

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

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Subject: FishNews - June 26, 2013 - Lots to report this week - check out the Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program, Lightning Awareness, the ABCs of Stock Assessment, Council Appointments, and More

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June 26, 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

June 26

Public meeting on
Flatfish Cooperative
Research in New Bedford,
Massachusetts.

July 8-12

Island-Based
Management **Scoping**
Meetings in Puerto Rico.

July 9

Island-Based
Management **Scoping**
Meeting in St. Croix.

July 10

Island-Based
Management **Scoping**
Meeting in St. Thomas.

July 17 and August 13

Two **webinars** on NOAA's
draft Tribal Consultation



Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program (BREP) Report to Congress

The 5th annual Report to Congress highlights grant-funded research for improved fishing practices and innovative gear technologies to reduce bycatch in our nation's fisheries. In a related story, see how we are [Working Together for a Sustainable Crab Fishery](#) through CRAB, a new research partnership.

Fishermen Top the List of Lightning Deaths

This week is National Lightning Safety Awareness Week, and we urge fishermen and boaters to take precaution during thunderstorms. A new review by the National Weather Service found that fishing topped the list of leisure activities in which

Handbook.

**July, August,
September**

Three **Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops** in Florida, Texas, and New Jersey. All are free.

**July, August,
September**

Six **Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops** in Massachusetts, Florida, New York, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Texas. All are free.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 31

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

October 7

Applications due for FY 2014 John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grants

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**.

participants were fatally struck by lightning. Boating was also high on the list.

Fishery Stock Assessments - It's All About the Science

NOAA Fisheries' scientific stock assessments are critical to modern fisheries management. Want to learn more? Watch a new video, *The ABCs of Stock Assessment*, get the basics with Stock Assessments 101, dive deeper into reports and publications, and enjoy other stories and videos that bring the science to life.

Announcing the 2013 Council Appointments

The Department of Commerce announces the appointment of 20 new and returning members to the eight regional fishery management councils that partner with NOAA Fisheries to manage ocean fish stocks. These members will serve three-year terms starting August 11.

Draft Procedures for Consultation with Indian Tribes - Please Comment

By **August 23**, submit your comments on the Draft NOAA Procedures for Government-to-Government Consultation with Federally Recognized Indian Tribes. The **draft handbook** is intended to assist NOAA staff in consultations and coordination with tribal governments. NOAA has also arranged for **two webinars** on the Consultation hand book, scheduled for July 17 and August 13.

Plan for Periodic Review of Regulations - Please Comment

By **July 22**, submit your comments on NOAA Fisheries' plan to review existing regulations that have significant economic impacts on small entities (businesses, organizations, jurisdictions.) These periodic reviews are necessary for compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Northeast

Resource Guide for Fishing Through Tough Times

This working document is a compilation of information and ideas to help the Northeast groundfish industry maintain its viability in these challenging times. It is a starting point from which all stakeholders can take action to help preserve this fishery.

Changing Water Temperatures May Affect Young Cod

NOAA researchers found that changing sea surface temperatures and water circulation patterns affect key zooplankton species along the Northeast U.S. Continental Shelf. Because these zooplankton are a critical food source for juvenile Atlantic cod, these changes may be influencing cod recovery.

Video: Rebuilding Oyster Reefs in Maryland

The oyster reefs of Harris Creek, a tributary of the Choptank River on Maryland's Eastern Shore, are a key component in one of the largest restoration projects ever undertaken on the Chesapeake Bay. NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Office and partners describe how this extensive restoration will take place.

Interactive Oyster Tool

A new online map-based tool developed by NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office provides free and easy access to information on oysters, oyster habitat, and oyster restoration projects in the Chesapeake Bay.

Southeast

Proposed Rule for Charter Vessel, Headboat Permits - Please Comment

By **July 8**, [submit your comments](#) on a proposed regulation in the Gulf Reef Fish and Coastal Migratory Pelagic (CMP) Fishery Management Plans. The proposed rule is intended to simplify passenger capacity requirements for transfer and renewals of Gulf reef fish and CMP for-hire permits.

Northwest

Draft Recreational Fishing Action Agenda

By **July 22**, submit your comments on the Draft Recreational Fishing Action Agenda. The Northwest Regional Office and Northwest Fisheries Science Center are working with the recreational fishing community to enhance the science and management of recreational fisheries in the Pacific Northwest, and this draft plan is intended to balance adequate protection for the stocks with recreational fishing opportunity.

Catch-and-Release for Puget Sound's Rockfish

Post-release survivability for fish brought up from depths of 30 feet or more poses a particular challenge for catch-and-release fishing. The change in pressure can cause a fish's swim bladder to swell with air, preventing it from descending back to its habitat. NOAA Fisheries partners with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Puget Sound Anglers to develop and share innovative catch-and-release techniques.

Recovery Plan for Oregon Coho Salmon

NOAA Fisheries intends to prepare a recovery plan for the Oregon Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit of coho salmon and requests information from the public.

Restored Habitat Brings Back the Salmon

Restoration of the Skokomish River Estuary began in 2006. This year, 20 different fish species, including threatened Chinook and summer chum salmon, have been spotted swimming through the restored habitat. When finished, the project will have recreated 360 acres of critical fish habitat.

Alaska

Scientific Surveys Support Sustainable Fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska

The biennial Gulf of Alaska fishery survey helps collect the scientific data vital to population assessments, which in turn are the keystone of successful science-based management. 2013 is an "on" year for the NOAA Fisheries [Alaska Science Center's bottom trawl survey](#). Conducted by two chartered fishing vessels, the survey cruise will collect samples from Dutch Harbor to Ketchikan.

Historical Corner: Federal Marine Fisheries in Alaska

The U.S. Fish Commission's first northern fur seal surveys were conducted by 1872, and the first fisheries investigation in 1888. This webpage covering the Alaska Fisheries Science Center's history includes timelines, photos, and information on the historical facilities, survey vessels, and technology of the past 125 years.

Pacific Islands

Scientists Recommend Increasing Hawaii Bottomfish Quota for 2014

The scientists who advise the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council concluded their June meeting with recommendations to increase the quota for seven popular deep-water bottomfish in the main Hawaiian Islands. The quota had been adjusted downward to account for management uncertainty, but improvements in reporting frequency have reduced that uncertainty.

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