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Subject: FishNews - May 28, 2014 - Shellfish Hatchery Opening, FAO State of the World Fisheries, Nominations for MAFAC, Impacts of Steller Sea Lion Protections, and More

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May 28, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

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 Commission (IATTC)**.

June 9-13

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

June 10-12

Mid-Atlantic Fishery



New Shellfish Hatchery Opens to Help Restore Shellfish Nationwide

The Kenneth K. Chew Center for Shellfish Research and Restoration, located at NOAA's Manchester Research Station in Washington State, officially opened this month. It will focus on cultivating native Pacific Northwest shellfish, advancing aquaculture technology, and understanding the impacts of ocean acidification on shellfish and other marine life. Dr. Chew is an influential and well-known authority on shellfish aquaculture whose work and that of his students solved many problems for the shellfish industry, paving the way for its national and international successes today.

U.N. Report: State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations release its 2014 edition of [*The State of the World Fisheries and*](#)

Management Council meeting in Freehold, New Jersey.

June 24-27

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii.

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**.

July 7

Nominations due for the **Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee**.

July 14

Nominations due for 2014 **Nancy Foster Habitat Conservation Award**.

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

[Aquaculture](#). The FAO report highlights the latest global trends and statistics in wild and aquaculture fisheries production and their importance to the global economy. Read a summary of the report [here](#).

Nominations for Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) advises the Secretary of Commerce on living marine resource matters. MAFAC members represent a wide spectrum of fisheries, protected resources, and marine habitat interests. Nominations for open positions will be accepted through **July 7**.

Alaska

Impacts of Steller Sea Lion Protection on Fisheries

NOAA Fisheries released the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Steller sea lion protection measures for groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area. The statement outlines alternatives to current management measures to expand fishing opportunities while protecting the endangered western population segment of Steller sea lions.

Research Report: Survey Data as Indicators for Sablefish Recruitment

Scientists from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center are exploring the use of fish and oceanographic survey data in understanding variability in the recruitment of sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska. Their work demonstrates how fisheries oceanography survey data for one species may be used to represent conditions experienced by another, more elusive species in the region.

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.

Greater Atlantic

States Reach Consensus on Groundfish Disaster

Register [online](#).

Funds Distribution

The state fishery directors from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York, in partnership with NOAA, announced a proposed framework for the distribution of \$32.8 million in federal disaster monies to the New England groundfish industry. The six states would apportion the monies between three themes: direct assistance, state-specific grants, and vessel buyout or buyback programs.

Mariner Alert: Whales May Be Close to Shore, Go Slow

In the past few weeks, more ships have struck whales along the eastern seaboard than is typical for this time of year. Two sei whales and a fin whale have been struck. This alert reminds mariners of a rule requiring vessels 65 feet or longer to travel at 10 knots or less in certain areas during certain seasons to protect endangered North Atlantic right whales.

Monkfish Framework Adjustment 8 - Open for Public Comment

By **June 11**, submit your comments on proposed regulations to implement Framework Adjustment 8 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan. Framework Adjustment 8 would revise monkfish days-at-sea allocations and landing limits, biological reference points for monkfish stocks, and other management measures.

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