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October 1, 2013

EVENTS

October 10

Open session of the 2013 International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) meeting.

October 15

Gulf Council Law Enforcement Advisory Panel Meeting in South Padre Island, Texas.

October 17

Fishers Forum: Debunking Fishery Myths in Honolulu, Hawaii.

October 22-24

Public meeting of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC).

We didn't want you to miss your weekly FishNews due to the federal government shutdown, so we're sending it a day early. We hope to be back in action in time for next week's edition. There's lots of good news to celebrate this National Seafood Month!

HIGHLIGHTS



October is National Seafood Month

October is National Seafood Month, a time to highlight smart seafood choices and sustainable fisheries. It's also the perfect opportunity to illustrate U.S. fisheries successes, like the recently rebuilt southern population of black sea bass stock. All month long, NOAA Fisheries will be publishing great seafood stories including science features, culinary Q&As, seafood videos, and even a podcast-- you'll find them in our feature story collection throughout October. And FishWatch.gov will continue

October 28-29

Public meeting of the Permanent Advisory Committee to advise the U.S. Commissioners to the **Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission** in Honolulu, Hawaii.

October-December

Three free **Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops** in Massachusetts, South Carolina, and Florida.

October-December

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS**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](#).

to showcase profiles of your favorite seafood and the latest seafood news.

Two Takes on Climate Change in the Ocean

Two recent studies show how marine ecosystems are changing as ocean temperatures rise, and that these changes are happening more quickly than expected. Read about them here and also check out an accompanying video: [The Science Behind Changing Ocean Temperatures and Atlantic Cod](#). (Be sure to subscribe to [NOAA Fisheries YouTube](#) for video updates.)

NOAA Scientists Document New Walrus Haulout

Every year, a team from NOAA Fisheries' Marine Mammal Lab surveys the Alaskan Arctic from small airplanes to study the distribution and abundance of marine mammals. This summer, NOAA scientists were the first to document from the air thousands of walruses lounging on the shore near Pt. Lay, Alaska. The scientists were able to provide valuable data to partner agencies.

Meet Our Senior Science Advisors

Led by our Chief Scientist Dr. Richard Merrick, 1,400 scientists are working to improve our understanding of fisheries, protected species, and their habitat. Meet three of our top senior scientists and learn about their various areas of focus.

AFS Honors NOAA Stock Assessment Scientist

The American Fisheries Society has honored Richard D. Methot, Jr., Ph.D., with the 2013 Carl R. Sullivan Fishery Conservation Award. Dr. Methot, who serves as NOAA's Science Advisor for Stock Assessments, has worked in this field for more than 30 years.

Loggerhead Critical Habitat - Reopened Comments

By **November 29** (previously September 16), submit your comments on NOAA Fisheries' proposed designations of critical habitat for loggerhead sea turtles in the northwest Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. Critical habitat designations identify the habitat essential to endangered and threatened species.

Northeast**Standardized Bycatch Reporting - Please Comment**

By **October 27**, submit your comments on a [draft amendment](#) to the standardized bycatch reporting methodology used to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in the Mid-Atlantic and New England fisheries. Please submit comments to nmfs.ner.draftSBRM@noaa.gov.

Southeast

Snapper-Grouper Amendment - Please Comment

By **October 28**, [submit your comments](#) on a proposed rule to implement Amendment 27 to the South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The rule would make several changes intended to streamline management of Nassau grouper, improve vessel safety, implement consistent regulations on retention limits, and minimize impacts to blue runner fishermen.

Alaska

Larger Vessels in Pacific Cod Fishery - Please Comment

By **November 29**, submit your comments on a proposed amendment to the Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area Fishery Management Plan. Amendment 99 would encourage replacement of older vessels by allowing certain license limitation program (LLP) license holders to use new or existing vessels not eligible under current length and capacity restrictions.

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