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Subject: FishNews - July 15, 2015 - Species in the Spotlight: Central California Coho, Bait & Tackle Economic Impact, Shark Cooperative Research, and More

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July 15, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

July 16

Tweet Chat about harbor seals with NOAA Fisheries biologist John Jansen @noaafisheriesak, #disturbedseal.

July 16

Free Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops in 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**



Species in the Spotlight: Central California Coast Coho

The Central California Coast coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) is one of NOAA Fisheries' eight [Species in the Spotlight](#). By the late 1990s, these coho salmon were reduced to only a few remaining places and on the verge of extinction. Learn what NOAA and partners are doing - including work on NOAA Fisheries' [first Habitat Focus Area](#), the Russian River - to protect these endangered fish and restore their habitat.

Seeking Juvenile Salmon Underneath the Ice

In Alaska, information is limited about where juvenile salmon spend their winters in the main and side channels of glacial rivers. This past February, NOAA Fisheries scientists traveled miles up the frozen Susitna River, drilling holes in the ice in search of the juvenile salmon. Their findings will inform the

Blueprint for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery.

July 23

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

July 24

Ted Stevens Day Open House at the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute in Juneau, Alaska.

July 27-31

External Program Review of the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center's Protected Species Science in Honolulu. Open to the public.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

agency's recommendations for large dam and hydropower operations.

Bait and Tackle Retailers Generated \$2.3 Billion in 2013

A recent NOAA study found that independent marine recreational bait and tackle retail stores provide a big boost to the economy: in 2013, these retailers contributed approximately \$2.3 billion across the broader U.S. economy, including \$796 million in income. The industry supports nearly 16,000 jobs.

Video: Northwest Atlantic Shark Cooperative Research

Cooperative research surveys conducted by commercial fishermen are a key component of sustainable management of sharks in the Northwest Atlantic. Check out this video to learn more about this program from our shark researchers.

Foreign Angelshark Listing - Open for Public Comment

By **September 14**, please submit your comments on NOAA Fisheries' determination that three foreign angelshark species warrant listing as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Because the sharks' ranges lie entirely outside U.S. jurisdiction, we are not proposing to designate critical habitat.

Special Issue on Pacific Arctic Marine Ecosystems

The Synthesis of Arctic Research project, led by NOAA scientists and supported by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, explores the 'new state' of Pacific Arctic marine ecosystems. Findings have been published in a special issue of Progress in Oceanography.

REMINDER - 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 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 \(pdf, 639 KB\)](#).

Great Lakes

Severe Harmful Algal Bloom Predicted for Lake Erie

NOAA and our research partners predict that the 2015 western Lake Erie harmful algal bloom season will be among the most severe in recent years, second only to the record-setting 2011 bloom. The forecast uses models that translate spring nutrient loading into predicted algal blooms in the western basin of the lake.

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](#).

Alaska

New Way to Protect Harbor Seals in Disenchantment Bay

Tidewater glacial fjords provide important habitat for harbor seals. Over the past several decades, these areas have seen sharp increases in tour ship traffic, which can disturb the seals' activities. Findings from a recent study suggest ways to help reduce the impact. Join NOAA Fisheries biologist John Jansen in a Tweet Chat tomorrow, **July 16**, at 1pm PDT/4pm EDT to learn more.

Skates in the Gulf of Alaska - Open for Public Comment

By **August 10**, please submit your comments on proposed revisions to the maximum retainable amount of skates using groundfish and halibut as a basis species in the Gulf of Alaska. NOAA Fisheries proposes reducing the maximum retainable amount to decrease the incentive to target skates and to slow the catch rate of skates in these fisheries.

Gulf of Alaska Bycatch - Open for Public Comment

By **August 28**, please submit your comments on a proposed bycatch management program for the Gulf of Alaska trawl groundfish fisheries. NOAA Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council are preparing an environmental impact statement for the program and seek information from the public.

Reward for Information on Slain Steller Sea Lions

On June 1, NOAA Fisheries responded to a report of several dead marine mammals on a beach near Cordova, Alaska, finding several deliberately killed Steller sea lions. NOAA Fisheries' Office of Law Enforcement and Cordova District Fishermen United are offering a combined \$7,500 reward for information leading to a conviction.

West Coast

Newest NOAA Fisheries Survey Vessel to Survey Whales

NOAA's newest research ship, the *Reuben Lasker*, embarked last week on a mission to survey gray whales along the West Coast and search for right whales in the Gulf of Alaska. The ship departed its home port of San Diego on July 9 and is scheduled to arrive in Kodiak, Alaska, on August 1. The *Lasker* is specially engineered to operate more quietly than other ships, minimizing the disturbance to marine life.

New Reports on Puget Sound Steelhead Status

Two recently published technical memorandums synthesize the

best available science to describe the status of threatened steelhead populations in the Puget Sound region and to establish criteria for population viability and recovery progress. These reports will inform the Puget Sound steelhead recovery plan.

Environmental Impacts for Puget Sound Hatchery Plans

NOAA Fisheries announces our intention to prepare an environmental impact statement for five Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans for early winter steelhead hatchery programs jointly submitted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and tribal co-managers. We seek suggestions and information to inform the scope of the statement, and two public workshops will be held **July 20-21**.

Southeast

Modified Trip Limits for Atlantic Group Spanish Mackerel

NOAA Fisheries published a final rule to implement Framework Amendment 2 to the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Region fishery management plan. This action will streamline the commercial trip limit system for the Atlantic migratory group of Spanish mackerel.

Greater Atlantic

Who Is Protecting Endangered Atlantic Salmon?

Meet NOAA Fisheries biologist Rory Saunders, and learn how he and the Northeast Salmon Team work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Department of Marine Resources, and Penobscot Indian Nation to recover Atlantic salmon populations and the ecosystems upon which they depend. The Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment of Atlantic salmon are one of NOAA Fisheries' eight [Species in the Spotlight](#).

New Delaware Special Management Zone GIS Shapefiles

NOAA Fisheries announces the publication of [new Geographic Information System shapefiles](#) for the [Delaware Reef Special Management Zones](#) that went into effect last week.

Denial of Petition for Rulemaking for Gulf of Maine Cod

A Petition for Rulemaking requested that NOAA Fisheries prohibit commercial and recreational fishing for Gulf of Maine cod until the incidental fishing mortality does not exceed the acceptable biological catch limit. After reviewing the petition and considering recent management measures, NOAA Fisheries denied the request.

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