

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

To: ssherman40 <ssherman40@aol.com>

Subject: FishNews - February 12, 2014 - Bycatch Report Update, State Shark Fin Laws, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, and More

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February 12, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

February 13

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

February 15

NOAA Open House in Silver Spring, Maryland.

February 17-20

Three **Community Visioning Port Meetings** hosted by South Atlantic Fishery Management Council in South Carolina.

February 18

QUEST (Quantitative Ecology and Socioeconomics Training) Program webinar.



NOAA Fisheries Publishes Bycatch Report Update

NOAA Fisheries has published the First Edition Update 1 to the U.S. National Bycatch Report. This update provides a national compilation of bycatch estimates for living marine resources (fish, marine mammals, sea turtles, seabirds, and invertebrates) of the United States at the fishery and species levels. While this update is based largely on 2010 data, the next update, planned for 2015, will include estimates based on data from 2011 to 2013.

State, Federal Shark Fin Laws are Consistent

Through an exchange of letters, NOAA Fisheries and the states of California, Maryland, and Washington have agreed that the state shark fin laws are consistent with federal fisheries law. We hope to reach similar agreements with the remaining eight states and territories that have enacted their own shark fin laws.

February 18, 25

Three seminars in NOAA Fisheries' **RACE Seminar Series** at NOAA Western Regional Center in Seattle, Washington.

February 19-20

(CORRECTED) **Council Coordination Committee meeting** in Washington, DC, open to the public.

March 4-5

Spring **Species Working Group Meeting** of the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to ICCAT, open to the public.

March 7-13

Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Sacramento, California.

March 25-26

Northwest Fisheries Science Center's 4th Science Symposium in Seattle, Washington. Free and open to the public; register by **February 18**.

March

More free **Atlantic Shark Identification** and **Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops** in Florida and Texas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**February 18**

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

February 21

Greater Atlantic**NERO's New Name:****Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office**

At the direction of Congress, NOAA Fisheries has changed the name of the Northeast Regional Office to the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office. The new name better reflects the broad extent of the region, which spans from Maine to North Carolina and includes the Great Lakes.

Georges Bank Pilot Flatfish Survey Data

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center released a report on a pilot research survey conducted last August focusing on flatfish. NOAA Fisheries and partners are working to better understand flounder stocks, and the pilot survey was intended to demonstrate how an industry-based, dedicated survey for flatfish could augment other data collected in the region. A second, related survey will be completed this year.

Southeast**Gulf Council Meeting Update**

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council met in Houston last week to discuss a number of fishery issues, including several related to the management of red snapper. Read a summary of the Council's latest actions on red snapper slot limits and allocation, reef fish section separation, for-hire electronic reporting, mackerel trip limits, and other issues.

West Coast**Tuna Vessel Monitoring - Open for Public Comment**

By **March 10**, submit your comments on proposed requirements for a satellite-based vessel monitoring system for U.S. commercial fishing vessels that target tunas in the Eastern Pacific. The action is necessary for the United States to satisfy its obligations as a member of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

Halibut Catch Sharing Plan - Open for Public Comment

By **February 21**, submit your comments on proposed changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for the International Pacific Halibut Commission's regulatory Area 2A off Washington, Oregon, and California and on other proposed management measures, including sport fishery allocations.

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
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](#).

Alaska

Seabird Bycatch Estimates for Groundfish Fisheries

Each year, the Alaska Fisheries Science Center produces annual estimates of the total seabird bycatch from Alaska's commercial groundfish fisheries. Conservation measures implemented in the past few years have helped bring seabird bycatch rates down. But in this vast fishery even rare bycatch events can add up to hundreds of albatross and thousands of fulmars taken each year.

Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation Economic Status Report

The economic chapter of the Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation (SAFE) Report evaluates the economic status of the North Pacific groundfish fisheries. The 2013 edition provides an annual update to earlier Economic SAFE reports and adds appendices analyzing catch share programs, community participation, and the Amendment 80 fleet.

2013 Groundfish Stock Assessment Summaries

Summaries for 46 stock assessments conducted for the management of Alaska groundfish fisheries are now available. These reports present analyses of the extensive data collected by fishery observers aboard commercial vessels and Alaska Fisheries Science Center scientists aboard research surveys.

Pacific Islands

Pacific Islands Science Center Moving to Ford Island

NOAA's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center is moving into the new NOAA Inouye Regional Center at Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. As a result, in February and March NOAA Fisheries will close its longstanding research locations at Dole Street (near the University of Hawaii), Kewalo Basin, and Kapiolani Boulevard.

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