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Subject: FishNews - May 21, 2014 - PIT Tags and Salmon, Video on Endangered Sawfish, Climate-Smart Conservation, World Fish Migration Day, and More

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May 21, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

May 24

World Fish Migration Day events on the [east](#) and [west](#) coasts.

June 2-10

North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Nome, Alaska.

June 4-5

Public meetings of the **Scientific Advisory Subcommittee** and the **General Advisory Committee** to the **U.S. section of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna**



Salmon Restoration and PIT Tags: Big Data from a Small Device

One of the biggest tools in salmon restoration is about the size of a grain of rice. A passive integrated transponder, or "PIT tag," contains a unique code that is logged whenever the fish passes within range of a reading antenna. First developed in the 1980s to track livestock, today's much smaller PIT tags support fish tracking efforts worldwide.

Video: Protecting Endangered Smalltooth Sawfish

Smalltooth sawfish, once found in shallow waters from Texas to North Carolina, are now restricted to

Commission (IATTC).

June 9-13

South Atlantic

Fishery Management

Council meeting in

Ponte Vedra Beach,
Florida.

June 10-12

Mid-Atlantic Fishery

Management Council

meeting in Freehold,
New Jersey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 30

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

June 30

Initial proposals due
for **Atlantic Coastal
Cooperative
Statistics Program**
funding request.

July 7

Nominations due for
U.S. Delegation to
the September 2014
**International
Whaling Commission
meeting.**

**FEDERAL REGISTER
ACTIONS**

Click here for a list of
only those actions
open for public
comment. Scroll search
for National Oceanic

southeastern Florida. In this video, learn how
scientists monitor sawfish populations, get an intimate
look at baby sawfish, and see NOAA Fisheries research
in action.

FishWatch Gets a New Fish

Check out the new silver hake profile on [FishWatch](#). As
we continue to expand FishWatch, we hope to add a
number of new species profiles each year. Stay tuned
for more new profiles in the coming months.

New Report on Climate-Smart Conservation

Climate change is already affecting the nation's marine
resources. NOAA Fisheries and partners released a
[new report](#) that offers practical steps to guide
conservation practices in a changing climate.

World Fish Migration Day - May 24, 2014

World Fish Migration Day is a one day global initiative,
with local events worldwide, to create awareness on
the importance of open rivers and migratory fish. Find
out what's going on in your area to help highlight this
important issue.

**Petition to List International Belugas - Open
for Public Comment**

By **June 19**, submit your comments on a petition to
designate the Sakhalin Bay-Amur River stock of beluga
whales (located off the coast of Russia) as a depleted
stock under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

**NOAA Seeks Members for MPA Advisory
Committee**

NOAA is seeking nominations to fill 10 vacancies on
the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory
Committee for 2014. The committee advises NOAA
and the Department of the Interior on the
implementation of a national system of marine
protected areas. Nominations are due **May 30**.

Alaska

Pacific Walrus Unusual Mortality Event Closes

Since 2011, an [Unusual Mortality Event \(UME\)](#) caused
by an unknown disease has been in place for ice seals

and Atmospheric Administration.

For a list of all daily actions, check the Federal Register [online](#).

(managed by NOAA Fisheries) and walrus (managed by the [Fish and Wildlife Service](#)) across Alaska's North Slope and Bering Strait regions. Last week, the Working Group on Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality events removed walrus from this group UME due to a lack of new cases. Investigation into ice seal mortality continues.

Southeast

Coral Amendment 8 - Open for Public Comment

By **July 21**, submit your comments on an amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hardbottom Habitats of the South Atlantic Region. Amendment 8 would expand portions of three different habitat areas of particular concern (HAPCs), with provisions for the affected shrimp fisheries.

South Atlantic Council Spring Newsletter Available

The latest issue of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's quarterly newsletter is available on the Council's website. This issue covers the recent community visioning port meetings, updates on black sea bass and red snapper, a new series on tying fisheries management to science, and information on upcoming meetings.

Greater Atlantic

Skate Framework 2 - Open for Public Comment

By **June 20**, submit your comments on proposed regulations for the Northeast Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan. Framework Adjustment 2 would set specifications for skate fisheries for the 2014 and 2015 fishing years and modify reporting requirements for skate fishing vessels and seafood dealers.

NOAA Fisheries Helps Identify Skate Species

Skates are an ancient group of fishes. They are related to sharks, but not as well-studied. A [new skate identification guide](#) helps fishermen and seafood dealers identify skate species, allowing for more precise data collection and improved skate management.

Importance of Shallow-Water Bottom Habitat Types

Shallow-water habitats are highly productive and are considered essential for many commercially and recreationally valuable fish species. A new report evaluates the importance of different types of shallow-water habitats in the Gulf of Maine, summarizing habitat use by 16 fish and invertebrate species at various life stages.

Sea Surface Temps Remain High on Northeast Shelf

Sea surface temperatures for the Northeast Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem were lower in 2013 than the record high levels of 2012, but their average remained substantially higher than the long-term average temperatures. Sea surface temperatures varied widely throughout the ecosystem, with more cooling (relative to 2012) in the southern subregions.

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