

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

To: ssherman40 <ssherman40@aol.com>

Subject: FishNews - March 19, 2014 - Seafood Certification, New Ice Seal Video, Science Program Reviews, Pollock Is Pollock, Joint Agreement on Fishing Vessel Overcapacity, and More

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March 19, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

[March 19-24](#)

Three **public hearings on red snapper allocation** hosted by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council in Texas, Florida, and online.

[March 20 - April 2](#)

[Community Visioning](#)

Port Meetings hosted by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council—two in North Carolina (March 20) and nine in Florida.

[March 20-21](#)

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Guam.

[March 20](#)

Free **Protected Species Safe Handling, Release,**



MAFAC Seafood Certification Recommendations - Open for Public Comment

By **April 30**, submit your comments on the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee's (MAFAC) recommendations on sustainable seafood certification. We welcome your comments on the recommendations. The committee has provided some "trigger" questions to help focus public input.

Video: Protecting Threatened Ice Seals

Watch our new [video](#) to learn how NOAA Fisheries scientists are working to protect and study threatened ice seals as the climate changes.

NOAA Fisheries Budget Update

On March 4, the President released his [fiscal year 2015 proposed budget](#). It includes \$916.7 million for NOAA

and Identification workshop in 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.

April 3-4

Public meeting of the **Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel** in Silver Spring, Maryland, with accompanying webinar.

April 5

Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Conference in Anchorage, Alaska. Free and open to the public.

April 5-10

Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Vancouver, Washington.

April 7-10

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

April 8-10

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting in Montauk, New York.

April 9-14

North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Anchorage, Alaska.

Fisheries. Also, in January, NOAA Fisheries received its 2014 appropriation of \$999.1, including \$75 million for [fisheries disasters funding](#).

NOAA Fisheries Science Program Review

NOAA Fisheries continually strives to advance the science that informs management of fisheries and protected resources. In January 2013, we began a systematic peer-review process at each NOAA Fisheries science center and in the headquarters Office of Science and Technology, starting off a five-year cycle. This year, the focus of the reviews will be stock assessment programs.

Pollock Is Still Pollock: Q & As on a Name Change

According to the American Fisheries Society, the scientific name for Alaska pollock [has changed](#). FishWatch answers the most common questions.

U.S. Signs Joint Statement on Vessel Overcapacity

At a recent meeting in Greece representatives from government, academia, environmental organizations, and the fishing industry discussed how to address overcapacity of the world's fishing fleets. The United States, the European Union, and four other countries signed a [joint statement](#) pledging to work together to invigorate cooperative international work focused on ending overcapacity.

Video: Lessons from Exxon Valdez: 25 Years Later

On March 24, 1989, the Exxon Valdez grounded on Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound, rupturing the hull and spilling nearly 11 million gallons of crude oil into the pristine waters of Alaska. Twenty-five years later, NOAA and its partners have developed new technologies that have greatly improved the way emergency managers respond to these disasters.

Greater Atlantic

Drift Bottle Found on Martha's Vineyard Has Old Story

Last December, Martha's Vineyard native Keith Moreis found an intriguing glass bottle washed up on the shore. Inside the bottle was a pink postcard with the words "Break this Bottle." Rather than following the instructions, he carefully extracted the postcard and, with the help of NOAA Fisheries scientists, learned that the bottle had been released by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey more than 50 years ago.

Enhancing Fisheries Science and Education

NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology are working together to train future generations of

April - May**South Atlantic Council's upcoming meetings -**

scientists convene in April, advisory panels provide input, community visioning port meetings continue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**March**

Updates are available from the **Marine Recreational Information Program**. If you would like to stay informed, please contact Leah Sharpe at leah.sharpe@noaa.gov to sign up for MRIP Newscasts.

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](#).

scientists in the fields of quantitative fisheries and ecosystem science.

Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab Specs - Open for Public Comment

By **March 26**, submit your comments on proposed specifications for the 2014-2016 Atlantic deep-sea red crab fishery.

Groundfish Framework Adjustment 51 - Open for Public Comment

By **April 1**, submit your comments on Framework Adjustment 51 to the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery Management Plan. This rule would set catch limits for groundfish stocks, revise certain rebuilding plans, and modify and revise other management measures.

Northeast Multispecies Operations Plans - Open for Public Comment

By **April 1**, submit your comments on 19 sector operations plans and contracts for fishing year 2014, the environmental assessment analyzing the impacts of the operations plans, and a proposal to grant 20 of 28 regulatory exemptions requested by the sectors.

Reporting Requirements, Unused Catch Carryover - Open for Public Comment

By **April 16**, submit your comments on two proposed rules for the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. The first would require daily Vessel Monitoring System catch reporting for vessels declared to fish in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, and the second would set the *de minimus* amount of unused catch entitlement that may be carried over.

Southeast**New Site Helps Buyers Understand Sustainability of Gulf Seafood**

Seafood buyers and other interested parties now have access to a one-stop shop for the facts they need to be confident in the sustainability of seafood harvested from state-managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. The new website, GulfFishInfo.org, puts easy-to-understand, science-based information about Gulf state fisheries at the public's fingertips.

Gulf Shrimp Amendment - Open for Public Comment

By **April 10**, submit your comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement that will describe the range of management alternatives to be included in Amendment 16 to Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.

Comprehensive Fishery Management Plan for St. Thomas/St. John - Open for Public Comment

By **April 11**, submit your comments on a notice of intent for a Draft Environmental Impact Statement describing the range of management alternatives to be considered when developing a Comprehensive Fishery Management Plan for St. Thomas/St. John. Scoping meetings will be held in April.

Dolphin and Wahoo Rule - Open for Public Comment

By **April 14**, submit your comments on a proposed rule to increase the annual catch limits for dolphin and wahoo. The proposed rule, implementing Amendment 5 to that fishery's management plan, is in response to updated recreational data collected through the Marine Recreational Information Program as well as updated commercial and for-hire landings data.

Gulf Reef Fish Amendments 26 and 29 - Open for Public Comment

By **April 18**, submit your comments on proposed supplements to the regulations implementing Amendments 26 and 29 to the Fishery Management Plan for Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico. Amendment 26 established an individual fishing quota (IFQ) program for the red snapper commercial sector and Amendment 29 established a multispecies IFQ for the grouper and tilefish commercial sector.

Managers Tackle Joint Mackerel Management

King mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia stocks are managed jointly by the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils through the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan. At a recent meeting of the South Atlantic Council, commercial king mackerel fishermen from as far away as Louisiana voiced their opinions on upcoming actions. (See FR Notices below).

Coastal Migratory Pelagics - Open for Public Comment

By **April 18**, submit your comments on a proposed framework action to the Fishery Management Plan for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region. The rule would modify restrictions on transfer-at-sea and gillnet allowances for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel and modify the king mackerel trip limit in the Florida east coast to optimize use of the resource.

King, Spanish Mackerel - Open for Public Comment

By **May 5**, submit your comments on the proposed implementation of an amendment to the Fishery Management Plan of the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region. Amendment 20A would restrict sales of king and Spanish mackerel caught under the bag limit

and modify requirements for the commercial vessel permits for those stocks to obtain more accurate landings data while ensuring efficient use of resources.

West Coast

Pacific Coast Groundfish Trawl Rationalization - Open for Public Comment

By **April 18**, submit your comments on proposed modifications to the existing chafing gear regulations for midwater trawl gear. This action includes regulations that affect all trawl sectors managed under the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan.

Marine Recreational Angling's Contribution to California Economy

According to the 2011 National Angler Expenditures and Economic Impact Assessment, marine recreational angling in California contributes more than 10,000 jobs and \$1.4 billion in annual sales to the state's economy.

Protecting Santa Barbara County's Steelhead

Seventeen flood control debris-basin dams protect California's Santa Barbara County from floods and washed-out wildfire debris, but they block steelhead migrations. NOAA Fisheries has identified ways in which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which maintains the dams, can modify maintenance strategies to improve steelhead habitat.

Working Group Develops Wildlife Forensics Guidelines

NOAA forensics experts from the Northwest Fisheries Science Center joined experts from state, federal, and academic institutions to develop standard guidance for the forensic techniques used to analyze evidence seized from illegal wildlife commerce.

Review of Pacific Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment

Independent peer reviews of the 2012 Pacific bluefin tuna stock assessment are now available. The reviews were conducted by an international scientific committee through the Center for Independent Experts.

Salmon Management Alternatives for 2014

Three tables detail the Pacific Fishery Management Council's alternatives for salmon management in 2014, by sector (commercial troll fisheries, recreational fisheries, and tribal fisheries.) The tables, now available on the Council's website, are considered drafts until they are published in a pre-season report.

Alaska

2014 Science Program Reviews: Stock Assessment

To improve quality, transparency, and effectiveness of our major science programs, NOAA Fisheries conducts objective peer reviews on a regular basis. This year, independent panels will review the Alaska Fisheries Science Center's program of assessment modeling, approach, review process, and communication.

Technical Memos on Salmon Bycatch Genetics

Two genetic stock composition analyses of salmon bycatch in Alaska fisheries in 2012 are now available online. The first analyzes [Chinook salmon bycatch](#) in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries, and the second analyzes [chum salmon bycatch](#) in the Bering Sea walleye pollock trawl fishery.

Pacific Islands

Dolphin and Whale Forage Survey Underway

Researchers aboard the NOAA ship *Oscar Elton Sette* departed Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, to conduct a cetacean forage survey in waters around the NOAA Kona Integrated Ecosystem Assessment region off the western coast of Hawaii.

Scientists Embark on Mission to Monitor Pacific Islands Coral Reefs

Researchers from the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center's Coral Reef Ecosystem Division embarked on an 84-day mission aboard NOAA Ship *Hi'ialakai* to study coral reef ecosystems around Wake Atoll, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

[NOAA Fisheries](#) | laurel.bryant@noaa.gov

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NOAA - Fisheries Service | 1315 East West Highway | Silver Spring | MD | 20910