

**From:** NOAA Fisheries <laurel.bryant@noaa.gov>

**To:** ssherman40 <ssherman40@aol.com>

**Subject:** FishNews - August 12, 2015 - Species in the Spotlight: White Abalone, Fisheries Imports Rule, North Pacific Right Whale Survey, and More

**Date:** Wed, Aug 12, 2015 3:03 pm



[Subscribe](#)

[FishNews Archive](#)

[NOAA Fisheries](#)



**August 12, 2015**

## HIGHLIGHTS

### EVENTS

#### [August 13](#)

Last day of **Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting** in New York City.

#### [August 13](#)

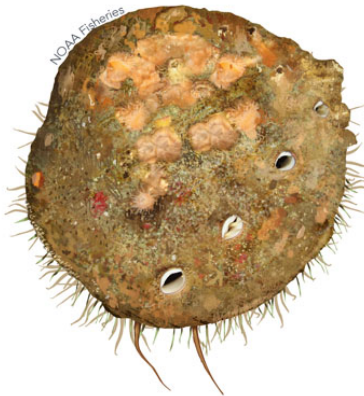
Free **Atlantic Shark Identification workshop** in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

#### [August 13-14](#)

**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council meeting** in New Orleans.

#### [August 13-20](#)

Two **public hearings** and one **webinar** to solicit public comments on **Draft Amendment 18 to the**



### **Species in the Spotlight: White Abalone**

Endangered white abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*) is a kind of herbivorous marine snail once plentiful in California kelp beds. Overfishing drove their numbers down, and today they face continued threats from disease and reproductive failure. Learn how NOAA Fisheries is working to recover white abalone, one of our eight [Species in the Spotlight](#).

### **Podcast: Breeding White Abalone in Captivity**

Endangered white abalone are so scarce in the wild that they are often too far apart from one another to reproduce successfully. Scientists are working to breed them in captivity, but first they

## Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan.

**August 19-20**  
**Caribbean Fishery Management Council meeting** in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.

**August 25-27**  
Southeast Fisheries Science Center's **2015 Science Program Review** in Coral Gables, Florida. RSVP required.

**September 9-10**  
**Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel** meeting and webinar, open to the public.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**September 13**  
Submissions due for the **NOAA Aquaculture Photo Contest**.

**September 21**  
Proposals due for 2016-2018 **Atlantic Herring Research Set-Aside Funding**.

**October 7**  
Proposals due for FY2016 **Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grants**.

## 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

have to figure out how to turn them on.

## Proposed Rule to Protect Marine Mammals in International Fisheries

By **November 9**, please submit your comments on a [proposed rule](#) implementing aspects of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The rule would require nations wishing to export fish and fish products to the United States to demonstrate that they have a comparable regulatory program for reducing marine mammal incidental mortality and injury that U.S. fishing operations must abide by.

## USDA: Consumers Missing Out on Seafood Benefits

Seafood is a nutrient-rich source of protein and seafood consumption has been associated with reduced risk of heart disease. However, a recent study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service found that most Americans do not eat the recommended two servings of seafood per week.

## Stock Assessment Prioritization for U.S. Fisheries

NOAA Fisheries announces the new stock assessment prioritization system described in the report [Prioritizing Fish Stock Assessments](#). This transparent and objective prioritization system will help guide regional planning decisions for upcoming stock assessment cycles, helping managers to make the best use of both data and resources to manage stocks.

## NOAA Announces National Habitat Policy

NOAA has released an agency-wide National Habitat Policy outlining the guiding principles that will apply to all of NOAA's habitat work. This new policy is a clear statement of NOAA's dedication to habitat conservation and resilient ecosystems and communities.

## Smooth Hammerhead Petition - Open for Public Comment

By **October 13**, please submit scientific and commercial information regarding the smooth hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*). NOAA Fisheries found that a petition to list smooth hammerhead as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act presents enough information to warrant a status review.

## Bigeye Thresher Petition - Open for Public Comment

By **October 13**, please submit scientific and commercial information regarding the bigeye thresher shark (*Alopias superciliosus*). NOAA Fisheries found that a petition to list bigeye thresher as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act presents enough information to warrant a status review.

---

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

## Alaska

### Searching for Rare Right Whales in the North Pacific

NOAA Fisheries scientists have embarked on a month-long research survey onboard NOAA Ship *Reuben Lasker* to search for the rare North Pacific right whale, possibly the most endangered marine mammal in U.S. waters. Only 30 North Pacific right whales are estimated to exist.

### Emergency Rule for Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fisheries

NOAA Fisheries is implementing an emergency rule to provide an additional Chinook salmon prohibited species allowance to the Gulf of Alaska groundfish trawl fisheries for the Non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector. The sector was closed on May 3 when it reached its prohibited species catch limit, and the temporary rule will mitigate the costs of the closure while the North Pacific Fishery Management Council develops an amendment to permanently address the situation.

---

## West Coast

### Record-Setting West Coast Toxic Algal Bloom Expands

A record-breaking algal bloom continues to expand across the North Pacific, reaching as far north as the Aleutian Islands and as far south as southern California. Coinciding with well-above-average sea surface temperatures, the bloom is laced with some toxic species that have had far-reaching consequences for sea life and regional and local economies.

### Video Series: California Drought--Protecting Salmon

NOAA Fisheries works with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, water control agencies, and private landowners to find ways to ration water for endangered salmon survival during an unprecedented drought. Learn more in this first installment of a series of videos about water use during the California drought.

### Aquaculture--Patented NOAA Fish Feeder Wins National Award

The Microparticulate Feeder for Larval and Juvenile Fish, developed at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, automatically and reliably dispenses precise amounts of feed to young fish. The newly patented technology earned NOAA an Outstanding Technology Development award from the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer.

### Monitoring Biodiversity in the Salish Sea

This summer, scientists from the Northwest Fisheries Science Center deployed sets of benthic settling plates in three locations in the southern Salish Sea as part of a broader effort to study the ocean's biodiversity. Marine organisms will settle on the plates,

allowing NOAA scientists to monitor the region's ocean biodiversity in a controlled setting.

### **Refinance of Fishing Reduction Capacity Loan - Open for Public Comment**

By **September 8**, please submit your comments on NOAA Fisheries' proposal to refinance the 30-year voluntary fishing capacity reduction loan implemented in 2004. The refinanced loan, if approved, would establish a new industry fee system for the Pacific Coast groundfish limited-entry trawl, Washington coastal Dungeness crab, and California pink shrimp fisheries.

---

## ***Southeast***

### **2015 Gulf of Mexico Dead Zone Larger than Expected**

NOAA Scientists have found this year's dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico to be larger than average and larger than forecast in June. Heavy June rains throughout the Mississippi River watershed washed high amounts of nutrients into the Gulf, causing an overgrowth of algae that uses up the dissolved oxygen needed to support fish and other marine life.

### **Public Input Sought on Restoring North Carolina's Cape Fear River**

NOAA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources seek public input to identify opportunities to restore natural resources damaged by decades of contamination from a former wood treatment plant near Wilmington, North Carolina. Please submit comments at a public hearing on August 18 or online by **September 4**.

### **Dolphin SMART Program Recognizes Florida Business**

NOAA and partners welcome Coastal Kayak Charters to Dolphin SMART, a responsible wildlife viewing program. There are now 18 businesses in Florida and Hawaii that meet the program standards of responsible dolphin viewing and dolphin conservation education.

### **Law Enforcement Seeks Tips on Illegal Killing of Smalltooth Sawfish**

Authorities recovered the detached head of an endangered smalltooth sawfish on Fort Lauderdale beach, near St. Petersburg, Florida. It was likely killed and harvested for its meat, which is illegal under the Endangered Species Act. The agency is looking for information from anyone who may know something about the killing of this animal.

---

## ***Greater Atlantic***

### Habitat Restoration Success in Massachusetts' Nasketucket Bay

The Nasketucket Bay Land Conservation Project added more than 400 acres of protected area for fishing, birding, hiking, and other outdoor recreation opportunities to the existing Nasketucket State Reservation in Massachusetts. The expansion was funded as part of the restoration process following the B-120 Buzzard Bay oil spill more than a decade ago.

### Oyster Reef Ecosystem Services Research Update

NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Office initiated the Oyster Reef Ecosystem Services project to quantify the benefits of restored oyster reefs. Read about the progress made along each of the project's three primary efforts: a fish utilization field study in the Choptank River (one of NOAA's [Habitat Focus Areas](#)), funding for related research by academic partners, and ecosystem and economic modeling.

### Interactive "Story Map" for Atlantic Sea Scallops

Our Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office has a new communication tool to assist with explaining the management measures and identifying open and closed areas through a "[Story Map](#)." The Story Map is posted live on our [Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery](#) page, and allows viewers to locate open and closed areas at different times of year, see gear requirements by area, and get other regulatory information.

### Scallop State Water Exemption - Open for Public Comment

By **September 4**, please submit your comments on proposed regulations for the Scallop State Water Exemption Program. If approved, the exemption would allow vessels with both federal and state scallop permits to continue fishing in the Maine state waters portion of the Northern Gulf of Maine management area after the federal total allowable catch has been fully harvested in a given year.

[NOAA Fisheries](#) | [laurel.bryant@noaa.gov](mailto:laurel.bryant@noaa.gov)

### Forward this email



This email was sent to [ssherman40@aol.com](mailto:ssherman40@aol.com) by [laurel.bryant@noaa.gov](mailto:laurel.bryant@noaa.gov) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider](#).



NOAA - Fisheries Service | 1315 East West Highway | Silver Spring | MD | 20910