

*Science, Service, Stewardship*



# Highly Migratory Species Management Update

## ICCAT Advisory Committee

October 13, 2011

**NOAA  
FISHERIES  
SERVICE**



## 2010 ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions

- 10-01 – Bigeye tuna conservation and management
- **10-02 – Rebuilding program for north Atlantic swordfish**
- **10-03 – Western bluefin tuna rebuilding program**
- 10-04 – Recovery plan for Eastern bluefin tuna
- 10-05 – Rebuilding plan for blue and white marlin
- 10-06 – Conservation of shortfin mako sharks
- **10-07 – Conservation of oceanic whitetip sharks**
- **10-08 – Conservation of hammerhead sharks**
- 10-09 – Conservation of sea turtles
- 10-10 – Minimum standards for scientific observers
- 10-11 – Electronic BCD program



## Rulemaking/Operations Update

Since the March 2011 IAC meeting:

- Published 4 proposed rules and 4 final rules
- Progressed with next steps on several issues from the 2009 ANPR
- Oversaw 18 workshops
- Published NOI and Control Date for Shark Fishery
- BFT ESA decision was issued by Office of Protected Resources that listing not warranted at this time; added to Species of Concern with another review planned for 2013

In 2011 so far:

- Issued 38 EFPs, SRPs, & LOAs
- Registered 236 HMS tournaments; e-mail registration available (HMStournamentregistry@noaa.gov); tournament registration list available online
- ~4,200 people receiving Atlantic HMS News
- VMS reimbursement available for HMS fisheries



## BFT Quotas and Atlantic Tuna Fisheries Management Measures

- Implemented reduced ICCAT-recommended quota (1,750 mt for western Atlantic BFT (July 5, 2011; 76 FR 39019)
- Base quota for 2011 and 2012: 923.7 mt (+25 mt NED)
- 2011 Adjusted quota: 957.4 mt (+25 mt NED)
- Following consideration of public comment and updated 2010 dead discard estimates (122 mt), NMFS finalized rule to:
  - Account for half of the dead discard estimate “up front”;
  - Allocate the full 2011 baseline quotas to all directed fishing categories;
  - Allocate 61.1 mt to the Longline category for 2011 (plus 25 mt for NED) (74.8 mt Longline baseline quota –  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 2010 mt dead discards +  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 2010 underharvest allowed to be carried forward= 61.1 mt);
  - Hold the other  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the carried forward underharvest in the Reserve category for management flexibility as needed



## BFT Quotas and Atlantic Tuna Fisheries Management Measures

### Atlantic tuna fisheries actions:

- Reinstated target catch requirements for pelagic longline vessels fishing in the NED
  - 1 BFT for > 2,000 lb of species other than BFT
  - 2 BFT for > 6,000 lb of species other than BFT
  - 3 BFT for > 30,000 lb of species other than BFT
- Allows the removal of tuna tail lobes (as long as the fork of the tail remains intact)
- Clarifies the transfer-at-sea regulations
  - “transfer” includes moving or attempting to move an Atlantic tuna that is on fishing or other gear in the water from one vessel to another vessel



## BFT Regulatory Amendment

- Proposed rule published November 4, 2009 (74 FR 57128); comment period extended to March 31, 2010

### — **General category**

- Increase maximum daily retention limit from 3 to 5 BFT  $\geq 73$
- Allow fishery to remain open until January subquota reached

### — **Harpoon category**

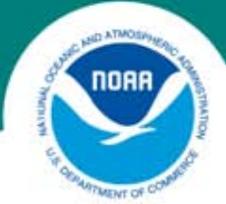
- Increase daily incidental retention limit of large medium BFT (73-81") from 2 fish to 4 fish
- Final rule delayed pending CITES decision, new stock assessment and ICCAT measures, and ESA decision.
  - Finalizing this fall, expected to be effective January 2012



## Bluefin Tuna (continued)

### **2011 Inseason Actions (since last IAC meeting):**

- General Category daily retention limit of 3 large med/giant effective:
  - June through August (June 3, 2011; 76 FR 32086)
  - September through December (August 24, 2011; 76 FR 52886)
- Angling category:
  - Daily retention limit of:
    - 1 school or large school BFT for Angling category (private) vessels
    - 1 school BFT and 1 large school BFT for Charter/Headboat vessels;
  - Southern trophy BFT fishery closure - effective April 2 - December 31 (April 4, 2011; 76 FR 18416)
  - Northern trophy closure - effective July 29 - December 31 (July 27, 2011; 76 FR 44834)



## 2011 Swordfish Specs

- Established the North and South Atlantic swordfish quotas for the 2011 fishing year to account for underharvests in 2010, and to transfer 18.8 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) to Canada (Sept. 12, 2011; 76 FR 56120)
- Based on ICCAT Recommendations 10-02 and 09-03
- 2011 North Atlantic adjusted quota is 4,406.4 mt dw
- 2011 South Atlantic adjusted quota is 75.0 mt dw
  - 75.2 mt dw was transferred to Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia, and Belize per the recommendation



## ICCAT Shark Rule

- ICCAT recommendations 10-07 and 10-08 prohibit the retention, transshipping, landing, storing, or selling of hammerhead sharks in the family *Sphyrnidae* (except for bonnethead sharks, *Sphyrna tiburo*) and oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT
- As of September 28, 2011 (76 FR 53692), the retention of hammerhead and oceanic whitetip sharks will be prohibited for:
  - Atlantic HMS commercially permitted vessels that have PLL gear on board; and
  - Recreational fishermen fishing with a General Category permit when participating in an HMS tournament or fishing under an HMS Angling or Charter/Headboat permit where tunas, swordfish, and/or billfish are also retained.



## Operations/Other



- Continued coordination with Councils & Commissions: MAFMC with trawl rule; ASMFC with sharks
- **Modernized international BFT trade tracking in use**
- NC greenstick gear study complete; data being analyzed
- LA greenstick gear study contract awarded for FY12-13
- **SWO management document submitted to ICCAT**
- e-Dealer reporting system development
- Launch of shortfin mako live release webpage and Release Mako Android app
- **Monthly BFT reports submitted to ICCAT**



## HMS AP Input for IAC

- **BFT:**
  - At ICCAT, renegotiate the TAC and the 10% cap on the amount of unharvested BFT that can be carried forward
  - NMFS should refer to the U.S. General and Harpoon categories as the "U.S. artisanal General category" and "U.S. artisanal Harpoon category" to reflect that compatibility of these types of fishing with the resource
- **SWO:** At ICCAT, maintain U.S. quota share as revitalization of fleet continues, limit transfers of U.S. quota to countries that import to the United States
  - Explore options to increase harvest including a SWO General Category permit
- **HMS Research Plan:** Identify funding for internal and external HMS research



Questions?

Thank you!