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Subject: FishNews - April 15, 2015 - Status of Stocks 2014, National Saltwater Rec Fishing Policy Implementation, High Seas Fishing Permitting Program, News on Young Sea Turtle Movement, and More

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April 15, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

April 16

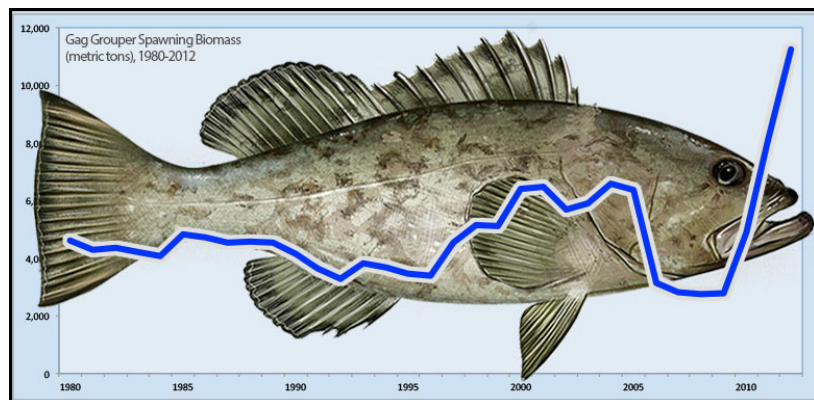
Last day of **Pacific Fishery Management Council** meeting in Rohnert Park, California.

April 16

Last day of **Northeast Fisheries Science Center Protected Species Science Review** in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, open to the public.

April 16

Last day of **Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council** meeting in Long Branch, New Jersey.



Status of United States Fisheries 2014

Now available online, the 2014 Annual Report on the Status of U.S. Fisheries highlights the number of fish stocks on the overfishing and overfished lists. In 2014, this number dropped to an all-time low. In addition, 3 stocks were rebuilt-bringing the total number of stocks rebuilt since 2000 to 37. This progress demonstrates that our science-based approach to determining stock status and managing for sustainability is working.

Are Our Fisheries Laws Working? Just Ask About Gag

[April 19-28](#)

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

[April 25](#)

Sustainable Oceans Summit at Georgetown University in Washington, DC and streaming live online. Register now for free.

[April 20-23](#)

Six **public hearings on Spawning Special Management Zones** in the South Atlantic region, to be held in South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

[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.

[April 28](#)

Free **Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification workshop** in Kenner,

Gag grouper is the 37th stock to be rebuilt since 2000. We take a look at how the Magnuson-Stevens Act-and the sacrifices made by commercial and recreational fishermen-worked to turn this fish tale into a story of success.

[National Saltwater Recreational Fishing Policy Implementation Plan](#)

NOAA Fisheries has released the implementation plan for the agency's National Saltwater Recreational Fishing Policy. The actions identified in the implementation plan are tied to the six guiding principles outlined in the policy. At the link, download the entire plan or choose to explore it by topic.

[Proposed Rule to Revise High Seas Permitting Program](#)

By **May 13**, please submit your comments on a [proposed rule](#) to improve the administration of the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act and the monitoring of U.S. fishing vessels operating on the high seas. The proposed rule includes adjustments to permitting and reporting procedures for all U.S. fishing vessels on the high seas.

[Young Sea Turtles are Active Swimmers, After All](#)

Hatchling sea turtles swim offshore and disperse with the help of ocean currents. For years, researchers thought that young sea turtles continued drifting for the first 1 to 2 years of their lives. New research, however, indicates by about 6 months old ("toddler" age for sea turtles) they can be active swimmers, seeking out favorable ocean habitats.

[Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: 5 Years Later](#)

On April 20, 2010, an explosion on the *Deepwater Horizon* drilling platform in the Gulf of Mexico killed 11 people and unleashed the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history. Since then, NOAA has worked with the other trustees on the National Resource Damage Assessment Council to evaluate the impacts and conduct early restoration planning. Learn about the initial restoration work that has been completed over the past 5 years.

[Sustainable Oceans Summit - Register Now](#)

There are only ten days left to register for the Sustainable Oceans Summit taking place **April 25** at Georgetown University. Under Secretary of State Catherine Novelli, co-chair of the Presidential Task Force on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, will be speaking along with Maria Damanaki of The Nature Conservancy and former head of fisheries for the European Union. The summit will also stream live online.

Louisiana.

[April 28-30](#)

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee meeting in San Diego.

[May 16](#)

NOAA Open House at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center in Miami, Florida.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[April 16](#)

Pre-proposals due for **Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program** grants.

[April 19](#)

Applications due for open seat on **South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Scientific and Statistical Committee**.

[April 23](#)

Proposals due for **Fishing for Energy funding to reduce the impacts of derelict fishing gear**.

[April 27](#)

Applications due for 2015 NOAA Sea Grant **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

Alaska

New Longline Survey Data Mapping Tool

Summaries of longline survey catch and abundance data are now available via a new tool that generates interactive maps. Search for survey data by management area or sampling station.

West Coast

Pacific Council Votes to Close 2015-16 Sardine Fishery

The Pacific Fishery Management Council voted this week to close the 2015-2016 Pacific sardine directed fishery, beginning July 1. The abundance forecast for the season is significantly below the threshold needed for a directed fishery. The Council responded quickly to new information, taking action to improve the long term sustainability of Pacific sardine. The Council also voted to [consider emergency changes](#) to the current sardine fishing season, which ends June 30.

Southeast

NOAA Reminds Boaters: Slow Down for Right Whales

NOAA reminds owners and operators of recreational vessels to slow down in Right Whale Seasonal Management Areas along the Atlantic coast. In the past year, NOAA has charged four large recreational yachts with speeding in these special zones, which are designed to reduce the risk of collisions with endangered right whales.

Spanish Mackerel Trip Limits - Open for Comment

By **May 11**, please submit your comments on the proposed implementation of Framework Amendment 2 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region. The [proposed rule](#) would modify the current trip limit system for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel to better fit fishery conditions and catch limits.

Gulf Council Update

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council met in Biloxi, Mississippi, March 30-April 2 to discuss a number of fishery issues, including regional management for recreational red snapper and red snapper allocation. Read a summary of the Council's actions [here](#).

Greater Atlantic

actions, check the Federal Register [online](#).

Observer Set-Aside Compensation Rates

The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center have worked together to calculate the initial observer set-aside compensation rate for fishing year 2015. NOAA Fisheries will revisit the rates in May to determine whether mid-year adjustments are needed.

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