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Subject: FishNews - December 10, 2014 - Innovative Approaches to Reducing Bycatch, Fisheries Innovation Fund Opportunity, Electronic Reporting of Marine Mammal Interactions, and More

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December 10, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

December 11

Last day of the **Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting** in Baltimore, Maryland.

December 9-12

Public meeting to review **draft stock assessment updates for the Hawaiian Islands Deep 7 bottomfish**.

December 11-16

North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Anchorage, Alaska.

December 16

Webinar on [OceanAdapt](#), a tool for visualizing shifts in marine species



Grant Awards Support Innovation in Bycatch Reduction

NOAA Fisheries awarded 22 grants totaling more than \$2.4 million under the Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program, supporting key partners in the research and development of innovative approaches and strategies for reducing bycatch, seabird interactions, bycatch mortality, and post-release mortality in federally managed fisheries. As [noted by Eileen Sobeck](#), the Head of NOAA Fisheries, these grants underscore the importance of partnerships and the ingenuity and resourcefulness of our nation's fishermen.

Fisheries Innovation Fund Grant Opportunity

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced the fifth round of Fisheries Innovation Fund grant opportunities. The fund is designed to foster innovation in the fishing industry that will help to sustain fishermen's livelihoods while

distribution.

January 14 and 21

Two free **Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops** in Florida and New Hampshire.

January 22

Free **Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop** in Kenner, Louisiana.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 15

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

December 19

Pre-proposals due for 2015 **Fisheries Innovation Fund** grants.

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**.

January 23

Applications due for **Coastal Management Fellowships**.

January 28

Pre-proposals due for **Maryland Sea Grant** research funding.

January 29

Applications due for the

rebuilding fish stocks. Proposals are due **December 19**.

New Online Reporting for Marine Mammal Interactions

The Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP), under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, now has electronic reporting available for marine mammal interactions in commercial fisheries. Fishermen may now fill out MMAP mortality/injury reporting forms online or download the form and email it to nmfs.mireport@noaa.gov.

Alaska

BSAI Groundfish Harvest Specifications - Open for Public Comment

By **January 7**, submit your comments on proposed 2015 and 2016 harvest specifications for the groundfish fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) management area.

Arctic Ringed Seal Critical Habitat Designation - Open for Public Comment

By **March 9**, [submit your comments](#) on the proposed critical habitat designation for the Arctic subspecies of ringed seal (*Phoca hispida hispida*) under the Endangered Species Act. This action replaces the proposal published on December 3 to correct clerical errors.

West Coast

Endangered Coho Find Winter Refuges Restored

A recently completed habitat enhancement project in Sonoma Valley's Green Valley Creek watershed has restored important overwintering habitat for endangered coho salmon. Development and channelization had removed these off-channel, slower-flowing habitats that provide important refuges for juvenile salmon from heavy winter rainstorms.

Southeast

Snapper-Grouper, Gray Triggerfish Measures - Open for Public Comment

By **January 7**, [submit your comments](#) on Amendment 29 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region. A proposed rule to implement this amendment would revise harvest specifications and control rules for various species in the complex.

Grouper/Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota Control Date

2015 NOAA Fisheries/Sea Grant Fellowships in [Marine Resources Economics](#) and [Population and Ecosystem Dynamics](#).

February 3

Proposals due for grants to support management objectives of **three Pacific Marine National Monuments**.

February 4

Pre-proposals due for **Mid-Atlantic Regional Sea Grant** research funding.

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](#).

Open for Public Comment

By **January 7**, submit your comments on the announcement of a control date for the Gulf of Mexico Grouper/Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program. NOAA Fisheries and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council are considering additional restrictions to limit participation in the program.

Greater Atlantic

NOAA Seeks Participants for River Herring Survey

NOAA Fisheries is conducting a voluntary survey of individuals who have harvested river herring (alewife and blueback herring) commercially, recreationally, or for personal use at any point in time over the past 20 years. This local knowledge will contribute to NOAA's understanding of river herring trends over time.

Shellfish Genetics at Connecticut's Milford Laboratory

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Milford (Connecticut) Laboratory is recognized worldwide for innovative science and as a leader in aquaculture research. Learn more about bay scallop research conducted at the lab, how bay scallops are raised there, and about the locations around the country receiving scallops donated by the lab.

NOAA-Funded Researchers Quantify Oyster Reef Ecosystem Services

NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Office announced funding for seven projects that seek to quantify the benefits that restored oyster reefs provide to the Bay's ecosystem. These projects all fall under the Chesapeake Bay Office's initiative to determine [who calls oyster reefs "home."](#)

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