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Subject: FishNews - December 17, 2014 - Year in Review, IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud Task Force Recommendations, OceanAdapt Database, Marine Mammal Deterrents, Invasive Lionfish Plan, and More

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December 17, 2014

EVENTS

[December 18 and 22](#)

Two webinars explaining the Final Rule implementing Amendment 7 to the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (**Atlantic bluefin tuna management measures.**)

[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.

As we wrap up the year with this last FishNews for 2014 and look toward the holidays and New Year ahead, we thought we'd reflect back on some of the [top stories](#) that helped define 2014 and underscore the ongoing partnerships and innovations behind the science and management of our nation's fisheries and protected resources. Keep checking our website and social media posts as we will be here throughout the holidays. FishNews will return January 7, 2015. Thank you for another year with FishNews.

Happy Holidays from the Fisheries Communications Team.



HIGHLIGHTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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
**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.

Recommendations from Presidential Task Force on IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud

Yesterday, the Presidential Task Force on Combatting Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Seafood Fraud released 15 recommendations aimed at leveling the playing field for legitimate fishermen and seafood businesses while increasing consumer confidence in the sustainability of seafood sold in the United States. Public input for guidance on implementing these recommendations is due **January 20**.

OceanAdapt: Tracking Species as the Climate Changes

As the climate changes and the oceans warm, fish are moving in search of cooler water, and this can have a big effect on fishermen's livelihoods. OceanAdapt, a new online database that tracks their movements, should help fishermen and fishery managers to adapt.

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species SEDAR Pool - Request for Nominations

NOAA Fisheries seeks nominations for the Advisory Panel for the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) Workshops, also known as the "SEDAR Pool." Members of this pool may be selected to advise NOAA Fisheries regarding the scientific information used in stock assessments for oceanic sharks in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea. Nominations are due **January 12**.

Guidelines on Marine Mammal Deterrents

NOAA Fisheries plans to develop national guidelines on safely deterring marine mammals and seeks the public's input on which deterrents to evaluate and consider for approval. Comments are due **January 15**.

Invasive Lionfish Plan - Open for Public Comment

By **January 26**, submit your comments on a National Invasive Lionfish Prevention and Management Plan developed by NOAA and other partners of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. [Learn more](#) about the lionfish invasion and how NOAA is working to address it.

Listing of Dusky Shark Population Not Warranted

NOAA Fisheries conducted a comprehensive status review under the Endangered Species Act of the Northwest Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico population of dusky shark (*Carcharhinus obscurus*) and concluded that, although the population does constitute a Distinct Population Segment, it does not warrant listing at this time.

Listing of 6 Foreign Marine Species Warranted

By **February 17**, submit your comments on NOAA Fisheries' finding on seven foreign marine species whose statuses were

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](#).

reviewed in response to a petition. We have determined that two meet the definition of "threatened" and four meet the definition of "endangered," and we therefore propose to list these six under the Endangered Species Act. The habitats of these species are outside U.S. jurisdiction.

Alaska

ShoreZone: Art Meets Science on the Alaska Coastline

Take a look at incredible images from ShoreZone, an online database of images of the Alaska shoreline at low tide. Learn how NOAA Fisheries and other agencies use ShoreZone's data and images to plan for oil spills, support rescuers responding to vessels in distress, review applications for industrial permits, and assess coastal risks.

BSAI King and Tanner Crab Allocations - Open for Public Comment

By **February 13**, submit your comments on a proposed amendment to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs Fishery Management Plan. Amendment 31 would amend the Crab Rationalization Program in several ways to ensure that individuals who hold the appropriate quota shares are active in Crab Rationalization Program fisheries and to ensure that deadlines allow adequate time to resolve disputes.

Reconstructing Historic Sperm Whale Catch

For years, the Soviet Union conducted secret whaling in the North Pacific on a massive scale and misreported their catch to the International Whaling Commission. Now that detailed records of the true catch have been discovered in Russian archives, scientists at NOAA's National Marine Mammal Laboratory are working to correct historical catch data.

West Coast

New U.S. Commissioner to IATTC

President Obama recently appointed Barry Thom, NOAA Fisheries Deputy Regional Administrator of the West Coast Region, as one of the four U.S. Commissioners to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). The IATTC is an international fishery management organization formed to facilitate cooperation among tuna-fishing nations in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

Climate Change Projected to Drive Species Northward

Anticipated changes in climate will push West Coast marine

species northward an average of 30 kilometers per decade, shaking up fish communities and shifting fishing grounds, according to a new study co-authored by a researcher at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center.

West Coast Ecosystem Survey Spots Unusual Species

Last week, NOAA Fisheries completed a comprehensive survey of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and the marine ecosystem off the West Coast. Highlights of the survey include unusual marine mammal and bird sightings drawn north by warm ocean conditions, and tests of an innovative new system for remotely counting marine mammals.

Southeast

South Atlantic Council December Meeting Recap

At their December meeting, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council addressed a range of topics, including transportation of filleted fish back from recreational trips to the Bahamas; two amendments to the Snapper-Grouper Fishery Management Plan; stock identification of hogfish; and the draft Vision Blueprint for the snapper-grouper fishery.

December Issue of Gulf Fishery News Available

The latest issue of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's newsletter is now available. Topics include research and monitoring priorities for the next 5 years, improvements to the Marine Recreational Information Program survey, and the new draft National Recreational Fisheries Policy.

Greater Atlantic

Northeast Standardized Bycatch Reporting - Open for Public Comment

By **February 13**, submit your comments on an omnibus amendment to the fishery management plans of the northeastern United States. The amendment would establish a standardized bycatch reporting methodology for all 13 fishery management plans in the region.

Video: Tracking the Endangered Sturgeon

This video, produced by the United States Navy Fleet Forces Command, showcases Navy-sponsored tracking research for sturgeon in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and includes an interview with NOAA Fisheries scientist Jason Kahn.

Revised Management Plan for Large Whales

NOAA Fisheries announced final revisions to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan. Incorporating stakeholder

input, the size of a scheduled closed area designed to protect the whales will be expanded while the closure start date will be delayed by 1 month.

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