

Missed Zoom Reflection

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I had several great takeaways from the ZOOM meeting recording from March 25, 2024. First of all, I am excited to have the opportunity to attend a webinar with my students on April 26. I am setting up a virtual aquarium zoom meeting for my students on the 19th and I know my students will be thrilled with this extra opportunity!

The engineering designs to reduce bycatch is very interesting to me. I enjoyed learning about the high posts to scare away the birds as well as the simple change of fish hook design to protect sea turtles from being caught.

I have heard about El Nino my whole life, and am pretty sure I even watched a Sesame Street episode on it as a kid, but have never truly understood it. I enjoyed listening to the explanation of it being a year of warmer water, often followed by a year of cooling water. The data of the wind speed and change in directions from 1998 made me stop and consider where I was in 1998. I also learned that it does not follow a pattern; I always thought it happened every so many years. I also agree with Andrea as she mentioned needing snow! We did not have much snow in the south during this El Nino year either.

I am happy to know that NOAA actually will close fisheries if they have caught too many fish. I was unaware of this. I also enjoyed learning that there are fishing seasons just like hunting seasons.

How crazy is it that human actions have changed the evolution of the size of swordfish?! WOW!

I was intrigued with the wind energy information. I would actually be interested in writing an ocean topic paper on wind energy, as it slightly piqued my interest in my paper about whales. There was mention of whether or not the offshore wind farms were causing the increase in whale falls. Then hearing about it again tonight brought it back up!

The map showing the offshore drilling was also interesting. It was good to hear that the majority of the coasts around the United States are off limits to drilling. I was also fascinated by the idea that reefs have been forming on the bottom of the drilling platforms, so some good has come of them!

I am thankful you mentioned that attending the webinar on the 26th can still count for our points. I am likewise thankful for the opportunity to watch the recording to make up my missed meeting. The zoom meetings are always a wealth of information!