

From: NOAA - Fisheries Service <editor.fishnews@noaa.gov>

To: ssherman40 <ssherman40@aol.com>

Subject: FishNews - May 8, 2013 - Status of Stocks 2012, More Habitat Means More Fish, Shark Conservation Act, Facts on National Ocean Policy Implementation, and More

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May 8, 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

[May 9 and June 6](#)

Two **Atlantic Shark Identification**

Workshops in Bohemia, New York, and Panama City, Florida. Both are free.

[May and June](#)

Four **Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops** in Maryland, Rhode Island, North Carolina, and Mississippi. All are free.

[May 7-9](#)

Managing Our Nation's Fisheries-3 conference in Washington, DC.

[May 9-10](#)

Public meeting of the



[Status of Stocks 2012](#)

The 2012 Annual Report on the Status of U.S. Fisheries highlights the collective progress that NOAA Fisheries, the regional fishery management councils, and our stakeholders have made toward ending overfishing and rebuilding stocks. In 2012, 10 stocks were removed from the "overfishing" list and six were declared rebuilt. Sam Rauch notes in a [message to stakeholders](#) that these improvements demonstrate the success of U.S. science-based fisheries management.

[More Habitat Means More Fish](#)

Check out this new, 8-page report that details how habitat restoration and protection is yielding fantastic results in terms of bigger, healthier populations of fish. The report includes specific data on increases in size and abundance of fish populations drawn from around the United States and covering an array of habitat types. In an accompanying [message](#), NOAA's Eric Schwaab emphasizes how habitat conservation keeps U.S. fisheries going strong.

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) in Washington, D.C.

May 13-14

Workshops for participants in pollock and trawl fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and in the Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program.

May 15

Public conference call to discuss progress toward the 2011 Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Recreational Fishing Action Agenda.

May 15

Joint public meeting of Scientific and General Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission in Long Beach, California.

May 16

Workshop for owners/operators of vessels and shoreside processors for pollock fishery.

May 17

Free Safety and Survival Training for Commercial Fishermen in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 3

Pre-proposals due for Coastal Fish Habitat Protection funding.

FEDERAL REGISTER ACTIONS

Shark Conservation Proposed Rule - Please Comment

By **June 17**, submit your comments on a proposed rule to implement some of the domestic provisions of the Shark Conservation Act of 2010. The Act prohibits any person from removing shark fins at sea or possessing, transferring, or landing shark fins unless they are naturally attached to the corresponding carcass.

Facts on National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

The Obama Administration announced the release of the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan in April. To help specific groups of stakeholders understand their potential involvement in this voluntary regional planning effort, factsheets are available on topics such as [recreational fishing](#), [commercial fishing](#), and [aquaculture](#).

Northeast

2013 Groundfish Measures

Drawing on the advice of the New England Fishery Management Council, NOAA Fisheries announced final management measures for the Northeast groundfish fishery, including much lower quotas for some key stocks, as well as actions to help fishermen adjust to these quotas. NOAA and the Department of Commerce continue to work with Congress to help mitigate the impacts of these measures on the region.

Responsible Whale Watching Program Hits Milestone

The Whale SENSE Program is a collaborative effort among NOAA, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation organization, and commercial whale watching companies that promotes safe and responsible whale viewing. As they give tours, Whale SENSE member boats aid in educational outreach, data collection, and reporting whale entanglements to rescuers.

Basking Shark Lands on Rhode Island Beach

A 28-foot-long basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) washed up on Misquamicut Beach in Westerly, Rhode Island, presenting NOAA shark biologists an unexpected chance to gather important shark data close to home.

Southeast

Restoration Transforms Abandoned Golf Course into Healthy Marsh

As part of the larger restoration plan following the 2002 Everreach oil spill outside North Charleston, South Carolina, NOAA and its partners restored 12 acres of salt marsh on the Noisette Creek. The restored habitat will support activities such

[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](#).

as boating, fishing, shellfish harvest, and shrimp baiting.

First Deepwater Horizon Seagrass Restoration Done

On one of the first restoration projects completed following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, NOAA and its partners have restored submerged aquatic vegetation at 17 sites where response activities scarred seagrass beds. These sites range from Apalachee Bay, Florida, to Perdido Bay on the Florida-Alabama state line.

Incidental Take of Marine Mammals - Please Comment

By **June 6**, submit your comments on the U.S. Air Force's application for authorization to take marine mammals (by harassment incidental to military readiness activities) at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida during a 5-year period.

Southwest

Incidental Take of Marine Mammals - Please Comment

By **June 3**, submit your comments on the Southwest Fisheries Science Center's request for authorization to take small numbers of marine mammals incidental to fisheries research during a 5-year period.

Draft Environmental Assessment for Fisheries Research - Please Comment

By **July 1**, submit your comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Fisheries Research Conducted and Funded by the Southwest Fisheries Science Center. This assessment evaluates the potential environmental impacts of fisheries and ecosystem research along the U.S. West Coast, Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean, and Scotia Sea area off Antarctica.

Northwest



Photo by Jeff Bash, Northwest Fisheries Science Center

NOAA Fisheries Northwest Photo Contest Winners

NOAA Fisheries' Northwest Region announces the winners of the second annual photo contest aimed at highlighting the work of NOAA staff at the Regional Office and the Fisheries Science Center.

Alaska

Recompression of Rougheye Rockfish with Barotrauma

Rockfish (*Sebastes* spp) often suffer internal barotrauma injuries when brought up to the surface from deep water. Researchers at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center demonstrated that rougheye rockfish can survive capture if recompressed, suggesting the potential for tagging studies of deepwater rockfish.

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