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Subject: FishNews - August 27, 2014 - Corals, Gulf of Mexico Aquaculture, Plankton, Blue King Crabs, Hawaiian Monk Seals, Royal Red Shrimp, and More

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August 27, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

August-October

Public town hall meetings on **NOAA Fisheries' National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy**, held in conjunction with regional fishery management council meetings.

August 28-29

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi.

September 3, 23

Two free **Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops** in Texas and New Jersey.



NOAA Lists 20 New Corals as Threatened under ESA

NOAA Fisheries announced a final decision to list 20 new species of coral under the Endangered Species Act, bringing the total number of protected coral species to 22. Fifteen of the newly listed species occur in the Indo-Pacific and five in the Caribbean. Read more about the process behind this determination and NOAA Fisheries' next steps.

Gulf of Mexico Offshore Marine Aquaculture Plan - Open for Public Comment

By **October 27**, submit your comments on a proposed rule to establish the first-ever Fishery Management Plan for Regulating Offshore Marine Aquaculture in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. This is the first step toward putting a regulatory framework in place for sustainable offshore aquaculture in the region, and we welcome public input before

[September 10-11](#)

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel meeting and webinar in Bethesda, Maryland, open to the public.

[September 11](#)

Free **Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop** in Florida.

[September 11-17](#)

Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting in Spokane, Washington.

[September 15-19](#)

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**[September 19](#)**

Proposals due for **Natural Resources Damages Program projects** related to the Nyanza Superfund site in Massachusetts.

[September 30](#)

Proposals due for the 2015 **Mid-Atlantic Research Set-Aside** funding.

[November 7](#)

Proposals due for FY 2015 **Species Recovery Grants** to States.

FEDERAL REGISTER ACTIONS

[Click here](#) for a list of only those actions open for public comment. Scroll search for National Oceanic and Atmospheric

the Gulf Plan is final.

Innovative Lab Gauges Acidification Effects on Snails

Check out one of the first experiments from our sophisticated Ocean Acidification "time machine" laboratory.

MMPA List of Fisheries Available - Open for Public Comment

By **September 2**, submit your comments on NOAA Fisheries' proposed List of Fisheries for 2015, as required by the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The proposed list reflects new information on interactions between commercial fisheries and marine mammals.

COPEPOD Database Helps World's Researchers Study Ocean Plankton

Plankton, passively drifting microscopic plants and animals, play a critical function in ocean ecosystems. NOAA Fisheries' Coastal and Oceanic Plankton Ecology, Production, and Observation Database (COPEPOD) provides researchers with a unique a global information resources on plankton and their environment.

Help Us Improve FishWatch

Do you care about sustainable seafood? Have you used www.FishWatch.gov to learn about the seafood you buy at a grocery store or restaurant? We need your feedback! Help us improve FishWatch by participating in a short survey.

Alaska**Pribilof Islands Blue King Crab Amendments - Open for Public Comment**

By **October 20**, submit your comments on two proposed amendments to two Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Management Area. Amendment 103 to the BSAI Groundfish FMP would close the Pribilof Islands Habitat Conservation Zone to directed fishing for Pacific cod with pot gear to reduce bycatch of Pribilof Island blue king crab. Amendment 43 to the BSAI King and Tanner Crab FMP would revise the rebuilding plan for Pribilof Island blue king crab.

Technical Memo: Involving Fishing Communities in Data Collection

The Alaska Community Survey is a voluntary data collection program to improve the socio-economic data available for consideration in North Pacific fisheries management. This report gives an overview of the survey, results from its first year of implementation (2011), and suggestions for engaging communities to better inform fisheries management.

Administration.

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

West Coast

Restoring Oregon Riverfront Site to Wildlife Habitat

A former lumber mill along Oregon's Willamette River will be restored this summer into habitat for salmon, lamprey, mink, bald eagles, and other fish and wildlife. The Alder Creek Restoration Project is the first to restore habitat affected by industrial contamination in Portland Harbor, an area designated a Superfund site in 2000.

Pacific Islands

Highly Migratory Shark Regulations - Open for Public Comment

By **October 6**, submit your comments on proposed regulations to implement the decisions of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean regarding restrictions on fishing for oceanic whitetip shark, whale shark, and silky shark.

Hawaiian Monk Seal News and Updates

The Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center and partners conduct field research and emergency response for the endangered Hawaiian monk seal. Read news and updates about the [population monitoring](#) conducted by this summer's monk seal field teams and about recent [rehabilitation efforts](#), which include transporting the first patients to a new, privately funded monk seal hospital on Hawaii Island.

Southeast

Royal Red Shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico - Open for Public Comment

By **October 6**, submit your comments on a draft supplemental environmental impact statement for Amendment 16 to the FMP for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf Council is considering modifications to the annual catch limit and accountability measures for royal red shrimp.

Tour Boat Operator Fined for Dolphin Harassment in Florida Panhandle

In Panama City, years of illegal feeding have encouraged wild dolphins to readily approach boats for handouts, and some tour businesses exploit this habit to offer customers opportunities to swim with wild dolphins. This summer, NOAA caught and fined one of these tour boat operators for engaging in this illegal, damaging, and dangerous activity.

Greater Atlantic

How Best to Assist Marine Animals in Distress

Only trained responders should attempt to help a whale, dolphin, seal, or sea turtle in distress. If you see an entangled, sick, or injured animal, please report it to NOAA Fisheries Stranding and Disentanglement Hotline, take a photo of the animal from a safe distance, and, if possible, wait for responders to arrive so you can help them locate the animal.

Northeast Fisheries Science Center Scientist Honored

Bruce Collette, Ph.D., a zoologist and senior scientist with NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center's National Systematics Laboratory, has been honored by the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists with the 2014 Joseph S. Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award in Ichthyology.

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