

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

Subject: FishNews - May 29, 2013 - Veterans Help Rebuild Fisheries, Changes to West Coast Agency Leadership, Salmon Restoration Boosts Washington Economy, and More

Date: Wed, May 29, 2013 1:28 pm



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May 29, 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

May 30

Conference call on Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology, open to the public for observation.

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



Video: Veterans Restore Endangered Salmon Habitat

In honor of Memorial Day, we highlight military veterans who have returned from serving their country abroad to serve their country at home. A NOAA-funded pilot project, in partnership with the California Conservation Corps and California's Department of Fish and Wildlife, trains veterans in habitat conservation to help restore habitat for northern California's endangered salmon.

Fisheries Announces West Coast Leadership Changes

NOAA Fisheries announces several senior leadership changes within the agency as it merges its Northwest and Southwest offices into a single West Coast Regional Office. Will Stelle, former Northwest Regional Administrator, will serve as the regional administrator for the new office, while Rod McInnis,

Campus in Seattle, Washington.

former Southwest Regional Administrator, will move to Silver Spring, Maryland, to become NOAA Fisheries' Acting Director of International Affairs.

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

Northeast

Draft Biological Opinion for Atlantic Sturgeon

By **July 19**, submit your comments on NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region's draft Biological Opinion for Atlantic sturgeon. The Biological Opinion examines the interaction of seven Northeast fisheries with the five distinct population segments of Atlantic sturgeon that were listed as threatened or endangered in February 2012.

Southeast

Proposals for Yellowtail Snapper and Groupers

By **June 24**, [submit your comments](#) on NOAA Fisheries' proposed actions in Amendment 15 to the South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Fishery Management Plan. The rule proposes increases to catch levels for yellowtail snapper and modifications to commercial grouper management measures.

Southwest

Pacific Council Considers 2015-2016 Management

The Pacific Fishery Management Council and its advisory bodies will meet June 18-25 to address issues related to groundfish, highly migratory species, ecosystem-based management, and habitat.

Net Cameras Add New Dimension to Viewing Fish

Scientists at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center developed a camera system that can be installed in trawl nets to observe fish behavior and the performance of marine mammal excluder devices. Tests of the net cameras provided hours of video footage of sardines, jack mackerel, squid, and other fishes, and also documented a sea lion being excluded from the trawl.

Northwest

New Website for Northwest Fisheries Science Center

The Northwest Fisheries Science Center launched its new website with a fresh look, improved navigation, and new features such as multimedia, blogs, cruise reports, and social media connections.

Northwest Science Center's Message in a Bottle

Last month, Alaska resident Mike Makar discovered a message-bearing bottle that had been floating in the Pacific Ocean since 1966. The bottle was one of thousands released by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, the predecessor of NOAA Fisheries', in an effort to track ocean currents using the technology of the day.

Video: Returning Salmon Improve Life in Eastern Washington State

In southeast Washington State, the combined efforts of federal agencies and a local salmon recovery board to improve salmon habitat have contributed to improved steelhead returns, providing significant economic benefits to the communities that depend on them.

Alaska

Technical Memo: Variation in Steller Sea Lion Diet

Reduced availability of prey, due to commercial fishing or environmental degradation, might have contributed to the sharp decline in western Alaska's Steller sea lion populations in the 1980s. This study seeks to understand trends in the sea lions' diet in hopes of identifying drivers of population health.

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