

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

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Subject: FishNews - April 2, 2014 - Recreational Fishing Summit, Podcast on Disentangling Whales, Shared US/EU Vision for Global Fisheries, and More

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April 2, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

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,



NOAA Fisheries Hosts Saltwater Rec Fishing Summit

One hundred leaders from the saltwater recreational fishing community assembled in Alexandria, Virginia, April 1-2, to discuss a range of issues and priorities with NOAA Fisheries national and regional leadership. During the NOAA-sponsored summit, the Agency pledged to develop a national recreational fishing policy, which will broadly guide future actions and better integrate recreational fishing with NOAA Fisheries' mission.

Podcast: How to Disentangle a Whale

Every year, hundreds of whales become entangled in fishing gear off the U.S. Atlantic coast. NOAA and several other agencies maintain a network of highly trained emergency responders whose job it is to disentangle large whales.

Advancing A Shared Vision for Global Fisheries

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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](#).

Representatives of NOAA and the Department of State met with European counterparts March 26-27 in Brussels to continue collaboration on our shared vision for sustainable global fisheries. Future joint efforts will include a focus on international activities that identify and prevent illegal fishing, protect sharks, reduce the current global overcapacity of fishing vessels, and use the best available science to guide fishery management decisions.

New Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Website

NOAA Fisheries' Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Division launched a new and improved website. The new website contains all the information you're used to seeing-Atlantic HMS species information, breaking news, Advisory Panel updates, regulations, and permitting and compliance resources-and features updates on upcoming and ongoing activities.

Alaska

'No Jeopardy' to Steller Sea Lions from Proposed Changes to Aleutian Islands Fishery Management

Proposed changes to fishing restrictions in the Aleutian Islands are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the endangered western population of Steller sea lions or adversely modify Steller sea lion critical habitat, according to a biological opinion issued today by NOAA Fisheries under the Endangered Species Act.

Pacific Herring Listing Not Warranted

NOAA Fisheries completed a comprehensive status review of the Southeast Alaska Distinct Population Segment of Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) under the Endangered Species Act and concluded that listing was not warranted at this time. The status review report is now available.

West Coast

National Marine Sanctuaries Invasive Species Rule - Open for Public Comment

By **April 11**, submit your comments on an amendment to a proposed rule prohibiting the introduction of introduced species into the state waters of the Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries. The amendment would allow the sanctuaries to authorize certain introduced species of shellfish from commercial mariculture projects.

Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan - Extended Comment Period

By **June 13** (formerly April 14), submit your comments on the

Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement on California's Bay Delta Conservation Plan released jointly by NOAA Fisheries, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation. The plan aims to restore the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem and improve California's water supply.

What Are Habitat Conservation Plans?

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) recognizes that to protect species we must protect their natural habitats. To do this, the ESA provides a unique tool, known as a Habitat Conservation Plan, which provides for conservation partnerships between the federal government and private landowners, public utilities, or state agencies to advance stewardship. NOAA Fisheries has developed more than 20 such plans on the West Coast.

NOAA Ship Reuben Lasker en route to U.S. West Coast

NOAA Ship *Reuben Lasker*, the newest NOAA ship and one of the most technically advanced fisheries vessels in the world, departed Norfolk, Virginia, on March 12. You can follow it via ShipTracker.NOAA.gov as it sails through the Panama Canal to its home port of San Diego. After a series of trials in April and May, the ship will conduct its first cetacean survey this summer.

Pacific Islands

Regulations to Protect Mariana Islands Marine Mammals - Open for Public Comment

By **May 5**, [submit your comments](#) on a proposed rule requiring the Navy to implement protective measures during training and testing activities around the Mariana Islands and on the high seas of the Pacific Ocean to reduce the chances of harming marine mammals.

Southeast

Council Seeks Applicants for Advisory Panels, Scientific Committee

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is soliciting applicants for open advisory panel seats as well as applications from scientists interested in serving on its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). Applications for the advisory panel seats are due **May 2** and applications for the SSC are due **May 14**.

Greater Atlantic

2014 Fishing Specs and Research Set-Aside - Open for Public Comment

By **April 15**, submit your comments on proposals to revise specifications for the 2014 summer flounder fishery; set specifications for the 2015 summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries; and increase the commercial scup Winter II possession limit. This notice also announces two research set-aside projects for which exempted fishing permits may be requested.

Skate Fishery Control Date - Open for Public Comment

By **April 30**, [submit your comments](#) on the announcement of a control date that may be applicable to limiting the number of participants in the skate fishery for uses other than bait. The New England Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries are considering whether and how participation in the skate fishery should be controlled.

Teaming Up for River Herring Conservation

NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission are working together on a strategic effort to advance the restoration of river herring (blueback herring and alewife) throughout its Atlantic coastal range. The effort kicked off with a meeting of experts from Canada to Florida and the announcement of additional federal funding to support independent research projects.

Protecting Offshore Habitats while Rebuilding Beaches

For decades, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has dredged sand from "borrow areas" in the Atlantic Ocean and placing it on New Jersey's beaches to combat shoreline erosion. NOAA Fisheries' Sandy Hook Field Office staff work with the Corps and the State of New Jersey to identify ways to replenish the decimated beaches while minimizing the impact of sand removal on offshore habitats.

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