

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

Subject: FishNews - May 15, 2013 - Managing Our Nation's Fisheries, New Rec Fishing Website, New Protected Resources Director, and More

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May 15, 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

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

Fisheries Management Conference Brings Together Diverse Voices

The third [*Managing Our Nation's Fisheries Conference*](#) concluded last week, with conference participants developing 128 recommendations for improving fisheries sustainability. The conference was coordinated by the Pacific Fishery Management Council, NOAA Fisheries, and the other regional fishery management councils, with sponsorship by both the fishing industry and environmental organizations.



NOAA Fisheries Launches New Rec Fishing Website

Saltwater recreational fishing is an integral part of American coastal life and communities. It's a cultural cornerstone and an important economic driver in the United States. Learn how NOAA is working to support recreational fishermen through its

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

June 5 and 12

Two **Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops** in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, and Gulfport, Mississippi. Both are free.

June 6

Free **Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop** in Panama City, Florida.

June 14

Open House at NOAA Western Regional Center Campus in Seattle, Washington.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 3

Pre-proposals due for Coastal Fish Habitat Protection funding.

July 31

Proposals due for modifications to Pacific Coast Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat.

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

Recreational Fishing Initiative, and explore information and resources on recreational fishing data, science, and management.

New Director of NOAA Fisheries Protected Resources

Donna Weiting has been chosen as the director of NOAA Fisheries' Office of Protected Resources. She has 22 years of experience in federal management and policy at NOAA, both in Fisheries and in the National Ocean Service.

Northeast

New Management Measures for Atlantic Sea Scallops

NOAA Fisheries announced quota reductions and the continued closure of two special access areas for the 2013 and 2014 Atlantic sea scallop fishery. The scallop industry supports these measures, which are intended to protect young scallops and maximize future harvest.

NOAA Supports Free Access for St. Croix River Herring

In March, NOAA reaffirmed its support for unfettered access for river herring in the St. Croix River before the Maine State Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources. A new state law now requires unconstrained fish passage on this river.

Southeast

Proposed Rules for Vermilion and Yellowtail Snapper - Please Comment

By **June 6**, [submit your comments](#) on a proposed rule to set a bag limit for vermillion snapper, set the annual catch limit for yellowtail snapper, and eliminate the venting tool requirement.

Proposed Changes to Vermilion Snapper and Red Porgy Management - Please Comment

By **June 7**, [submit your comments](#) on NOAA Fisheries' proposed rule to implement Amendment 18 to the South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Fishery Management Plan. These changes would reflect the findings of updated population assessments for vermillion snapper and red porgy.

Environmental Impacts of Gulf Reef Fish Management - Please Comment

By **June 12**, submit your comments on NOAA Fisheries' notice of intent to prepare a draft environmental impact statement analyzing a range of management alternatives for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico. These alternatives will be included in Amendment 39 to the Reef Fish Resources Fishery

actions, check the Federal Register [online](#).

Management Plan.

Southwest

Pacific Coast Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat - Request for Proposals

The Pacific Fishery Management Council's Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee is conducting a review of essential fish habitat (EFH) for Pacific Coast groundfish. The Committee announces a request for proposals to modify the EFH designation. Proposals are due **July 31**.

Northwest

Middle Columbia River Steelhead Restoration

NOAA Fisheries is working with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and other partners on education materials to promote restoration and recovery of steelhead and salmon. Check out the accompanying video created by a student at Eastern Oregon University.

Alaska

Incidental Take of Marine Mammals - Please Comment

By **June 13**, submit your comments on Shell Gulf of Mexico, Inc.'s application for authorization to take marine mammals (by harassment incidental to marine seismic activity) in the Chukchi Sea.

Pacific Islands

Proposal Aims to Reduce Shark Attacks on Monk Seals

At certain islets in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, endangered Hawaiian monk seal pups are at particular risk of predation by Galapagos sharks. The Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center's Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Program has submitted a permit request to continue its efforts to mitigate predation threats.

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