

Science, Service, Stewardship



Research & Monitoring Activities

HMS Management Division

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

NOAA



Overview

- Research
 - Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)/Scientific Research Permits (SRPs)
- Surveys & Monitoring
- HMS Research Plan



Research Activities Conducted Under HMS SRPs, EFPs, and LOAs (through April 2012)

| Species | Permit | Number | Research |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|---|
| HMS | SRP | 2 | Tagging & sampling tunas, billfish, sharks; target and incidental catch using greenstick gear |
| Shark | SRP | 3 | Tagging and sampling sharks; Oregon II survey; PSAT tagging of sharks |
| Sharks | EFP | 2 | Deploying PSATs on sharks; tagging and sampling sharks; positive ID of sharks caught in shrimp trawl fishery |
| Sharks | LOAs | 3 | Determining abundance/distribution of sharks |



Other HMS Monitoring Programs

- Commercial
 - Pelagic Observer Program
 - Shark Bottom Longline Observer Program
 - Shark Gillnet Observer Program
 - Shark Research Fishery
 - Logbook Reporting Requirements (HMS Logbook)
 - Mandatory if selected; Authorized but not implemented for CHB
 - Dealer Reports
- Recreational
 - Recreational Billfish Survey
 - Non-tournament billfish/swordfish call-in
 - Automated Landings Reporting System
 - MD & NC tagging programs
 - LPS/MRIP Pilot Projects



Marine Recreational Information Program

- Florida HMS Private Angler Telephone Survey: *Status*: Final Report completed April 2010
- HMS For-hire Survey – Florida Pilot Study. *Status*: Final Report completed March 2011
- Puerto Rico HMS Catch Card Pilot. *Status*: Implemented March 1, 2011
- Puerto Rico HMS Permit Holder Pilot Survey. *Status*: Implemented February 1, 2011
- Massachusetts recreational census-based BFT landings program. *Status*: Pilot underway summer 2012
- Large Pelagics Telephone Survey non-response study. *Status*: Underway June - November 2012



HMS Research Plan

Development of an integrated Atlantic HMS Research Plan, including

- **Biology:** Improvement in collection programs of biological samples; Age and growth; Reproductive studies; Habitat utilization and feeding ecology; Species identification
- **Analytical approaches for assessment of HMS:** Improving fishery-dependent indices of abundance; Develop more fishery-independent indices of abundance; Develop alternative stock assessment mod
- **Fisheries Research:** Gear research and development (e.g., weak hooks); Modification of fishing practices to reduce bycatch mortality; Estimation of post-release mortality; Effect of time-area closures; Improvement in collection of fishery statistics

HMS Advisory Panel/ICCAT Advisory Committee comments being addressed; final plan expected late summer/fall 2012