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Subject: FishNews - August 19, 2015 - NOAA Fisheries Delivers World Class Science, PSA advocates for Marine Wildlife in Hawaii, NOAA Completes Review of Mexico Sea Turtle Bycatch Program, and More

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August 19, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS

August 19-20

Caribbean Fishery Management Council meeting in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.

August 20 : One **webinar** to solicit public comments on **Draft Amendment 18 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan**.

August 24-25: Two **public hearings** for the proposed designation of spawning special management zones under **Snapper Grouper Amendment 36**

August 24-28: Center for



NOAA Fisheries Delivers World Class Science

Richard Merrick, Chief Science Advisor for NOAA Fisheries, examines NOAA Fisheries' clear commitment and leadership in maintaining the United States as a world leader in marine resource science and stewardship.

Independent Experts
**review of bycatch
quantification in the
Hawaiian deep-set
longline fishery.**

August 25-27

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

**September 9: Ecosystem
Based Management Plan
Development Team
meeting** in Warwick, RI

September 9-10

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

**September 9-16 : Pacific
Fishery Management
Council meeting** in
Sacramento, California.

September 14 :

**Ecosystem Based
Management Plan
Development Team
meeting** in Woods Hole,
MA

**September 14-18 : South
Atlantic Fishery
Management Council
meeting** in Hilton Head,
South Carolina.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 13

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

September 21

Proposals due for 2016-
2018 Atlantic Herring

Public Service Announcement Advocates for Marine Wildlife in Hawaii

A partnership between NOAA, The Nature Conservancy, the State of Hawaii, and local communities has resulted in a public service announcement to help protect some of Hawaii's most iconic marine species. Airing on all inbound Hawaiian Airlines flights, it features sea turtles, spinner dolphins, humpback whales, and one of our "[Species in the Spotlight](#)"-the Hawaiian monk seals.

NOAA Completes Review of Mexico Sea Turtle Bycatch Program

The United States has issued the certification decision for Mexico's bycatch activities identified in NOAA's 2013 Biennial Report to Congress on improving international fisheries. This decision relates to bycatch of Pacific loggerhead sea turtles in the gillnet fisheries in the Gulf of Ulloa.

Public Comment Extended--

We are extending public comment on a draft list of principles for determining species "at risk" of [IUU fishing and seafood fraud](#) , as well as a draft list of "at risk" species. These will serve as the basis for the first phase of a risk-based seafood traceability program. The public comment period is extended to **September 11** from the original closure date of September 2 . This additional time is in order to provide further opportunity for the public to review and provide thoughtful comment. Provide comment [here](#) or by mail.

Alaska

Nomination Period Extended for International Pacific Halibut Commission Appointments

NOAA Fisheries is extending the nomination period for two presidential appointments to serve as U.S. commissioners to the International Pacific Halibut Commission. Commissioners are appointed by the President for a 2 year term that is eligible for reappointment. Nominations are due by **September 18** .

Dispatches from the Field: Searching for Pacific Right Whales

NOAA Fisheries scientists continue their search this week for the critically endangered North Pacific right whale in the Gulf of Alaska aboard the NOAA Fisheries research vessel *Reuben Lasker*. During the four-month cruise, researchers are hoping to locate, photograph and possibly satellite tag one of the 30 remaining North Pacific right whales. [Click here for updates on this work](#) . This research effort is part of a three-month [Collaborative Large Whale Survey](#) that is being conducted along the west coast by the Southwest Fisheries Science Center and the Alaska Fisheries Science Center. During the broader survey

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

information will also be collected on gray whale abundance and migrations.

West Coast

Researchers Borrow Investment Strategy to Save Salmon Stock

Financial management strategy may seem an unlikely method to save wild salmon, but NOAA is using a key financial lesson to restore Central California Coast (CCC) coho to the Scott River.

By comparing biodiversity to stock holdings, researchers are helping bring CCC coho back to Scott Creek.

Pacific Islands

Draft Main Hawaiian Islands Monk Seal Management Plan-Open for Comment

By **September 9**, please review and submit comments on a draft management plan for the main Hawaiian Islands monk seal. This plan sets forth management needs for monk seals living in areas extensively used by people.

Greater Atlantic

Webinar series to Highlight Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience Best Practices

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and Chesapeake Bay Trust are organizing a webinar series designed for Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience practitioners. The first webinar will be held on **August 26** .

Fishermen Help Protect Deep-Sea Corals: A Success Story

Like their shallow-water counterparts, these deep-sea corals are very fragile and can be easily damaged or destroyed. In collaboration with fisherman, and using their fine scale habitat knowledge, deep-sea coral received much-needed habitat protection.

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