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Subject: FishNews - October 8, 2014 - Seafood Story Collection on the Menu this Week, Viewing Killer Whales from Above, Recovery Plan for Coho Salmon, Gulf of Mexico Restoration Progress, and More

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October 8, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

October 9

Last day of **Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting** in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

October 9

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

October 9-14

North Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska.

October 14-16

South Atlantic Fishery



October is **National Seafood Month**-- the perfect time to learn more about the sustainable capture and farmed fisheries behind some of your favorite seafood. Dig in to our **Seafood Story Collection** and feast your eyes on our **Seafood Videos**.

You've Never Seen Killer Whales this Way Before

For the first time, scientists have used an unmanned aerial vehicle to photograph killer whales from above. This gives scientists a new way to monitor killer whale health and reproduction while giving us all a stunning new view of the species.

Updated App Lets Public Report Whale Sightings

The free mobile application "Whale Alert," originally developed to report North Atlantic right whale sightings, has been updated for use with all whale species across the country. Read more about "Whale Alert 2.0" and how to download it

**Management Council
Visioning Workshop** in
North Charleston, South
Carolina.

October 15

Public hearing on **Atlantic
Highly Migratory
Species Fishery
Management Plan
Amendment 9** in North
Carolina.

October 16

**Recreational Red
Grouper Framework
Public Hearing Webinar**
hosted by Gulf of Mexico
Fishery Management
Council.

October 20-24

**Gulf of Mexico Fishery
Management Council
Meeting** in Mobile,
Alabama.

October 23

**Marine Fisheries
Advisory Committee
meeting** by
teleconference, open to
the public.

October-December

Three free **Atlantic Shark
Identification
Workshops**
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.

free of charge.

Marine Debris Removal Grants Awarded

NOAA's Marine Debris Program awarded more than \$1.2 million to support 11 community-based marine debris prevention and removal projects. The funded projects will remove derelict vessels and fishing gear, debris resulting from natural disasters, and trash from shorelines and coastal waters. These projects not only promote environmental leadership in local communities, but also restore habitats that sustain young fish, and threatened and endangered species.

National Wetlands Awards Call for Nominations

The National Wetlands Awards are presented annually to individuals who have excelled in wetlands protection, restoration, and education. Award recipients will be honored at a Capitol Hill ceremony next May. Nominations are due **December 1**.

Alaska

Transit through Walrus Protection Areas - Open for Public Comment

By **November 3**, submit your comments on a proposed rule to implement Amendment 107 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area. The amendment would establish seasonal transit areas for designated vessels through Walrus Protection Areas in northern Bristol Bay, Alaska.

Skate Management Areas - Open for Public Comment

By **December 8**, submit your comments on Amendment 104 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area. The amendment would designate six areas of skate egg concentration as Habitat Areas of Particular Concern, highlighting their importance for conservation.

Research Priorities for Alaska Pinnipeds - Open for Public Comment

By **November 7**, submit your comments on possible program priorities to consider for a new financial assistance program supporting research on Alaska pinniped (seal and sea lion) populations. This program would support pinniped conservation and management through grants awarded to high-priority research objectives.

West Coast

New Plan for Recovering Threatened Coho Salmon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**.

December 1

Proposals due for 2015 **National Wetlands Awards**.

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](#).

A concerted, multi-year regional effort to recover threatened coho salmon populations culminated in NOAA Fisheries' adoption of the *Endangered Species Act Recovery Plan for Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho Salmon* this month. The plan serves as a framework to recover the species' 40 populations across California and Oregon.

Pacific Islands**Restrictions on Fish Aggregating Devices - Open for Public Comment**

By **October 28**, submit your comments on proposed restrictions on the use of fish aggregating devices by U.S. purse seine vessels in the western and central Pacific Ocean. The proposed regulations are necessary to comply with the international Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

Southeast**Major Progress on Gulf of Mexico Restoration**

NOAA and its fellow Natural Resource Damage Assessment trustees announced more than \$600 million in new projects to offset damage from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The 44 early restoration projects aim to address a range of injuries to natural resources and the subsequent loss of recreational use.

Greater Atlantic**Restoration Plan for 2003 Oil Spill in Buzzards Bay**

NOAA and its fellow Natural Resource Damage Assessment trustees released the final programmatic restoration plan for shoreline, aquatic, and recreational use resources impacted by the 2003 Bouchard Barge-120 oil spill in Buzzards Bay. The plan awarded more than \$4 million to 19 restoration projects in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

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