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Highlights - October 17, 2012

National

FishWatch Education Resources Now Available

Our new collection of lesson plans and activities challenge high school students and their teachers to use the NOAA Fisheries' FishWatch website to learn all about the science behind sustainable seafood. [Learn more.](#)

Inspecting Seafood-A Highly Trained Nose Knows

Do you know how we inspect seafood? How about the most common types of seafood fraud? We sat down with NOAA Fisheries Steve Wilson, Seafood Inspection Chief Quality Officer, to learn how his staff ensures seafood is safe and high-quality. [Find out why](#) a highly trained nose knows.

Making Sense of Fish Stock Assessment Models

How do we make sure our nation's fisheries are sustainable and productive? It starts with fish stock assessment modeling-combining data to evaluate fish stock health necessary to inform fisheries management decisions. [Find out more](#) in Part 2 of our Stock Assessment 101 series.

The Surprising Sources of Your Favorite Seafoods

Our top ten favorite seafoods in the United States haven't changed much in the past several years, but you might be surprised at where they come from. [Find out more.](#)

NOAA Fisheries Initiates 5-Year Review for Four Protected Sea Turtles

The agency is requesting submission of scientific and commercial data on Kemp's ridley, olive ridley, leatherback, and hawksbill sea turtles that has become available since their last status review in 2007. [Please submit information](#) through December 10, 2012.

Fish Returning to Restored Habitat in Great Lakes Faster than Expected

When NOAA started building rock reefs in Michigan's St. Clair River, we hoped that the restored habitat would help bring fish to the area. But we didn't expect such immediate results-we've already seen sturgeon swimming by the reef and have found eggs, evidence the sturgeon are spawning on the reef. [Read more](#).

Southeast

NOAA Fisheries Seeks Public Comment on Amendment 38 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources in the Gulf of Mexico

This amendment proposes modifying accountability measures for shallow-water grouper and changing the framework procedure for the reef fish fishery management plan. [Submit comments](#) through December 11, 2012.

Alaska

NOAA Proposes to Modify the Groundfish Retention Standard Program in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

This proposed action would remove certain regulatory requirements mandating minimum levels of groundfish retention, add requirements for annual reports on groundfish retention performance, and reduce compliance costs. [Comment on the proposed action](#) through November 14, 2012.

Northwest/Southwest

NOAA Announces Awards for Coastal and Marine Fish Habitat Protection

NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have awarded \$135,000-with \$320,000 in matching, non-federal funds-for five projects to protect habitat for threatened and endangered salmon and other commercially and recreationally valuable fish on the Pacific Coast. [Learn more](#).

Pacific Islands

Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center Seeks Public Comments on Draft Science Plan

This plan is the Center's effort to update their view of priority tasks for the next five years. Comments should be sent to the [Center's Directors Office](#) by November 15, 2012.

Events

[Oct-Dec:](#) NOAA Fisheries holds free workshops on Atlantic Shark Identification and Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification

[Oct-Dec:](#) NOAA Fisheries holds training workshops on Electronic Reporting System for Federal Atlantic Swordfish, Shark, and Tuna Dealers

[Oct 23-25:](#) New Council Member Training in Silver Spring, MD

[Oct 23-25:](#) Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee meets in Silver Spring, MD

[Oct 25-26:](#) Permanent Advisory Committee for the U.S. Commissioners to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission meets in Honolulu, Hawaii

[Oct 29-Nov 1:](#) Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council meets in Honolulu, HI

[Nov 2-7:](#) Pacific Fishery Management Council meets in Costa Mesa, CA

Announcements

[Oct 1-31:](#) NOAA Teacher At Sea Program calls for applications for 2013 field season

[Dec 14:](#) Nominations for National Wetlands Awards due

Federal Register Actions

[Click here](#) for a list of only those actions open for public comment. Scroll search for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For a list of all daily actions, check the Federal Register [online](#).