

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

To: ssherman40 <ssherman40@aol.com>

Subject: FishNews - May 1, 2014 - Status of Stocks 2013, Fisheries Economics 2012, New Habitat Videos, Climate Impact on Fisheries, and More

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May 1, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

May

Four **advisory panels** to the **South Atlantic Council** hold 1 to 2 days of meetings.

May 1-2

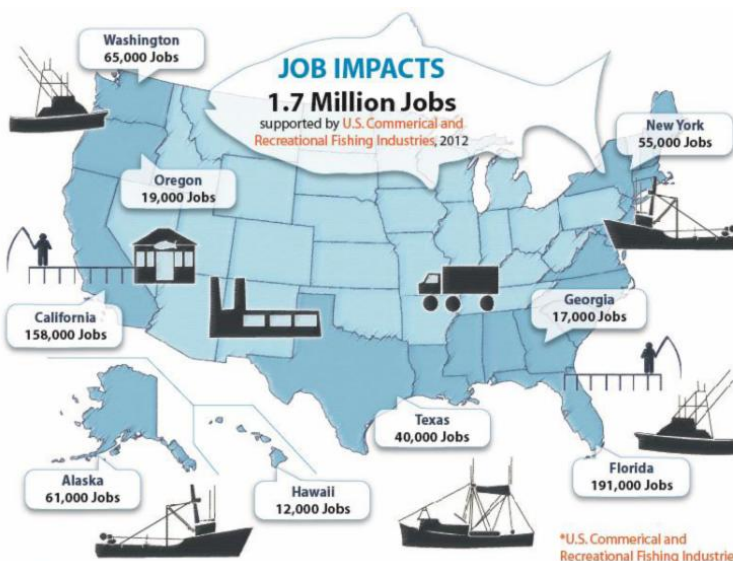
(Rescheduled) spring **Species Working Group Meeting** of the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to **ICCAT**, open to the public.

May 3

Public hearing on **American Samoa Large Vessel Prohibited Area** in Pago Pago, American Samoa.

May 14

Third webinar in the **Quantitative Ecology**



NOAA FISHERIES

Fisheries of the U.S. - Economics and Status of Stocks Now Available

This week, NOAA Fisheries released two important reports that continue to document positive trends in the sustainability of U.S. federally managed fisheries: *Fisheries Economics of the United States 2012* and the *Status of U.S. Fisheries 2013*. Together, these two reports highlight the strength of our

and Socioeconomics Training (QUEST) series.

May 16

Workshop on **Alaska fisheries at-sea scales requirements**, held in Seattle, Washington.

May 16

3rd Annual NOAA Open House at NOAA's Western Regional Center in Seattle, Washington.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 2

Applications due for **South Atlantic Fishery Management Council advisory panel and scientific committee** openings.

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](#).

federal fisheries and underscore the broad and positive economic impacts that commercial and recreational fishing contribute to the nation's economy.

April Showers Bring Habitat Videos

Here at NOAA Fisheries, we took the month of April to focus on the importance of exploring, protecting, and restoring fish habitat, and now we have a collection of new videos to share, featuring great footage from the field and underwater. Grab your popcorn, kick back, and learn about the awesome work going on around the country:

- **Restoring Fisheries Habitat in the Northeast**
John Catena, Northeast manager for NOAA's Restoration Center, discusses how fish habitat becomes degraded and how NOAA works to reverse that in the Northeast.
- **Exploring the World of Deep-water Corals**
NOAA Fisheries zoologist and deep-water corals expert Martha Nizinski explores the little-known ecosystems of the continental shelf.
- **Renewed Passage from Buzzards Bay to the Acushnet River**
Replacing an obsolete dam with a "nature-like" fishway on the Acushnet River dramatically improved fish passage into the New Bedford Reservoir.

Marsh Restoration Improves Fish Habitat, Increases Community Resiliency

The Fisher Slough marsh restoration is an example of what can be achieved when conservationists, farmers, and tribes work together to recover salmon, protect farmland, and create a more resilient community. Explore this interactive timeline to see photos and maps of the Fisher Slough marsh site from before settlers arrived to today.

Assessing Climate's Impact on Fisheries

Jonathan Hare, director of NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center, is one of the lead researchers implementing the Fisheries Climate Vulnerability Assessment, a new standard protocol for estimating the vulnerability of various fish stocks to potential changes in climate. NOAA's [Climate.gov](#) interviews him on how the assessment works and what it found.

Alaska

NOAA Announces At-Sea Scales Workshop

NOAA Fisheries will hold a workshop on May 16 to solicit input from owners and operators of catcher/processor vessels and motherships that are required to weigh catch at sea concerning proposed changes to requirements for motion-compensating scales. The workshop is open to the public, but aimed at those knowledgeable about the three groups of vessels that would be affected.

Movement Patterns of Two Beluga Whale Stocks in the Alaskan Arctic

Beluga whales produce a wide variety of vocalizations, making them ideal candidates for passive acoustic monitoring. Researchers at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center used four passive acoustic moorings at different points of the belugas' vast range to identify the seasonal migration patterns of two beluga populations.

West Coast

Southern Resident Killer Whale Critical Habitat - Open for Public Comment

By **June 24**, submit scientific and commercial information pertaining to the critical habitat designation for the Southern Resident killer whale population under the Endangered Species Act. NOAA Fisheries found that a petition to revise and expand the current designation presented sufficient evidence to warrant a review.

NOAA Commissions Fishery Survey Vessel, *Reuben Lasker*

On Friday, May 2, NOAA will officially commission its newest fishery survey vessel at the Navy Pier in San Diego, California. NOAA Ship *Reuben Lasker* is the most advanced technology platform for monitoring fish, turtles, marine mammals, and ocean conditions.

Solar-Powered Fish Research Station Wins Award

Northwest Fisheries Science Center researcher Louis Tullos fabricated a complete solar energy system to power the large amount of equipment needed each year to sample protected salmon in remote areas of central Idaho. His invention earned him the Department of Commerce Energy and Environmental Stewardship Award for Green Innovation.

Pacific Islands

Eating Away the Algae Problem in Hawaii's Coral Reefs

In Kane'ohe Bay, coral reefs are suffering from an overgrowth of invasive algae. With support from NOAA, the state of

Hawaii and The Nature Conservancy are using algae-munching sea urchins to keep the growth in check, helping the corals recover.

Southeast

South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Rule - Open for Public Comment

By **May 27**, [submit your comments](#) on a proposed rule for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region. The rule would revise the fishing years for greater amberjack and black sea bass, the commercial trip limits for gag grouper and black sea bass, and the recreational accountability measures for black sea bass and vermillion snapper.

Greater Atlantic

Former NOAA Ships Have New Names, New Missions

What happens to NOAA's old research vessels once they are decommissioned? Check in on the new lives of former NOAA Ships *Delaware II* and *Albatross IV*, which served NOAA for 44 and 45 years, respectively.

Teacher at Sea, NOAA Researchers Bring Ocean Science to School

Teacher at Sea alum Stacey Klimkosky organized NOAA Ocean Day at Truro Central School in Truro, Massachusetts, welcoming researchers from NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole. The scientists talked to about 140 students in grades K-6 about marine mammals, sea turtles, and drifters that track ocean surface currents.

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

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