BOU Weekly FOIA Report

Wednesday 7/26-Tuesday 8/1

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Request Number	Received	Requester	Requester Organization
DOC-NOAA-2017-001634	8/1/2017	Paul Achitoff	Earthjustice
DOC-NOAA-2017-001606	7/26/2017	Molly Masterton	Natural Resources Defense Council

Status	Detail	Category
Submitted	Please provide 2016 bigeye tuna catch data, which has not yet been published at https://pifsc-www.irc.noaa.gov/wpacfin/hi/Data/Pelagic/hpel7.htm. This includes bigeye tuna catch, by pound, for longline, MHI troll, MHI handline, and offshore handline fishers.	Public Interest/Special Interest
Submitted	Please find attached a FOIA request from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) for records regarding the Secretary of Commerce's decision determining that the state of New Jersey was in compliance with regard to management of its recreational summer flounder fishery under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act. 1. Decision memoranda, letters, emails, situation summaries, discussion documents, or briefing documents that discuss summer flounder and New Jersey's 2017 recreational season; 2. Communications pertaining to New Jersey's recreational management of summer flounder during the 2017 season, including communications within the Department or any of its subdivisions, and communications between Department staff (or staff of any Department subdivision) and any outside entity; 3. Proposals, recommendations, or factual information submitted to the Department or any of its subdivisions regarding New Jersey's recreational management of summer flounder during the 2017 season; 4. Technical analysis, including projections or estimates of harvest, discard mortality, overages, and "conservation equivalency," submitted to or produced by the Department or any of its subdivisions, regarding New Jersey's recreational management of summer flounder during the 2017 season; and 5. Scientific research or studies that support or explain the Secretary's decision. The temporal scope of this request is limited to records created or obtained on or after February 2, 2017.	Public Interest/Special Interest

Comments

2016 Tuna catches have received moderate news coverage, including one notable article by The Pew Charitable Trusts, entitled "Netting Billions: A Valuation of Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean." http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/fact-sheets/2016/09/netting-billions-a-valuation-of-tuna-in-the-western-and-central-pacific-ocean.

This touches on a recent Washington Post article referenced Secretary Ross' reversal of the non-compliance finding, and a discussion on the impact on conservation efforts. The article was published July 17, and was picked up by other news sources, including the AP/KTAR News, and other local news groups. One example is here: http://ktar.com/story/1659851/group-trump-officials-fish-ruling-could-harm-conservation/. This may require the Department to take the lead, deferring to OPOG on ownership.