

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

To: ssherman40 <ssherman40@aol.com>

Subject: FishNews - March 26, 2014 - Crude Oil Impacts on Large Marine Fish, Fisheries Research Since Exxon Valdez, Reducing Bycatch Remains Priority, Regional Fishery Management Council Nominees, Highly Migratory Species Habitat Review, and More

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March 26, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

March 27 - April 2

Five Community Visioning Port Meetings
hosted by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council in Florida.

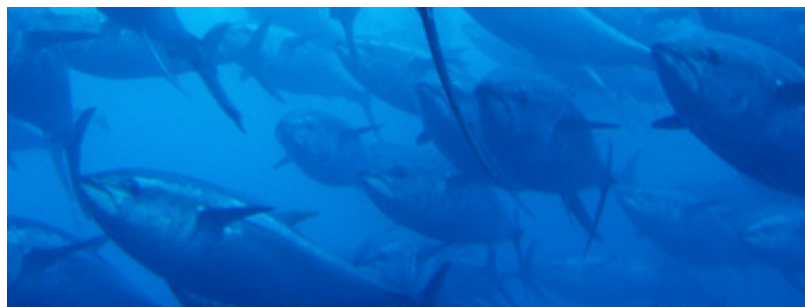
April 3-4

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



Crude Oil Causes Abnormalities in Large Marine Fish

Crude oil from the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico causes severe defects in the developing hearts of bluefin and yellowfin tuna, according to a new study by a team of NOAA and academic scientists.

25 Years of Fisheries Research Since Exxon Valdez

Twenty-five years ago, relatively little was known about how oil spills affect fish populations. Today, scientists understand that the impacts can be more widespread and long-lasting than previously imagined.

Reducing Bycatch Remains Top Issue for NOAA Fisheries

In a statement released last week, NOAA Fisheries Assistant

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.

April 17

QUEST (Quantitative Ecology and Socioeconomics Training) Program **webinar**.

April - May

South Atlantic Council's upcoming meetings - scientists convene in April, advisory panels provide input, community visioning port meetings continue.

Administrator Eileen Sobeck reiterated NOAA's commitment to reducing bycatch in U.S. fisheries, outlining current strategies and recent successes.

Regional Fishery Management Council Nominees

On **August 10, 2014**, 22 terms will expire for 9 obligatory and 13 at-large seats held by incumbent regional fishery management council members. The appointments process began in January, and nominations were due to the Secretary of Commerce in March. The Secretary will announce the appointee selections in late June, and new council members take their seats on August 11.

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Essential Fish Habitat - Request for Info

NOAA Fisheries will commence a 5-year review of essential fish habitat for Atlantic highly migratory species under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. By **May 23**, please submit the best available information regarding Atlantic highly migratory species habitat that has become available since recent related actions.

Next Installment in QUEST Webinar Series

The next installment in NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology's Quantitative Ecology and Socioeconomics Training (QUEST) Program's **webinar series** will take place next month. Dr. Jim Sanchiro, a professor of Environmental Science and Policy at University of California Davis, will present a talk on estimating the cost of trading restrictions in catch share programs.

Greater Atlantic

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.

Passive Acoustic Monitoring Reveals Clues to Minke Whale Behavior

Scientists using passive acoustic monitoring to track minke whales in the Northwest Atlantic have found clues in the individual calling behaviors and movements of these animals. The minke whale is one of the least-studied baleen whales.

Message in a Bottle: The Story Behind the Story

Researchers at NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center have tracked down the history of a bottle found in January on Sable Island, southeast of Halifax, Nova Scotia. The bottle was released by fisheries researchers in 1956 to study the role of surface currents in transporting haddock eggs and larvae.

Spiny Dogfish Amendment - Open for Public Comment

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](#).

By **May 27**, submit your comments on an amendment to the Spiny Dogfish Fishery Management Plan. Amendment 3 would modify several management measures, including essential fish habitat definitions and commercial quota allocation, and would implement a research set-aside program.

Southeast

Red Snapper, Grouper, Tilefish IFQ Programs - Open for Public Comment

By **April 18**, submit your comments on a proposed supplemental regulation implementing Amendment 26, which established an individual fishing quota (IFQ) program for the red snapper commercial sector, and Amendment 29, which established a multispecies IFQ for the grouper and tilefish commercial sector.

King, Spanish Mackerel Actions - Open for Public Comment

By **April 18**, submit your comments on a proposed framework action modifying restrictions on transfer-at-sea and gillnet allowances for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel, and modifying the king mackerel trip limit in the Florida east coast to optimize use of the resource.

King, Spanish Mackerel Proposed Rule - Open for Public Comment

By **May 5**, submit your comments on a proposed rule restricting sales of king and Spanish mackerel caught under the bag limit and modifying requirements for the commercial vessel permits for those stocks to obtain more accurate landings data.

West Coast

Working to Protect Steelhead , Maintain Flood Protection

A new plan builds a framework to maintain flood protection for Santa Barbara County while improving fish passage and protecting riparian habitats.

Bridging Art and Science to Protect Salmon Habitat

NOAA and the Pacific Northwest College of Arts formed a unique partnership to communicate a complex issue: balancing waterfront development and the needs of salmon. Check out the animated video the students created on Shallow Water Habitat.

Alaska

Protecting Threatened Ice Seals

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

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

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