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Subject: FishNews - November 19, 2014 - New Habitat Focus Area, Draft Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy, Panel on Ocean Exploration, and More

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November 19, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

November 20

Last day of **New England Fishery Management Council meeting** in Newport, Rhode Island.

November 20

QUEST Webinar on the **Dids, Dos, Don'ts, and Developments of Data-Limited Catch Limits.**

December 4

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 1

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



New Habitat Focus Area Selected

NOAA is designating Kachemak Bay, Alaska, as its next [Habitat Focus Area](#). Kachemak Bay is valuable for its fishing, marine transportation, tourism, and threatened and endangered species. It's also vulnerable to impacts associated with development activities and changes in ocean acidity and water conditions. NOAA will collaborate with partners and focus expertise and resources to help address these habitat issues.

Draft Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy Released

Today NOAA Fisheries released a draft Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy for public review and comment until **December 31**. Developed in cooperation with anglers, the Regional Fishery Management Councils, and the Interstate

December 15

Proposals due for FY 2014/ 2015 **Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Competition**.

January 15

Aquaculture solicitations
Proposals due for **2015 Small Business Innovation Research**.

January 20

Applications due for 2015 **Partnerships for Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery and Marine Mammal Response**.

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](#).

Marine Fisheries Commissions, the policy will serve as a guide for agency actions and responsibilities.

NOAA Establishes Panel to Guide Ocean Exploration

NOAA announced the appointment of 13 members to a new federal Ocean Exploration Advisory Board that will provide guidance to NOAA and the nation on the exploration of the ocean. The members represent government agencies, academic institutions, and private and not-for-profit organizations involved in all areas of ocean exploration.

Tribal Relations Resource

Where can you find the latest news and resources related to our consultations with tribal partners? Check out NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs' [Tribal Relations website](#) to stay up to date.

2014 Dr. Nancy Foster Habitat Conservation Awards

Read more about this year's winners of the Dr. Nancy Foster Habitat Conservation Awards: Kenneth Able, Kelly Hepler, and John Cooper.

Alaska**First-Ever Statewide Alaska Oil Spill Risk Analysis**

NOAA released an [Alaska Oil Spill Risk Analysis](#), designed to serve as a first-order screening tool for fuel spill response planning. It identifies locations and species at risk so that planners can assess risks and consider restoration actions that may be required in the event of a fuel spill.

West Coast**Innovative Technique to Aid Abalone Restoration**

Abalone once supported large commercial and sport fisheries off the coast of California, but they now face extinction. Last month, NOAA biologists and partners made a breakthrough in inducing abalone to spawn, the first step in developing a technique to aid abalone restoration in the wild.

Restoring California's Ten Mile River

Up to one-third of the endangered coho salmon along California's Mendocino Coast spawn in Ten Mile River. Other than legacy logging and ranching effects, the watershed remains relatively undeveloped-a rarity for California rivers. The Nature Conservancy, with NOAA Fisheries and other state and local partners, now seeks to restore the entire watershed, from the mouth of the river to its headwaters.

Pacific Islands

Hawaiian Monk Seal Revised Taxonomy - Open for Public Comment

By **December 17**, submit your comments on NOAA Fisheries' revision of the taxonomy of the Hawaiian monk seal, as listed under the Endangered Species Act, from *Monachus schauinslandi* to *Neomonachus schauinslandi*.

Southeast

Mariner Alert: Right Whales on the Move

NOAA Fisheries and state agencies remind mariners that North Atlantic right whale calving season begins in mid-November and lasts through mid-April. During this time, the large whales are on the move, making their way down the Atlantic coast. Scientists estimate that fewer than 450 right whales remain.

Gulf Offshore Aquaculture Plan - Comment Period Reopening

By **November 28** (formerly October 27), [submit your comments](#) on the Fishery Management Plan for Regulating Offshore Marine Aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico. The Plan will establish a regional permitting process to manage an environmentally sound and economically sustainable aquaculture industry in federal waters of the Gulf.

Greater Atlantic

Seafood Company Owner Convicted in Scallop Case

The owner of a Maine seafood company was sentenced to 30 months in prison for his role in conspiring with six fishing boat operators to conceal the overharvesting of nearly 80,000 pounds of Atlantic sea scallops. Special Agents from NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement worked with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife to investigate leads and identify the suspects and vessels involved. The six boat operators await sentencing.

Oil Spill on the Delaware: 10 Years Later

Ten years ago this month, the tanker *Athos I* struck a large submerged anchor in the Delaware River, spilling [more than 250,000 gallons of oil](#) into this busy shipping route. Learn how NOAA and partnering agencies provided scientific support during the cleanup and are taking the lead on [10 restoration projects](#) designed to help the Delaware River recover.

Windowpane Flounder Accountability Measures -

Open for Public Comment

By **December 2**, submit your comments on a proposed framework adjustment to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. Framework 52 would modify the accountability measures for windowpane flounder.

Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish Specifications - Open for Public Comment

By **December 15**, submit your comments on proposed specifications and management measures for Atlantic mackerel, *Ilex* squid, longfin squid, and butterfish.

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