

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

To: ssherman40 <ssherman40@aol.com>

Subject: FishNews - April 23, 2014 - Earth Week, Deep Sea Corals, Minke Whales, Arctic Action Plan, Magnuson-Stevens History and Future, Extended Comment Period for MAFAC Recommendations, and More

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April 23, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

April 24

Last day of New England Fishery Management Council meeting in Mystic, Connecticut.

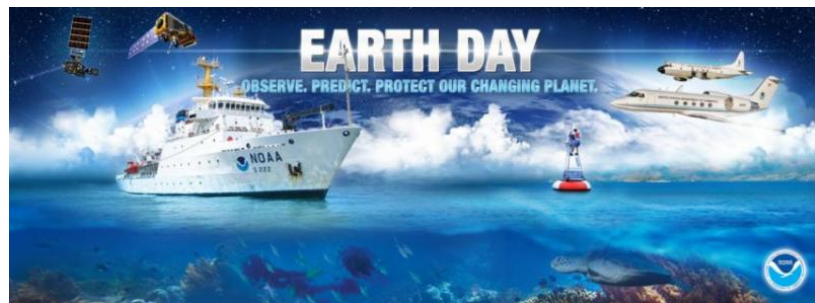
April 24-25

Bevan Symposium on Sustainable Fisheries in Seattle, Washington and online, free and open to the public.

April - May

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



EARTH WEEK 2014

From the deep sea to the poles, NOAA explores and observes our Earth's watery corners, collecting the environmental intelligence our nation needs. Below, check out our work exploring deep-sea coral ecosystems, a recent discovery about Antarctic minke whales, and NOAA's Arctic Action Plan.

2014 Deep-Sea Coral Report to Congress

NOAA Fisheries announced the release of the 2014 Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program Report to Congress on Wednesday, April 23. This report highlights the exciting discovery of deep-sea coral habitats as well as progress made in our regional research. Check out stunning underwater videos and photos of this unique marine life found in all U.S. regions. The report includes ways regional fishery management councils and resource managers are using

May 30

Nominations due for
**Marine Protected Area
Federal Advisory
Committee.**

**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**.

program information to help conserve habitat formed by deep-sea corals.

The Mysterious World of Deep-water Corals

NOAA Fisheries zoologist and deep-water corals expert Martha Nizinski explores the little-known ecosystems of the continental shelf. Read a profile on Dr. Nizinski and her research mapping deep-water corals [here](#).

Podcast: Antarctic Minke Whales' Mysterious Sound

In the Southern Ocean around Antarctica, there's a mysterious sound that reverberates underwater all through the winter. Both U.S. military and scientists have been recording what they call the "bio-duck" sound for decades. Now, [scientists have finally identified](#) its source-- overwintering Antarctic minke whales.

NOAA Releases Arctic Action Plan

This week, NOAA unveiled its [Arctic Action Plan](#) to provide NOAA scientists, stakeholders, and partners a roadmap for monitoring, understanding, and protecting this vast, valuable, and vulnerable region. The plan is in keeping with the goals and tenets of the President's [National Strategy for the Arctic Region](#), released earlier this year.

Magnuson-Stevens Act - History and Future Examined

The Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Sam Rauch, our Northwest Fisheries Science Center Director, John Stein, and our Senior Scientist for Stock Assessments, Rick Methot, are all on the agenda to speak at the 14th annual [Bevan Symposium](#) in Seattle. Held annually at the University of Washington, the focus of this year's symposium is the Magnuson-Stevens Act and its impending reauthorization. The symposium, which features two full days of presentations and discussions, will be [broadcast online](#) April 24-25 from 8am to 5pm PST.

Deadline for Comments on MAFAC Recommendations Extended to May 28

NOAA Fisheries has extended the deadline for comments on the MAFAC [recommendation](#) on seafood certification. To submit your comments to NOAA Fisheries, send them by e-mail to: nmfspolicy@noaa.gov no later than **May 28**. Please note that there are trigger questions to help focus responses. They are:

- What parts/aspects of the recommendation do you agree with and support?
- What parts/aspects of the recommendation do you not support? Can you recommend a different approach or changes that you would support?

Alaska

Permit Modifications - Open for Public Comment

By **May 19**, submit your comments on proposed changes to the criteria for Federal Fisheries Permits or Federal Processor Permits in Alaska. These changes, primarily to the application process and form, are intended to improve the efficiency and flexibility of the permit requirements.

West Coast

Ocean Conditions Drove Recent Columbia River Sockeye Booms

Sockeye salmon repeatedly surprised the Northwest in recent years by returning to the Columbia River in numbers that far surpassed predictions. Now, scientists at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center have teased out a connection between improved ocean conditions and strong salmon returns. Because sockeye eat further down the food chain than other salmon species, they might benefit more quickly from improved ocean conditions.

Misunderstood Microbes

Bacteria get a bad rap, but researchers have found a variety of promising uses for different kinds of bacteria. Northwest Fisheries Science Center's Dr. Vera Trainer has partnered with a group of researchers to study the bacteria associated with a species of eelgrass in hopes that it can stomp out harmful algal blooms that poison shellfish, kill fish, and contaminate drinking water.

Pacific Islands

Program Review of Fish Stock Assessments

In 2013, a peer review of the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center's science programs focused on data collection and management programs that support stock assessments. In 2014, the thematic focus of the peer review will be the stock assessments themselves. A panel of federal and non-federal experts will meet in May to conduct this year's review.

Expedition Evaluates Methods for Hawaii Bottomfish Assessment

Researchers from the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center led an expedition to develop fishery-independent methods of assessing the abundance of deepwater bottomfish around the main Hawaiian Islands. NOAA Ship *Oscar Elton Sette* worked with a chartered research vessel and three cooperative research bottomfish vessels to test three kinds of survey gear.

Southeast

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Update

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council met in Baton Rouge in early April to discuss a number of fishery issues. This update summarizes their actions regarding red snapper, Reef Fish Amendment 40, red drum, shrimp, and mackerel.

Gulf Council Seeks Members for Red Snapper For-Hire IFQ Advisory Panel

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council seeks applicants for a newly created temporary advisory panel. The Ad Hoc Red Snapper For-Hire Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQ) Advisory Panel will consider issues surrounding an IFQ-type program for the fishery.

Temporary Rule for South Atlantic Blueline Tilefish - Open for Public Comment

By **May 19**, [submit your comments](#) on a temporary rule to reduce the amount of blueline tilefish that may be harvested in the South Atlantic. The rule will remove blueline tilefish from the deep-water complex annual catch limit and establish separate commercial and recreational catch limits and accountability measures for this species.

Restoration Helps Coral Reefs Rebound From Ship Groundings

Two Caribbean reefs were damaged when ships ran aground in 1998 and 2006. Using nursery-grown corals, NOAA scientists restocked the reefs with adult colonies. Two years after the restoration, we are seeing results: healthier corals and larger fish populations.

Greater Atlantic

Interim Rule on Groundfish Recreational Measures - Open for Public Comment

By **May 22**, submit your comments on an interim final rule changing the Gulf of Maine Atlantic cod and haddock recreational fishery measures for the 2014 fishing year. This action is necessary to ensure that recreational catch does not exceed its limits for these two stocks.

Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan - Open for Public Comment

By **June 2**, submit your comments on NOAA Fisheries' proposal to amend the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan. The amendment is intended to reduce incidental serious injury and mortality of strategic stocks of bottlenose dolphins by Virginia pound net fishing gear and to provide consistent

state and federal regulations for this gear type.

Cold-Stunned Sea Turtles Return to Sea

Each fall, sea turtles in the Greater Atlantic Region (Maine to Virginia) strand due to cold stunning, a condition similar to hypothermia in humans. Through its Greater Atlantic Region Sea Turtle Stranding Network, NOAA Fisheries coordinates volunteer groups that respond to the stranded sea turtles. This spring, 53 sea turtles rescued last fall have recovered enough to return to the ocean.

River Herring Restoration Success

On April 25, organizations that have been working together for more than a decade to remove barriers to fish passage on historic Town Brook in Plymouth, Massachusetts, will celebrate the annual return of river herring to the brook. The event kicks off Plymouth's first annual River Herring Run Festival.

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

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