

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

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Subject: FishNews - January 29, 2014 - International Collaboration on Shark Trade, Web-Based Social Indicators Tools, New Leadership in Office of Law Enforcement, "Lolita" the Killer Whale, and More

Date: Wed, Jan 29, 2014 3:20 pm



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January 29, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

January 30

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council public hearing and scoping meeting in Pooler, Georgia.

January 30

Final day of Northeast Fishery Management Council meeting in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

February 3-6

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council meeting in Houston, Texas.

February 4-25

Four seminars in NOAA Fisheries' RACE Seminar Series at NOAA Western



Working Toward Sustainable Global Trade of Sharks

In December, Brazil and the United States led a workshop focused on the implementation of new CITES measures for the international trade of five shark species. Representatives from 28 Latin American and Caribbean nations attended to learn about tools for identifying sharks, collecting data, and tracking trade of shark specimens.

NOAA Fisheries Unveils Social Indicators Map Tool

NOAA Fisheries has developed a new, user-friendly web-based mapping tool that will allow managers and other stakeholders to assess the vulnerability and resilience of coastal fishing communities along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. The tool maps and compares social indicators-measures of social, economic, and psychological, well-being-for nearly 3,000 communities in 19 states.

Regional Center in
Seattle, Washington.

February 5-11

**North Pacific Fishery
Management Council
meeting** in Seattle,
Washington.

February 11-14

**Mid-Atlantic Fishery
Management Council
meeting** in New Bern,
North Carolina.

February - March

Two free **Atlantic Shark
Identification
Workshops** in Virginia
and Florida.

February - March

Four free **Protected
Species Safe Handling,
Release, and
Identification
Workshops** in North
Carolina, Florida, and
Texas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 18

Applications due for **2014
Undergraduate
Partnership Education
Program** in Woods Hole,
Massachusetts.

February 21

Pre-proposals due for
**NOAA Sea Grant
Aquaculture Research
Program** funding.

February 28

Final date to submit
application for Pacific
Islands Fisheries Science
Center's **Young Scientist
Opportunity**.

FEDERAL REGISTER

Office of Law Enforcement Fills Leadership Positions

NOAA Fisheries' Office of Law Enforcement introduces three new placements in permanent leadership positions. These positions are located in headquarters, the Southeast Division, and the newly launched West Coast Division based out of Seattle, Washington.

NOAA Updates Fish Stock Sustainability Index

NOAA Fisheries updated the Fish Stock Sustainability Index to reflect the status of stocks as of December 31, 2013. The index—a measure of the sustainability of U.S. fisheries—tracks the performance of 227 key fish stocks important to U.S. commercial and recreational fisheries.

Lolita the Killer Whale - Open for Public Comment

By **March 28**, submit your comments on NOAA Fisheries' status review of the Southern Resident Killer Whale Distinct Population Segment and proposal to remove language excluding "Lolita," the sole member of the population in captivity, from the population's listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Northeast

Lobster Area Control Date - Open for Public Comment

By **February 26**, [submit your comments](#) on the announcement of a control date for Lobster Conservation Management Areas in the Atlantic. NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will consider if and how participation in the American lobster fishery should be controlled.

Fishing Year 2012 Groundfish Fishery Report

NOAA Fisheries released the third annual report on the economic performance of the vessels active in the Northeast groundfish fishery. This report for the 2012 fishing year provides additional analysis on the landings and revenue figures that were made available to the public last September.

Southeast

Public Input Sought for Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas

NOAA's Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas, launched in 2011, provides 235 map plates of datasets covering more than 70 topics relevant to the Gulf ecosystem. Now, NOAA is working with Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant to evaluate the usability of the data atlas and to gather input for the next upgrade. Check it out and share your thoughts.

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](#).

West Coast

Strategies for Sacramento Winter Chinook - Open for Public Comment

By **April 23**, submit your comments on a management strategy evaluation conducted for a suite of alternative harvest control rules for Sacramento River winter Chinook salmon. The Pacific Fishery Management Council requested that NOAA Fisheries consider *de minimis* harvest scenarios for years of low winter-run abundance.

Alaska

Gray Whale Calf Sightings Increase in Alaskan Arctic

Each spring, a population of gray whales migrates up the western coast of North America to its summer feeding grounds in the northern Bering and Chukchi Seas. Aerial surveys in 2012 and 2013 noted more sightings of gray whale calves than in previous years, and NOAA scientists are working to determine the cause of the increase.

Foraging Habitat Segregation by Northern Fur Seals

The largest breeding colony of northern fur seals in the United States is located on Alaska's Pribilof Islands. Research in the 1990s found that the seals geographically segregated the habitat surrounding the islands when foraging, perhaps to reduce competition for food. Recently, scientists re-examined whether declines in the seal population have reduced competition and likewise the need to segregate foraging habitat.

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