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Subject: FishNews - March 25 2015 - Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Grants, Revisions to Green Sea Turtle Listing, Listening to Cod in the Gulf of Maine, and More

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March 25, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

March 26

Rescheduled
**Atlantic Shark
Identification workshop**
in Norfolk, Virginia.

March 30-31

Three public hearings on
**Pacific salmon
management
alternatives** hosted by the
Pacific Fishery
Management Council.

March 30-April 2

**Gulf of Mexico Fishery
Management Council
meeting** in Biloxi,
Mississippi.

March 30-April 28

Nine scoping workshops

Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Grants Program

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced a request for proposals for the new Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Implementation Grant Program, designed to help NOAA Fisheries partner with fishermen and other stakeholders to systematically integrate technology into fisheries data collection and observations. Full proposals are due **April 13**.



Revision to Green Sea Turtle ESA Listing

Last week, NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to reclassify the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) under the Endangered Species Act. After a review of

hosted by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to discuss two **proposed mackerel amendments**.

March 31

Last installment in the **science seminar series** by the Alaska Fisheries Science Center.

April 6-14

North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Anchorage, Alaska.

April 8-9

Spring meeting of the **Species Working Group of the Advisory Committee** to the U.S. Section to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

April 9

Free **Atlantic Shark Identification workshop** in Wilmington, North Carolina.

April 10-16

Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Rohnert Park, California.

April 13 and 28

Two free **Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification workshops** in Port St. Lucie, Florida, and Kenner, Louisiana.

April 14-16

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting in Long Branch, New Jersey.

the global status, the agencies propose to reclassify the species into 11 Distinct Population Segments, allowing a more tailored approach to conservation that reflects success in several regions. Please [submit your comments](#) by **June 22**.

Podcast: Listening for Cod in the Gulf of Maine

Male Atlantic cod make noise while they're spawning. Scientists and fishermen are working together to locate spawning aggregations of cod with acoustic technology. The goal is to allow fishermen to keep fishing for other species in nearby areas while leaving the cod room to spawn. Check out the latest podcast from NOAA Fisheries' series, "On the Line."

Comments on NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Strategy Due Next Week

By **March 31**, please share your feedback on how NOAA Fisheries can take action in a changing climate. The draft Strategy will help guide NOAA's and our partners' efforts to provide resource managers and resource-dependent communities with the information they need to prepare and respond to climate-related changes in marine and coastal ecosystems.

NOAA Fisheries Joins Experts to Advance Climate-Ready Fisheries Management

This week, NOAA Fisheries scientists are joining researchers from 50 nations around the world at the Third International Symposium on the [Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans](#). This rare opportunity brings the international science community together to assess the impacts of climate change on our oceans and help advance climate-ready fisheries management.

NOAA Education Strategic Plan - Open for Comment

NOAA's Education Council is revising NOAA's Education Strategic Plan for 2015-2035. Our partners, grantees, volunteers, educators, and constituents are all essential to NOAA Education and we want your feedback. Please review the document and [submit your comments](#) by **April 10**.

Seeking Feedback on FishWatch Mobile-Friendly Site

Based on your input on FishWatch.gov, we've been working on designing a more user friendly website. Please check it out and email to fishwatch@noaa.gov to let us know what you think by **April 15**. We are aiming to have the final site ready by July.

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Changes - Open for Public Comment

By **April 20**, please [submit your comments](#) on proposed changes to the regulations implementing the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan. The proposed action would allow fishing with a single trap in certain Massachusetts and Rhode Island state waters and add two new gear marking areas. See

April 15

Free Sea Grant
**workshop on Marine
Finfish Aquaculture in
North Carolina** in
Morehead City, North
Carolina.

April 21-22

**Caribbean Fishery
Management Council
meeting** in St. Croix, U.S.
Virgin Islands.

April 21-23

**New England Fishery
Management Council
meeting** in Mystic,
Connecticut.

April 27-29

Two public meetings - in
Seattle and Port Angeles,
Washington - on the
**Draft Environmental
Impact Statement
regarding the Makah
Tribe's request** to hunt
Eastern North Pacific gray
whales.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**April 10**

Applications due for open
seats on **Gulf of Mexico
Fishery Management
Council Scientific and
Statistical Committees**.

April 13

Proposals due for National
Fish and Wildlife
Foundation's
**Electronic Monitoring
and Reporting Grant
Program**.

April 27

Applications due for 2015
NOAA Sea Grant

the fact sheet for a summary of the changes.

Sea Turtle Observer Requirement Determination

NOAA Fisheries published the [Final 2015 Sea Turtle Observer Requirement Annual Determination](#). We identified 14 commercial fisheries that will be required to take observers, if requested, for a 5-year period so that we can learn more about sea turtle interactions in these fisheries.

Baltic Sea Harbor Porpoise Does Not Warrant Listing

NOAA Fisheries announced a 12-month finding on a petition to list the harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the Baltic Sea under the Endangered Species Act as an endangered or threatened distinct population segment. Based on the best available scientific and commercial information, the population does not meet the criteria for listing.

Alaska**New Study Tallies 20th Century Industrial Whaling**

A recently published journal article co-authored by NOAA Fisheries scientists and a researcher at the New Bedford Whaling Museum in Massachusetts provides the first global estimate of the number of whales killed by industrial whaling in the 20th century: an astounding 3 million whales.

West Coast**Retired Fisherman Recalls Days of Abundant Abalone**

Retired commercial fisherman and conservationist Ken Nielson grew up diving for abalone off the coast of southern California at a time when marine resources were plentiful and coastal development was minimal. Now, abalone populations are severely depleted, but there is hope for recovery.

Northwest Science Center's Year in Review 2014

Check out the latest issue of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center's Year in Review - an annual report of some of the notable activities and highlights. The report emphasizes the impact and geographic scale of the work we have accomplished in the region together and with our partners.

Pacific Islands**Summary of Western Pacific Council's March Meeting**

Last week, the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council met in Honolulu to discuss a range of issues. During the course of their 3-day meeting, they made recommendations for

Aquaculture Extension and Technology Transfer 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](#).

[improving fishery ecosystem plans and planning for climate change](#); for [federally managed species in Hawaii and American Samoa and protected species in federal waters](#); and for [amending Large Vessel Prohibited Areas in American Samoa](#).

Southeast

Sea Grant Offers Marine Finfish Aquaculture Workshop

[North Carolina Sea Grant](#) is partnering with [Virginia Sea Grant](#) to host a workshop on best management practices for marine finfish aquaculture in North Carolina. The training will focus on the state's current rules and regulations, candidate species for production in North Carolina, and best practices for different production methods. The workshop, scheduled for **April 15**, is free and open to the first 35 registrants.

Reef Fish Exempted Fishing Permit Application - Open for Public Comment

By **April 23**, please submit your comments on an application for an Exempted Fishing Permit from the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. If granted, the permit would authorize the applicant to collect red drum in federal waters using Mississippi state licensed vessels. The study would collect data in waters where harvest is currently prohibited to support future stock assessments of red drum.

Greater Atlantic

Scallop Exempted Fishing Permit Application - Open for Public Comment

By **April 7**, please submit your comments on NOAA Fisheries' consideration of an Exempted Fishing Permit allowing one commercial fishing vessel to fish outside of the limited access scallop days-at-sea program. The vessel would fish in support of research conducted by the National Fisheries Institute to investigate scallop incidental mortality during dredging.

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