

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

To: ssherman40 <ssherman40@aol.com>

Subject: FishNews - March 5, 2014 - NOAA Penalty Policy, Regional Rec Fishing Action Agendas, Assessing Fish Stock Vulnerability, Boston Seafood Show, Identifying Nations Engaged in Illegal Fishing, Fisheries Disaster Relief by Region, and More

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March 5, 2014

EVENTS

[March 6-7](#)

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting in Savannah, Georgia.

[March 7-13](#)

Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Sacramento, California.

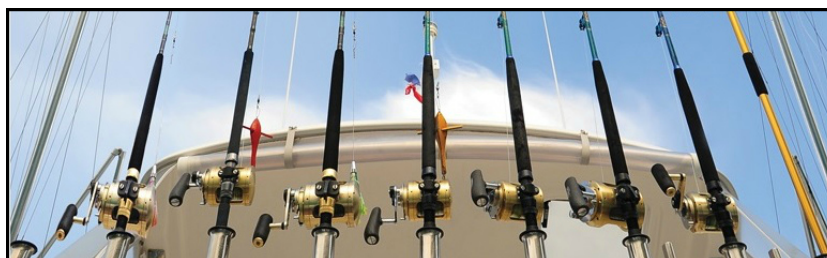
[March 10-24](#)

Ten **public hearings on red snapper allocation** hosted by Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council in each Gulf state and online.

[March 11-25](#)

Seminars in NOAA Fisheries' **RACE Seminar**

HIGHLIGHTS



Regional Rec Fishing Action Agendas Released

This week, NOAA Fisheries released updated regional saltwater recreational fishing action plans designed to help improve fishing opportunities and address recreational fishing priorities in each of the nation's six coastal regions and for Atlantic highly migratory species. The action agendas, developed with input from anglers, lay out a course for our regional recreational fisheries work in 2014 and 2015.

Which Fish Are Most Vulnerable to Climate Change?

NOAA Fisheries, working with NOAA Research, is finalizing methodology to rapidly assess the vulnerability of U.S. marine fish stocks to changing climate and ocean conditions. This methodology uses information on climate and ocean conditions, species distributions, and life history characteristics to identify which species are most vulnerable or adaptable to climate change impacts.

Series at NOAA Western Regional Center in Seattle, Washington.

March 17-21

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Saipan (March 17-18) and Guam (March 20-21).

March 19-20

Two free **Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification workshops** in Houston, Texas, and Port St. Lucie, Florida.

March 20

Free **Atlantic Shark Identification workshop** in Fort Pierce, Florida.

March 25-26

Northwest Fisheries Science Center's 4th Science Symposium in Seattle, Washington.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 21

Pre-proposals due for **Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program 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](#).

Proposed Changes to NOAA's Policy for the Assessment of Civil Administrative Penalties and Permit Sanctions

NOAA is seeking public comment on revisions to its Policy for the Assessment of Civil Administrative Penalties and Permit Sanctions. Proposed changes to the policy include the addition of more detail in penalty schedules to better describe the most commonly-occurring violations, clearer distinctions among multiple-level violations to ensure consistent application of the policy, revision of the treatment of prior violations, and ensuring consistent application of the policy to recreational offenses. The deadline to submit comments is **April 28**. For more information please visit the [Enforcement Section of NOAA's Office of General Counsel](#).

Identifying Nations Engaged in IUU Fishing - Open for Public Comment

By **May 30**, submit pertinent information regarding nations whose vessels are engaged in illegal, unreported, or unregulated (IUU) fishing; bycatch of protected marine species; or shark fishing in international waters. This information will be used to identify nations pursuant to the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act.

Calling All Participants in the Shark Research Fishery

NOAA Fisheries announces a mandatory meeting, via conference call, for commercial shark permit holders selected to participate in the 2014 shark research fishery. The conference call will allow us to inform participants of this year's specific requirements, terms, and conditions.

Greater Atlantic

Greater Atlantic Fisheries to Receive Disaster Relief

Congress approved \$75 million in fishery disaster relief funds as part of the FY 2014 budget. Of that total, NOAA Fisheries allocated approximately \$33 million for the New England groundfish fishery. An additional \$3 million will help relieve commercial and recreational fisheries in New York and New Jersey following damage from Hurricane Sandy.

2014 Sea Scallop Fishery Observer Set-Aside Rates

The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center announce the initial observer set-aside compensation rate for fishing year 2014. They will revisit the rates in June to determine whether mid-year adjustments are necessary.

Maine Forum Devoted to Diadromous Atlantic Fishes

More than 160 participants attended the 7th biennial Atlantic Salmon Ecosystems forum, which was co-sponsored by NOAA

Fisheries, to share the latest research on habitat and life history of a variety of diadromous fishes-that is, fish that spend part of their lives in freshwater and part in the ocean.

Southeast

Florida and Mississippi Fisheries to Receive Disaster Relief Funding

Congress approved \$75 million in fishery disaster relief funds as part of the FY 2014 budget. Of that total, NOAA Fisheries allocated nearly \$11 million for Mississippi oyster and blue crab fisheries damaged by floods in 2012 and more than \$6 million for the Florida west coast oyster fishery damaged by drought in 2013.

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment - Open for Public Comment

By **April 29**, [submit your comments](#) on Amendment 5 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic. In response to updated recreational data collected through the new Marine Recreational Information Program, as well as updated commercial and for-hire landings data, this amendment would increase catch limits for dolphin and wahoo.

King and Spanish Mackerel Amendment - Open for Public Comment

By **May 2**, [submit your comments](#) on an amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region. Amendment 20A would make changes to the sale provisions for king and Spanish mackerel and to the income requirements for commercial permit holders.

West Coast

Observers Play a Vital Role in Fisheries

Observers are independent field biologists deployed aboard commercial fishing boats and at-sea processing facilities to collect the data vital to ensuring the economic and ecological sustainability of U.S. fisheries. Read more about observers' roles, training, and responsibilities.

Barrier Removal Opens Up Habitat in California Creek

More than a century ago, a concrete barrier was erected to protect a historic redwood tree. But the barrier blocked steelhead trout from reaching their spawning habitat in San Francisquito Creek. Now, with support from NOAA Fisheries, crews have carefully removed the barrier and restored the stream without harming the roots of the prized tree.

Tribal Fishery for Pacific Whiting - Open for Public Comment

By **March 31**, submit your comments on a proposal to allocate 17.5 percent of the 2014 U.S. total allowable catch of Pacific whiting to Pacific Coast Indian tribes who have a treaty right to harvest groundfish.

Alaska

Alaska Salmon Fisheries to Receive Disaster Relief

Congress approved \$75 million in fishery disaster relief funds as part of the FY 2014 budget. Of that total, nearly \$21 million is slated for Alaska salmon fisheries. A series of low salmon returns had resulted in disaster declarations for three regions between 2010 and 2012.

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