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Subject: FishNews - July 1, 2015 - 2015 Saltonstall-Kennedy Grants, IUU Committee Seeks Input on Seafood Traceability, New Resilient Lands and Waters Sites, and More

Date: Wed, Jul 1, 2015 2:33 pm



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July 1, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

July 6-15

Three public hearings on **proposed revisions to the green sea turtle Endangered Species Act listing** in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam.

July 7-9

Strategic Focus Area webinars for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's **Draft Vision Blueprint for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery**.

July 9 and 16

Two free **Protected**



\$25 Million in Saltonstall-Kennedy Grants Recommended

NOAA Fisheries announced more than \$25 million in recommended funding for 88 projects under the 2014-2015 Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program. This is the most significant amount of funding ever granted by NOAA under this decades-old program. Check out the [list of recommended projects](#).

IUU and Seafood Fraud Committee Seeks Input on Seafood Traceability

By **July 31**, please [submit your comments and suggestions](#) on the minimum types of information necessary, and the operational standards to be applied for collecting, verifying and securing the data, for an effective seafood traceability program

Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, and Ronkonkoma, New York.

July 13-30

Public comment meetings in Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, and North Carolina to discuss the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's **Draft Vision Blueprint for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery**.

July 23

Free **Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop** in Panama City, Florida.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 2

Proposals due for **Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Grants**.

July 20

Nominations due to the **Marine Fisheries Advisory Council**.

July 24

Proposals due for **2015 mini-grants from the Northeastern Regional Aquaculture Center**.

July 24

Pre-proposals due for **2016 funding from the Northeastern Regional Aquaculture Center**.

July 30

Nominations due for six appointments to **U.S. Advisory Panel** and one

to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and seafood fraud. The National Ocean Council Committee seeks this information as a component of the traceability recommendations detailed in the Presidential Task Force's [Action Plan \(pdf, 639 KB\)](#).

New Sites for Resilient Lands and Waters Initiative

NOAA and four other federal agencies announced [three new Resilient Lands and Waters partnership sites](#): the California Headwaters, California's North-Central Coast and Russian River Watershed, and Crown of the Continent. The agencies will build on existing collaborations to conserve and restore these landscapes and make them more resilient to climate change.

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Nominations

Nominations are sought for appointments to the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, which advises the Secretary of Commerce on living marine resource matters. Appointees serve up to two consecutive 3-year terms. Nominations are due **July 20**.

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Essential Fish Habitat

The final Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Essential Fish Habitat 5-Year Review is now available. Following a period of public comment and information gathering, NOAA Fisheries determined that revisions to the existing essential fish habitat descriptions and designations were not warranted.

Alaska

Eastern Bering Sea Canyon Survey

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center released its final report detailing findings from its 2014 summer/fall survey of four Bering Sea canyons and the surrounding slope environment. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council requested NOAA Fisheries scientists conduct the research to determine whether there were coral concentrations that warranted additional protection from fishing activity. This report will undergo peer review in preparation for the Council's meeting in October 2015.

What's the Status of Invasive Species in Alaska?

Alaska's marine habitat remains relatively pristine, compared to other regions that have experienced massive invasions of non-native species. In an interview with Linda Shaw from NOAA Fisheries' Alaska Regional Office, learn more about the efforts to study and respond to invasive species in Alaska.

Impacts of Mining on Red King Crab Habitat

High gold prices and new technologies have led to a recent gold rush in Nome, Alaska. With funding from NOAA Fisheries,

to the **Joint Management Committee** for the **Pacific Whiting Treaty** between the United States and Canada.

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](#).

graduate student Mabel Baldwin-Schaeffer, who grew up in an Inupiaq village northeast of Nome, is working with her community to study the impacts of the mining boom on the habitat of red king crab.

West Coast

2015 Science in the Studio Awards

NOAA Fisheries, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Pacific Northwest College of Arts have partnered to award the second year of Science in the Studio awards. In 2015, the award centered on water quality and the impacts of toxins on our landscape. Learn more about the winning artists and their work.

Announcing the Newportal Blog on Ocean Conditions

The Northwest Fisheries Science Center's Ocean Indicators Team have launched a new blog to highly recent news, field observations, collaborative efforts, and the latest scientific observations in the northern California Current. It will also explain how the team and their partners use physical data to develop indicators of ocean health.

Rockfish Survey Shows Unusual Ocean Conditions

The Southwest Fisheries Science Center's Rockfish Recruitment and Ecosystem Assessment Survey concluded in June. Catches of warm water species were anomalously high, with very large catches of species typically observed only during strong El Niño events. Scientists are working on a more comprehensive analysis of 2015 survey results relative to previous years.

Pacific Islands

Rose Atoll National Monument Gets "Street View"

The Rose Atoll Marine National Monument is a protected area covering 13,450 square miles of land, water, and reef in and around the Rose Atoll in American Samoa. Now, thanks to NOAA and partner agencies, you can take a virtual tour of portions of the monument's pristine reefs using Google Street View.

Southeast

Draft Vision for Snapper-Grouper Fishery Now Available

Based on a series of stakeholder workshops held in 2014, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council has created a Draft Vision Blueprint for the snapper-grouper fishery. Through July and August, the Council wants to hear which action items you

support or do not support and why, and other suggestions for managing the fishery.

Greater Atlantic

Camera Spots Large Numbers of Scallops off Delaware

NOAA's HabCam V4, a towed imaging and sensor platform, has photographed miles of sea bottom off the coast of Delaware and Maryland. The resulting images indicate a banner year for young sea scallops, displaying the highest sea scallop densities in more than a decade.

New Greater Atlantic Region GIS Shapefiles Available

NOAA Fisheries announces the publication of [new and updated Geographic Information System shapefiles](#) on the website. Recent additions and updates include shapefiles on North Atlantic right whales, Northeast multispecies, scallops, sea turtles, and Atlantic large whales.

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