

*Science, Service, Stewardship*



# Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel HMS Management Overview

April 5, 2011

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## Goal of Presentation

- Provide a brief update of recent actions
- Provide update on actions taken as a result of AP discussions
- Will defer the discussion of issues to be discussed later in the agenda:
  - ICCAT updates; Weak Hook rule; BFT Issues; Swordfish revitalization; Vessel Monitoring Systems; Shark Issues; Recreational Action Plan



## Rulemaking/Operations Update

Since the September 2010 AP meeting:

- Published 4 proposed rules and 2 final rules
- Progressed with next steps on several issues from the 2009 ANPR
- Continued participation in Caribbean Commercial Fisheries Data Improvement Initiative and development of HMS Amendment 4; Catch Card Pilot in Puerto Rico
- Oversaw 21 workshops

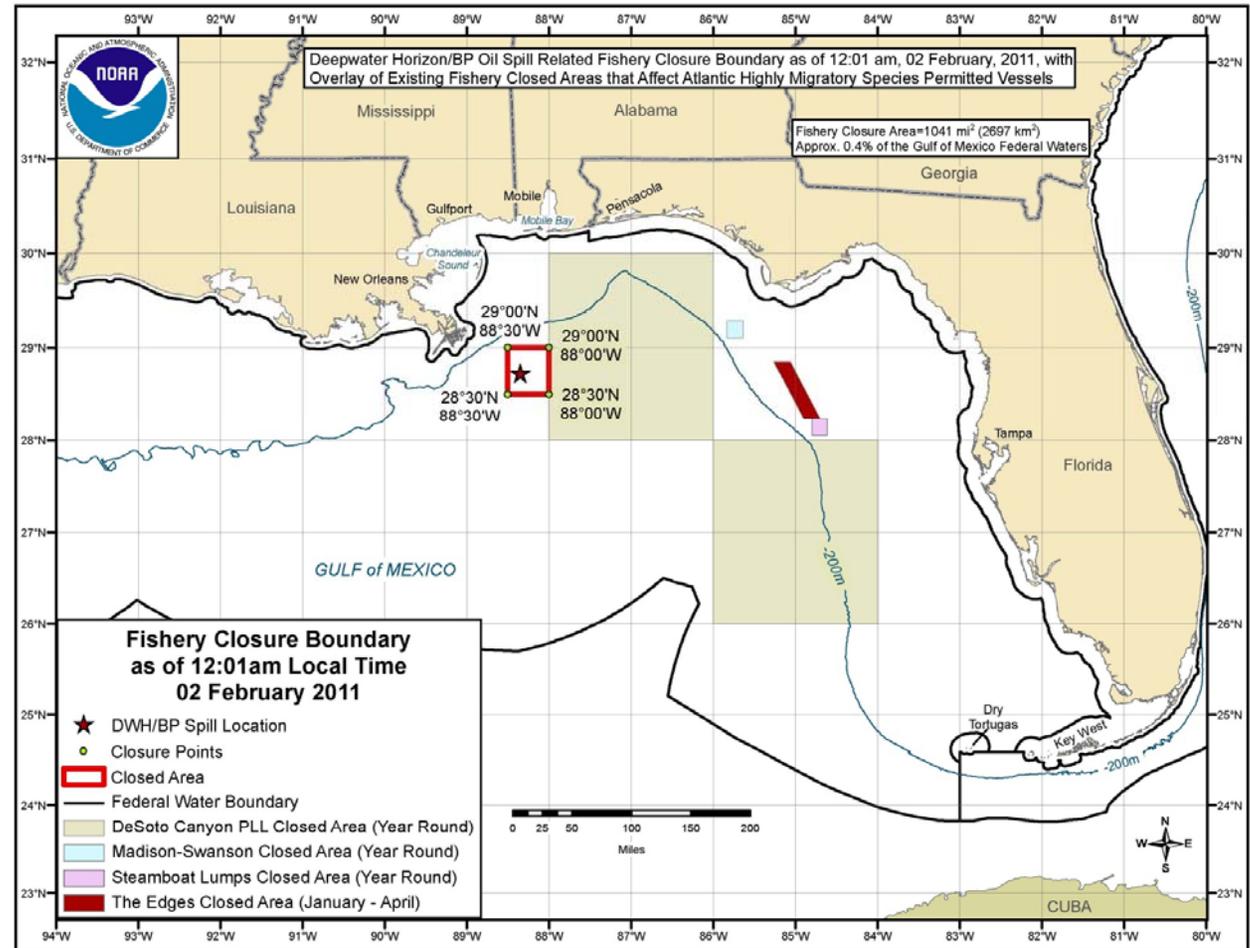
In 2011 so far:

- Issued 25 EFPs, SRPs, & LOAs
- Registered 135 HMS tournaments; e-mail registration available ([HMStournamentregistry@noaa.gov](mailto:HMStournamentregistry@noaa.gov)); tournament registration list available online
- ~3,700 people receiving Atlantic HMS News
- VMS reimbursement available for HMS fisheries



# BP Oil Spill Emergency Fishery Closure

- Response and recovery continue
- Area of GOM immediately around spill site remains closed to all fishing for public safety
- Areas re-opening under sampling protocol





## HMS Electronic Dealer Reporting (Atlantic HMS Other Than Bluefin Tuna)

- HMS Management Division requires more timely dealer data for more effective monitoring and management of Atlantic HMS.
- Current Federal Atlantic HMS Dealer Reports:
  - Submitted electronically in the NE and via faxed forms in the SE.
  - Federal HMS reporting required every 2 weeks; State data received less frequently
  - Receipt of dealer data delayed by weeks (federal data) to months (state data) under current reporting regime



## HMS Electronic Dealer Reporting (Atlantic HMS Other Than Bluefin Tuna)

- Electronic reporting provides a streamlined & more timely method of data collection
  - Category specific reporting time-frames
  - Reporting through already established electronic reporting systems
- Regulations and electronic reporting system currently in development



## HMS Electronic Dealer Reporting (Atlantic HMS Other Than Bluefin Tuna)

- Proposed Timeline
  - Proposed Rule: May 2011
  - Final Rule Oct. 2011; delayed implementation date until Jan. 2012
  - Outreach and Training: Oct.-Dec., 2011
  - Effective Date: Jan. 2012

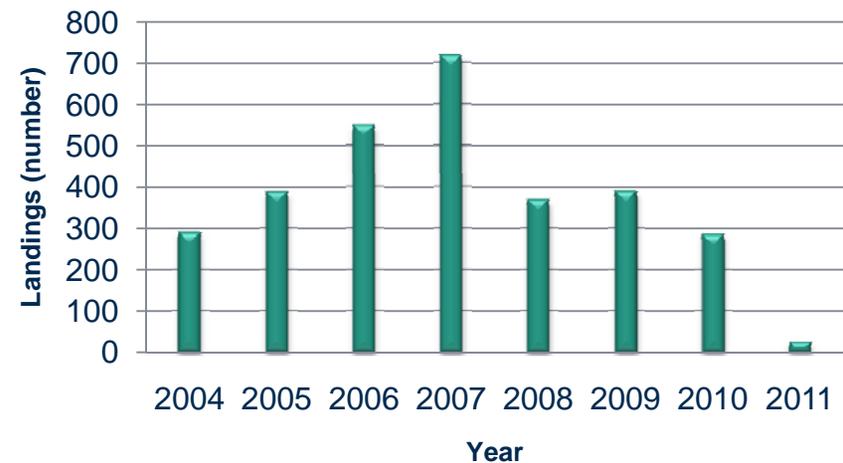
Early example of the E-Dealer system available in the back



## Recreational Swordfish Issues

### Non-Tournament SWO Landings

• CY 2004: 290	• CY 2008: 369
• CY 2005: 388	• CY 2009: 389
• CY 2006: 549	• CY 2010: 285
• CY 2007: 716	• CY 2011: 26*



- General decreasing trend in recreational SWO landings reports since 2007
- 2010 had the least SWO reported since recreational reporting became mandatory in 2003



## Roundscale Spearfish and White Marlin

- Interpretive rule and final action to add roundscale spearfish (RSP) to the management unit and change white marlin (WHM) genus effective January 1, 2011 (75 FR 57698; Sept. 22, 2010)
- RSP management measures identical to WHM
  - Size limit; inseason adjustment authority; inclusion in marlin 250 landings limit
- WHM regulations modified to reflect genus change to *Kajikia*
- Catch card programs and online landings reporting portal modified to accept RSP landings



## Recreational Billfish Update

- Preliminary Marlin Landings
  - CY 2009: 44 BUM; 53 WHM (final)
  - CY 2010: 18 BUM; 37 WHM; 10 RSP (incomplete reporting\*)
  - CY 2011: 0 BUM; 3 WHM; 0 RSP (incomplete reporting\*)
- Preliminary Sailfish Landings
  - CY 2009: 140 (final non-tournament)
  - CY 2010: 185 (final non-tournament)
  - CY 2011: 73 (incomplete non-tournament)
- 2010 tournaments (all species) – 269 (final)
- 2011 tournaments (all species – 135 (to date)
- Tournament registry list available at:  
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>

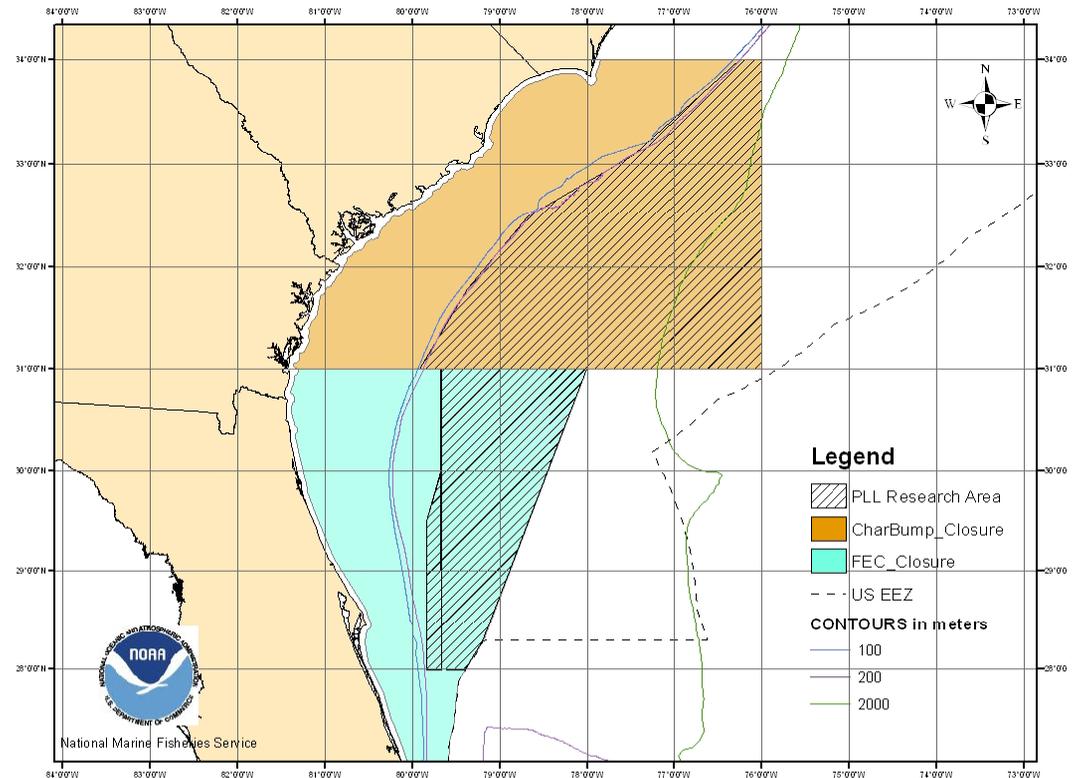


## PLL Closed Area Research

Dr. Kerstetter presenting final results on Wed.

### Goals

1. Collect baseline data under current fishery conditions
2. Evaluate existing bycatch measures
3. Collect data to examine the efficacy of existing area closures to meet current conservation and harvesting goals





## Operations/Other

- Continued coordination with Councils & Commissions: MAFMC with trawl rule; ASMFC with sharks
- Modernization of international BFT trade tracking continuing
- Greenstick gear study complete; data being analyzed
- Careful Catch brochure finalized, printed & distributed, posted
  - Distributed to NC recreational fishery via NC DMF tagging centers
- Annual U.S. Bluefin Tuna Trade Report to ICCAT
- Article about bluefin aging study in March 2011 Issue of NOAA Navigator (NERO insert to Commercial Fisheries News)





## Exempted Fishing Permits

- 25 issued to date in 2011
  - 9 EFPs
  - 5 Scientific Research Permits
  - 4 SHK & HMS Display permits
  - 6 SHK Letters of Acknowledgement
  - 6 related to DWH/BP oil spill sampling/research
- 2006-2010 ranged from 31 to 44
- All require some level of analyses



## Workshops

Protected Species Safe Handling, Release and Identification workshops and Atlantic Shark Identification workshops continue to be conducted.

Total: 109 Protected Species workshops since 2006  
56 Shark Identification workshops since 2007

Sept. 2010 & Jan. 2011 – Two workshops cancelled & rescheduled due to inclement weather

### Future Workshop Locations

#### Protected Species

4/20/11 – Kitty Hawk, NC  
4/27/11 – Kenner, LA  
5/18/11 - Charleston, SC  
5/25/11 – Boston, MA  
6/15/11 – Corpus Christi, TX  
6/25/11 – Port St. Lucie, FL

#### Shark Identification

4/7/11 - Kenner, LA  
4/14/11 – Port Orange, FL  
5/5/11 – Foxborough, MA  
6/29/11 – Port Orange, FL



## Continued Progress on 2009 ANPR

- Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) published June 1, 2009
- Intended to obtain public input on:
  - Increasing opportunities to harvest U.S. quotas while ending overfishing & rebuilding BFT
  - Continue efforts to revitalize SWO fishery while minimizing bycatch
  - Clarify & simplify HMS permit structure
  - Implications of catch shares for HMS fisheries
- Status (*Detailed discussion Wed. and Thurs. of some items*):
  - Squid Trawl Permit requirements
  - Swordfish Revitalization
  - Future of the shark fishery
  - Bycatch management



## Looking Ahead -2011

- ICCAT support – IAC, multilateral & annual meetings
- Proposed Rules and Public Hearings:
  - 2011 Swordfish Specifications
  - Shark ICCAT
  - Shark Conservation Act and Smoothhounds
  - E-Dealer
  - VMS
  - Amendment 4 (Caribbean)
- Final Rules:
  - 2011 BFT Specifications, Trawl rule
- Scoping:
  - Future of the Shark Fishery, Amendment 5 (Sharks)
- Electronic dealer reporting changes for SHK, SWO, BAYS



## Suggestions from Prior AP Meetings Completed

- ✓ VMS reimbursement available for Atlantic HMS fisheries
- ✓ Outreach meetings held with fishermen about VMS ideas and concerns related to Enhanced VMS Units
- ✓ Careful Catch Brochure
- ✓ Conduct time/area research
- ✓ Provide placards to tournament directors as part of registration
- ✓ Implemented weak hooks in the GOM PLL fishery to reduce BFT incidental catch



## Suggestions from Prior AP meetings Underway

- Improve SWO information – FishWatch updates (ongoing)
- Make website easier to navigate (ongoing)
- Improve dealer reporting, i.e., electronic reporting on a real time basis
- Add North Carolina data to LPS figures
- Consider permit stacking, species-specific quotas, and catch shares for sharks (*discussion Thursday*)
- Potentially adjust PLL incidental catch limits to reduce BFT discards
- Possibility of allowing the removal of tuna tail lobes (*in proposed tunas rule*)
- Modify permit requirements for SWO retention in squid trawl (*in proposed rule*)
- Work with states on recreational tagging programs (tag issuance, data collection, and enforcement) (*Pilots in PR and MA*)



## Suggestions from Prior AP meetings Under Consideration

- Permit-Related Suggestions (*discussion Wed.*)
  - Renew/issue lapsed permits; Use or lose permit requirement; Reopen SWO handgear permits; Allow permit leasing
  - Establish gear-based permits or Limited Access Privilege Programs
  - Create SWO General category permit
- Conduct research in the Mid-Atlantic BLL closed area
- Change CHB SWO retention limit to 1 per person
- Create placards for other HMS species
- Create billfish landings update
- Investigate electronic monitoring technology through pilot studies



## Communication Goal: No Surprises

- Goals for All
  - Advisors/Constituents aware, informed, and engaged
  - Agency aware, informed, and engaged
- AP Member Role
  - Listen and Engage in Discussions
  - Share with Your Constituents
  - Bring Ideas to and Advise Agency
- Agency Role
  - Raise Issues and Inform AP and Public
  - Listen and Engage in Discussions
  - Make Decisions Considering Feedback



## Conclusion/Looking Forward

*In conclusion,*

- We are covering a lot of ground at this meeting
- Operational activities continue to pose a challenge

*Looking forward,*

- We value your input & want your input on priorities & potential solutions
- We need input from you and your constituents

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Questions?

Thank you!