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Subject: FishNews - September 24, 2014 - Taking Action in a Changing Climate, Increase in Bering Sea Pollock Abundance, Southwest Alaska Economic Data, Pacific and Atlantic Salmon, and More

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September 24, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

[September 25](#)

Last day of **Marine Fisheries Advisory Council Meeting** in Silver Spring, Maryland.

[September 30](#)

Exempted Fishing Permit Information Session in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

[September 30 - October 2](#)

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

[October-December](#)

Three free Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops



Taking Action for the Nation's Fish, Wildlife, and Plants in a Changing Climate

A new progress report, "[Taking Action](#)," highlights 50 activities that NOAA Fisheries and partners are taking to help prepare for and respond to climate-related impacts on the nation's ecosystems. Read more about NOAA Fisheries' actions to increase the resilience of marine and coastal species and habitats.

NOAA Sees Big Increase in Bering Sea Pollock Abundance Estimates

Preliminary fish survey results released today by NOAA Fisheries scientists indicate a nearly 60-percent increase in walleye pollock survey biomass in the Bering Sea. The announcement is good news for the country's largest fishery by volume.

in Massachusetts, South Carolina, and Florida.

October-December
Six free Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops in Rhode Island, Florida, North Carolina, Louisiana, and New York.

October 6-7
Public meeting of the **Permanent Advisory Committee** to advise the U.S. Commissioners to the **Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission**.

October 6-15
North Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska.

October 7
Public town hall meeting on **NOAA Fisheries' National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy** held in conjunction with North Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting.

October 7-9
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

October 7 and 15
Public hearings on **Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan Amendment 9** in New Jersey and North Carolina.

Explore the Deep Sea with NOAA Okeanos Explorer

Through October 7, 2014, NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* will explore the largely unknown deep-sea ecosystems of the U.S. Atlantic coast, including the Atlantic submarine canyons and along the New England Seamount Chain. The scientists never know exactly what they will find, so tune in to the [live feeds](#) to see what they discover next!

Alaska

Transit through Walrus Protection Areas - Open for Public Comment

By **November 24**, submit your comments on an amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area. Amendment 107 would establish seasonal transit areas for designated vessels through Walrus Protection Areas in northern Bristol Bay, Alaska.

Scientists Seek Economic Data on SW Alaska Fisheries

What is the contribution of commercial fishing and seafood processing to the Southwest Alaska economy? Scientists at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center will seek to answer that question with improved data by asking Southwest Alaska fish harvesters, processors, and local support businesses to participate in a confidential, voluntary survey next year.

West Coast

Pacific Coast Salmon Amendment 18 - Open for Public Comment

By **October 22**, submit your comments on proposed regulations for the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan. The regulations would implement Amendment 18, which revises the definition and identification of essential fish habitat for Pacific salmon.

Pacific Islands

Workshop Addresses Disproportionate Burden in Pacific Island Fisheries

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, many international agreements seek to ensure that conservation actions do not transfer a "disproportionate burden" onto small island developing states. The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council recently hosted an

October 8

Public meeting on **Steller sea lion critical habitat designation** in Seattle, Washington. Available online.

October 9

Public meeting of the **Advisory Committee** to the U.S. Section to the **International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT.)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS**September 30**

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

October 14

Nominations due for the **Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to ICCAT** and for technical advisors to the committee's species working groups.

October 31

Proposals due for FY **2015 Cooperative Research** funding.

November 7

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

November 17

Proposals due for **Community-based Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Grants**.

international workshop to discuss how to evaluate and address this issue.

Greater Atlantic**Atlantic Salmon Part 2: Challenges to Survival at Sea**

Atlantic salmon are listed as endangered in the Gulf of Maine. Many U.S.-origin salmon never make it back to spawn in the rivers where they were born. Find out what is happening to these fish when they are at sea and what is being done to help protect them.

Smart Transportation Projects Protect Fish Habitat

Installing, replacing, or repairing bridges and culverts can affect fish habitats and inhibit fish migration. NOAA Fisheries is working with the Federal Highway Administration to develop consistent guidelines to minimize impacts and protect fish habitats.

Warm Atlantic Ocean Waters Could Increase Expansion of Invasive Tropical Species

Researchers from NOAA and the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, found that as ocean waters warm, tropical fish species, including the invasive lionfish, could expand into new areas that cold winter temperatures formerly rendered inhospitable.

Weakfish Fishery Rule Withdrawn

NOAA Fisheries withdrew a proposed rule to set commercial and recreational possession limits for weakfish (*Cynoscion regalis*.) The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission concluded that existing federal regulations were equivalent to state regulations and that these changes were not needed to make the two compatible.

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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](#).

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