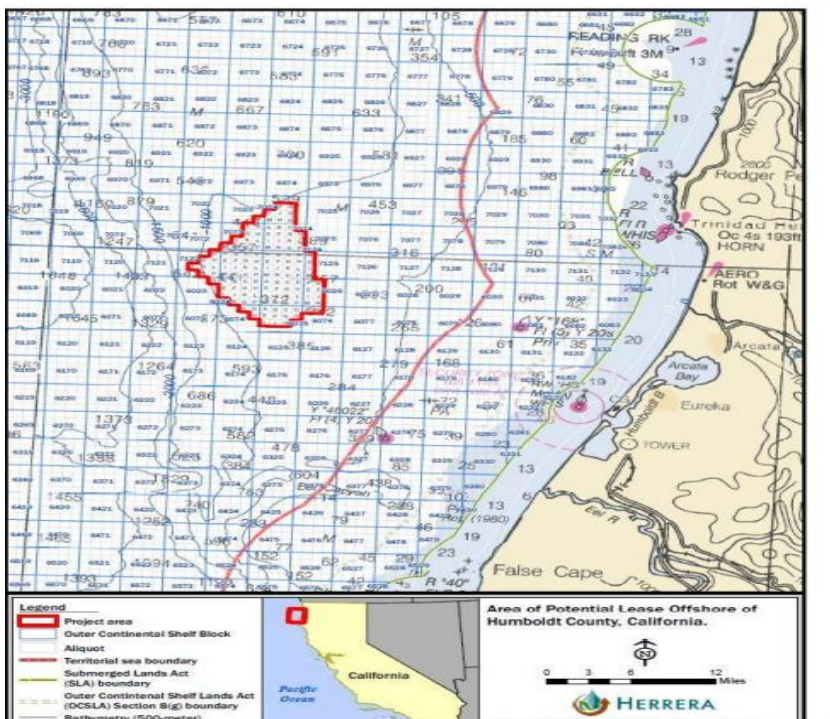
## **Wind farms off the California Coast**

- 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.

- **The Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (“RODA”)** was established to by a broad membership-based coalition of fishing industry associations and fishing companies with an interest in improving the compatibility of new offshore development with their businesses. AAFA is having discussions with RODA about expanding their scope of coverage to the West Coast. They have expressed an interest and are currently considering best path forward.

### **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 May and through June 10.

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

- Oregon Albacore Commission
  - On May 30, the OAC held a conference call to discuss, amongst other things, a proposal to increase Assessments.
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- Voluntary Logbook for albacore fishermen who catch their own bait
  - The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (“Wa DFW”) is working on a voluntary logbook for the reporting of anchovy take by albacore fishermen who catch their own bait. Currently, you are required to put total amount of bait caught on your fish ticket; but the location of where that catch was made is unknown. The Govt Agencies are currently using where you caught you caught your albacore. Ie – if you caught albacore off Oregon; but bait off Washington, the Agencies don't have a way to attribute the bait catch to Washington.
- California's Offshore Banks and Seamounts
  - As you will recall, in 2016 a litany of eNGOs submitted a proposal to Pres Obama which would have created a Marine Monument centered on California's Offshore Seamounts. AAFA and a slew of fishing organizations got together and feverishly opposed this. We were successful in thwarting the eNGOs efforts. Now the same eNGOs are coming at it differently. They have labeled these areas “Hope Spots” – which doesn't carry with it anything other than the name. AAFA will remain vigilant should this become a formal request of a Govt Agency.
- California Assembly Bill 5 (AB 5)
  - This would codify the Ca Supreme Court's holding in *Dynamex Operations West, Inc. v. Superior Court of Los Angeles* (2018) 4 Cal.5th 903. This address the distinction between employee and independent contractor. AAFA is working with the State Legislature in an effort to ensure commercial fishing operations can continue to label crew as independent contractors – vs employees.
- Lenfest Ocean Program
  - This may become a recurring topic on this Activity Report.
  - On June 10, a webinar was held which was entitled, “Predicting Pacific Albacore Distribution Changes Using Predator-Prey Relationships.” It attempts to answer the questions, can accounting for alterations in food web dynamics under climate change improve distribution forecasts for albacore tuna in the northeast Pacific? AAFA participated in the webinar and intends to follow this closely.