

Science, Service, Stewardship

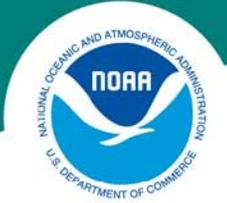


Predraft for Amendment 3 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

Highly Migratory Species
Management Division
NMFS/NOAA

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

February 2009



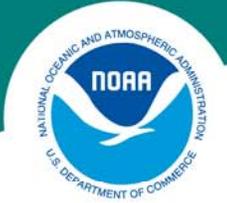
Latest Shark Stock Assessments

Species	Overfished	Overfishing
Atlantic sharpnose	No	No
Finetooth	No	No
Bonnethead	No	No
Blacknose	Yes (rebuild in 11 yrs)	Yes
Shortfin Mako	No	Yes
Blue	No	No



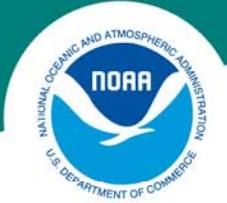
Need for Action

- Based on latest SCS and SCRS stock assessments, new management measures are needed because blacknose sharks are overfished with overfishing occurring and shortfin mako sharks are experiencing overfishing
- Objectives
 - Rebuild/end overfishing of blacknose sharks
 - End overfishing of shortfin mako sharks
 - Maintain a sustainable fishery for other SCS



Preliminary Timeframe

- **Scoping:** July – November 2008
- **Predraft:** February – March 2009
- **Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Rule:** Summer/Fall 2009
- **Final EIS:** Early 2010
- **Final Rule:** Spring 2010



Shark Management Measures

- Based on scoping comments for Amendment 3, NMFS has developed a Predraft outlining potential new shark management measures for discussion purposes
- Please submit feedback on the Predraft by **March 16, 2009**, to Karyl Brewster-Geisz, HMS Management Division, F/SF1, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or fax to (301) 713-1917



Outline of Predraft

- **SCS Effort Controls** (Quotas & Species Complexes; Retention Limits; & Gear Restrictions)
- **Pelagic Shark Effort Controls**
- **Fisheries Re-Characterization** (Seasons & Regions)
- **Time/Area Closures**
- **Monitoring and Compliance** (VMS; Dealer Reporting; & Recreational Reporting)
- **Additional Species Considerations**



Blacknose Mortality by Gear Type from 1999-2005

Commercial						Recreational
Average wt = 4.97 lbs dw						Average wt = 1.5 lbs dw
Longline (number)	Nets (number)	Lines (number)	BLL Discards (number)	GOM Shrimp bycatch (number)	SA Shrimp bycatch (number)	Landings (number)
8,091	19,041	352	5,007	38,626	4,856	10,408
9%	22%	0%	6%	45%	6%	12%

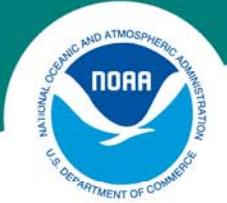


SCS Effort Controls Quotas and Species Complexes

- 1) No Action. Maintain the existing SCS quota (454 mt dw) and species complex (finetooth, Atlantic sharpnose, bonnethead, and blacknose sharks)

- 2) Reduce overall SCS quota based on the reduction needed to rebuild blacknose sharks
 - 2a) Treat all sources of mortality in all fisheries equal; reduce mortality caused in the HMS SCS commercial fishery by 78 percent (78 percent of 454 mt dw = 99.8 mt dw SCS quota)

 - 2b) Only reduce mortality in the commercial shark fisheries (*i.e.*, fisheries targeting SCS) to zero (SCS quota = 0 mt dw)



SCS Effort Controls Quotas and Species Complexes

- 3) Remove blacknose sharks from SCS complex; establish a quota for the new SCS complex and a species-specific quota for blacknose sharks

3a) New SCS complex quota = 392.5 mt dw (454 mt dw – average blacknose landings of 61.5 mt dw)

Blacknose quota = 0 mt dw (prohibited)

3b) New SCS complex quota = 392.5 mt dw

Blacknose quota = 13.5 mt dw (based on 78 percent reduction from 61.5 mt dw)



SCS Effort Controls Quotas and Species Complexes

- 4) Establish species-specific quotas for all species in the SCS complex based on average landings:

Bonnethead = 21 mt dw; Finetooth = 81.6 mt dw; Atl. Sharpnose = 124.4 mt dw; Blacknose = 13.5 mt dw (78% reduction of average landings); close each quota individually, as needed

- 5) Establish species-specific quotas for all species in the SCS complex based on average landings

Bonnethead = 21 mt dw; Finetooth = 81.6 mt dw; Atl. Sharpnose = 124.4 mt dw; prohibit landing of blacknose sharks (0 mt dw); close each quota individually, as needed

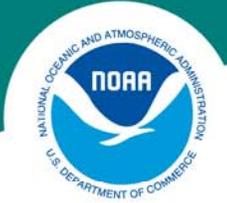


SCS Effort Controls Retention Limits

- 1) No Action: Maintain current commercial and recreational SCS retention limits

Commercial Measures

- 2) Establish directed trip limits and reduce incidental trip limits based on revised quotas and estimated number of trips
- 3) Modify incidental trip limit based on current catches
- 4) Allow the commercial harvest of only male blacknose sharks; maintain existing regulations for other species (e.g., possession of males and females allowed)



SCS Effort Controls Retention Limits

Commercial Measures (cont.)

- 5) Prohibit retention of blacknose sharks in HMS commercial fisheries
- 6) Institute minimum size for SCS for HMS commercial fisheries
- 7) Prohibit commercial retention of all SCS sharks in HMS commercial fisheries

Recreational Measures

- 8) Prohibit retention of blacknose sharks in recreational fishery (catch and release only)
- 9) Prohibit retention of SCS



SCS Effort Controls Retention Limits

Recreational Measures (cont.)

- 10) Modify the minimum recreational size (currently 54 inches) based on the biology of SCS and/or introduce a slot limit where smaller or larger individuals can be landed
- 11) Allow the recreational harvest of only male blacknose sharks; maintain existing regulations for other species (e.g., possession of males and females allowed)
- 12) Due to current status, increase the trip limit for Atlantic sharpnose sharks based on current catches
- 13) Request States and ASMFC to implement complementary recreational management measures for all SCS



SCS Effort Controls Gear Restrictions

- 1) No Action. Maintain current gear restrictions for rod and reel, gillnet, BLL, and shrimp trawl gear

HMS Fisheries: Commercial Gears

- 2) Close gillnet fishery; remove gillnet gear from authorized gear type for commercial shark fishing consistent with requests from the State of Georgia
- 3) Ban shark drift gillnets; allow shark strikenets
- 4) Gillnet Endorsement: limit use of gillnets to directed shark gillnet vessels that currently use gillnets and have a history of targeting sharks with gillnets
- 5) Close the shark BLL fishery; remove BLL as an authorized gear type for the shark fishery.



SCS Effort Controls Gear Restrictions

HMS Fisheries: Commercial Gears (cont.)

- 6) Limit length and number of hooks for shark BLL gear
- 7) Limit soak time of shark BLL gear
- 8) Require certain hook size or type of hooks (*i.e.*, circle hooks) on shark BLL gear

HMS Fisheries: Recreational Gears

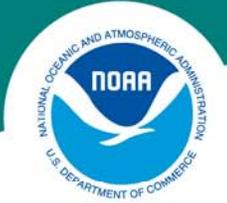
- 9) Require circle hooks in shark recreational fishery
- 10) Require safe release and handling tools in the shark recreational fishery



SCS Effort Controls Gear Restrictions

Non-HMS Fisheries: Shrimp Trawl Gear

- 12) Work in cooperation with the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils to reduce the bar spacing in turtle exclusion devices to reduce bycatch of blacknose sharks by a specified percent
- 13) Work in cooperation with the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils to reduce shrimp trawl speed to reduce impingement of blacknose sharks in turtle exclusion devices



Pelagic Shark Effort Controls Shortfin Mako Sharks

- 1) No Action. Keep shortfin mako sharks in the pelagic shark species complex and do not change the quota

Commercial Measures

- 2) Remove shortfin mako sharks from pelagic sharks species complex and establish a shortfin mako quota below current landings
- 3) Remove shortfin mako sharks from pelagic shark species complex and place this species on the prohibited shark species list



Pelagic Shark Effort Controls Shortfin Mako Sharks

Commercial Measures continued

- 4) Keep shortfin mako sharks in the pelagic shark species complex and reduce the overall pelagic shark species complex quota (current quota for shortfin mako, oceanic whitetip, and common thresher is 488 mt dw/year)
- 5) Establish a commercial size limit for shortfin mako sharks

Recreational Measures

- 6) Increase the recreational minimum size limit of shortfin mako sharks
- 7) Prohibit landing of shortfin mako in recreational fishery



Fisheries Re-Characterization Regions & Seasons

- 1) No Action. One region for all SCS
- 2) Create two regions (GOM and Atlantic) for all SCS
- 3) Create two regions (GOM and Atlantic) for blacknose sharks; maintain one region for other SCS
- 4) Create other regions for all or different SCS

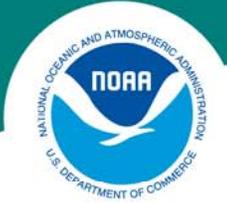


Time/Area Closures

- 1) No Action: Maintain existing time/area closures; no new time/area closures

HMS Fisheries

- 2) Modify existing time/area closures for HMS
- 3) Establish new time/area closures for BLL gear to reduce mortality of juvenile and neonate blacknose sharks, smalltooth sawfish, and/or sea turtles
- 4) Establish new time/area closures for gillnet gear to reduce mortality of juvenile and neonate blacknose sharks, smalltooth sawfish, and/or sea turtles
- 5) Establish new time/area closures for recreational rod and reel gear to reduce mortality of juvenile and neonate blacknose sharks



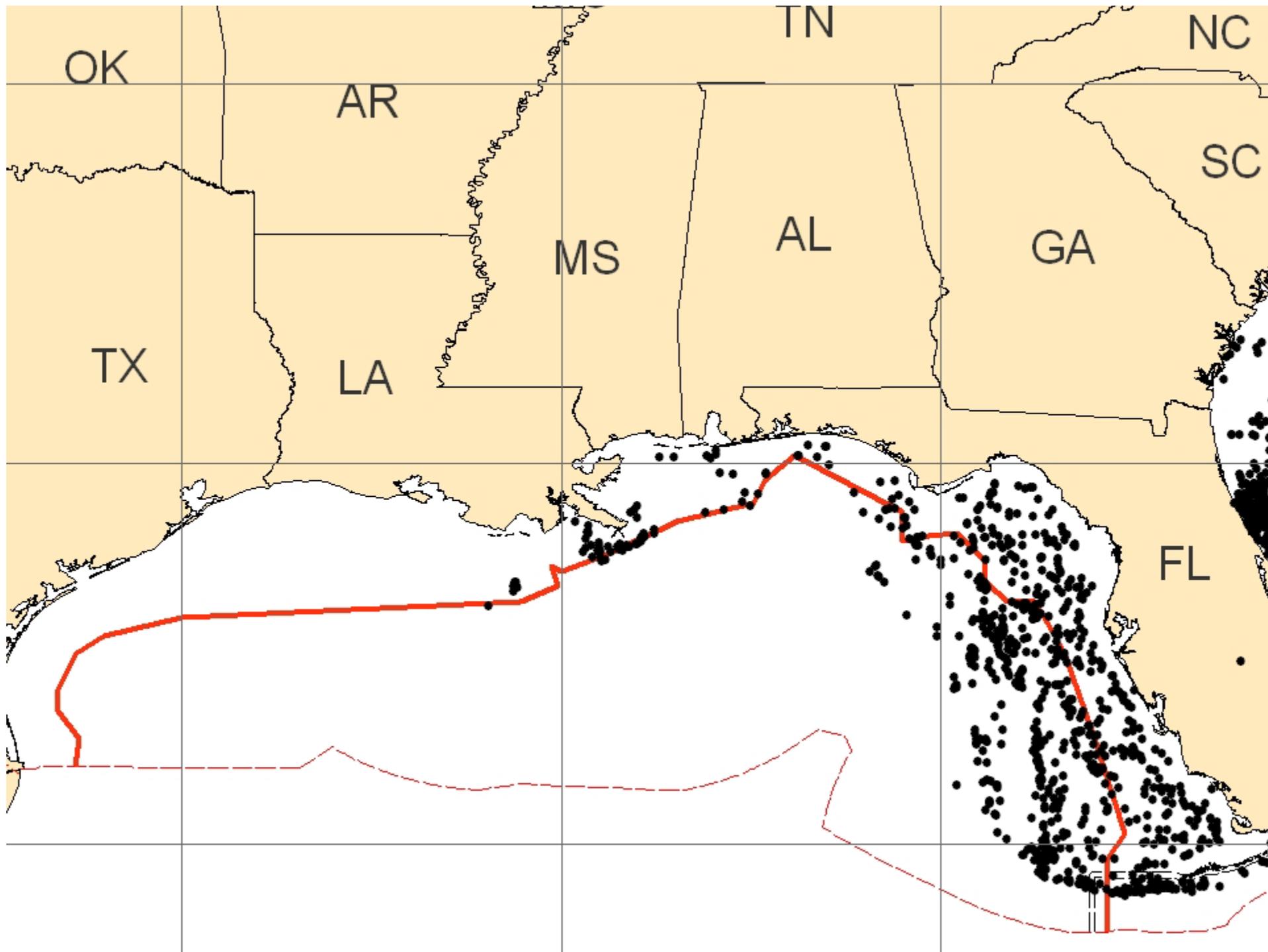
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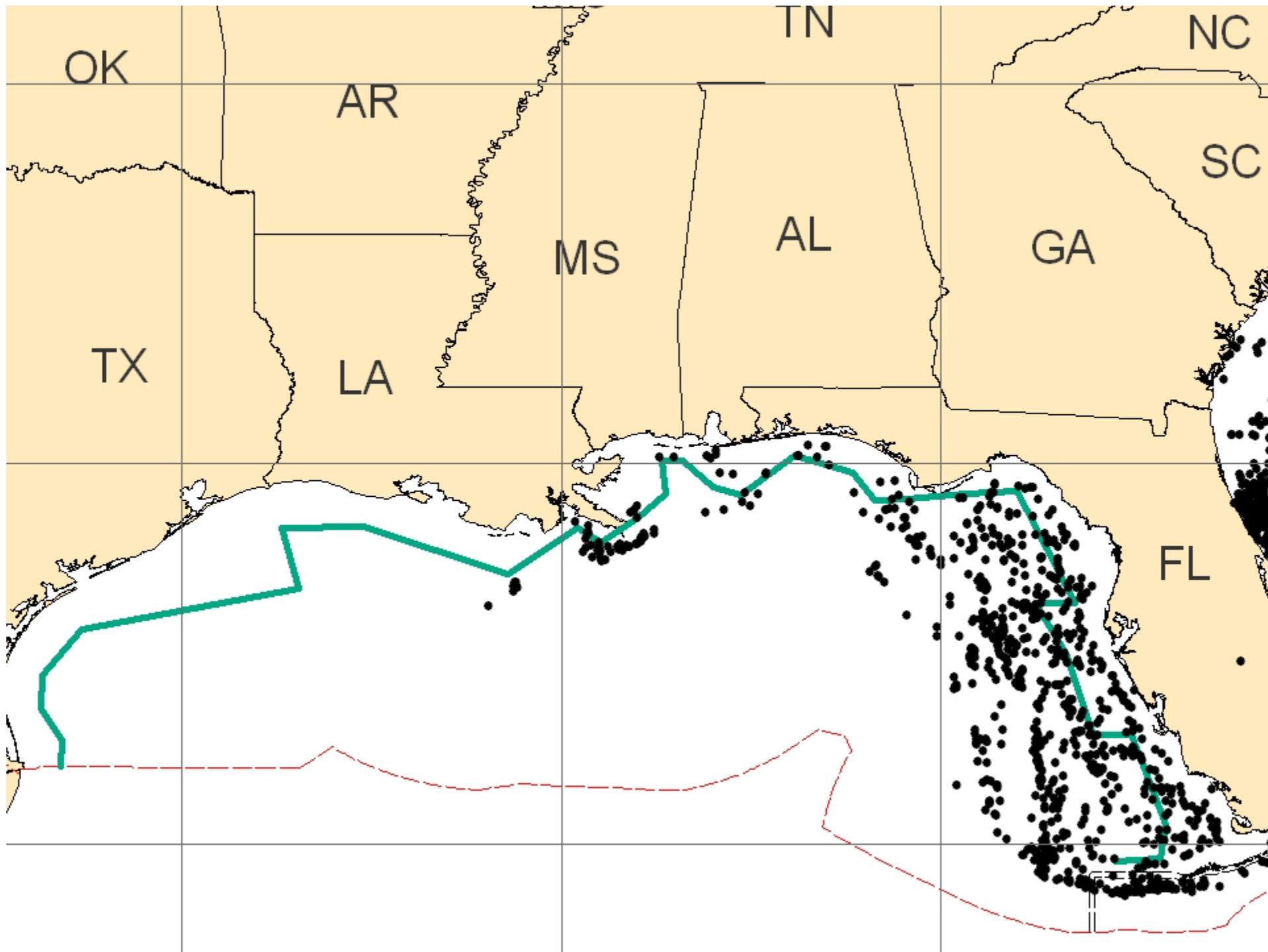
HMS Fisheries (cont.)

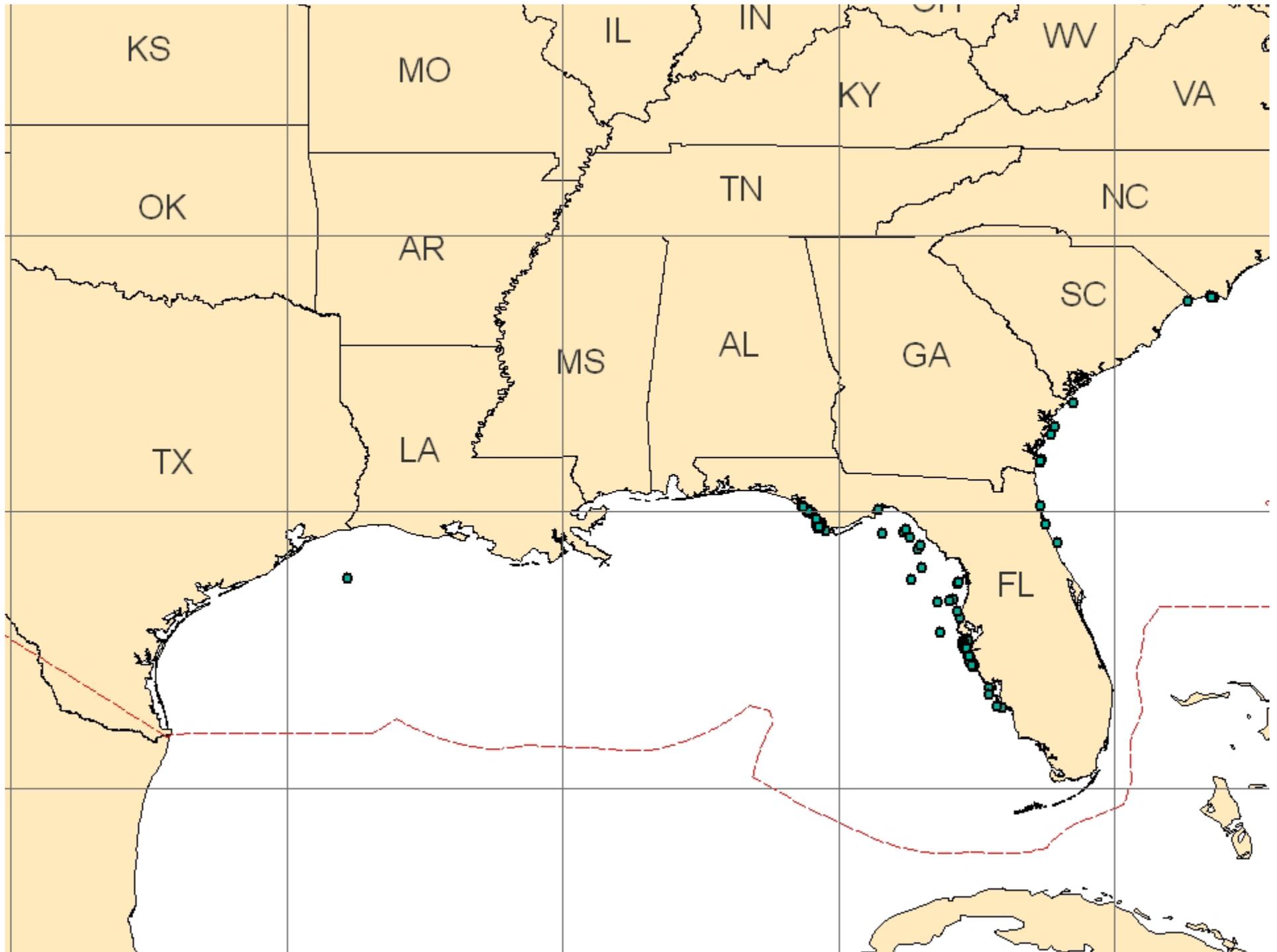
- 6) Close all Federal waters in the Atlantic region to commercial blacknose shark fishing; fisheries remain open in the Gulf of Mexico region
- 7) Close all Federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico region to commercial blacknose fishing; fisheries remain open in the Atlantic region

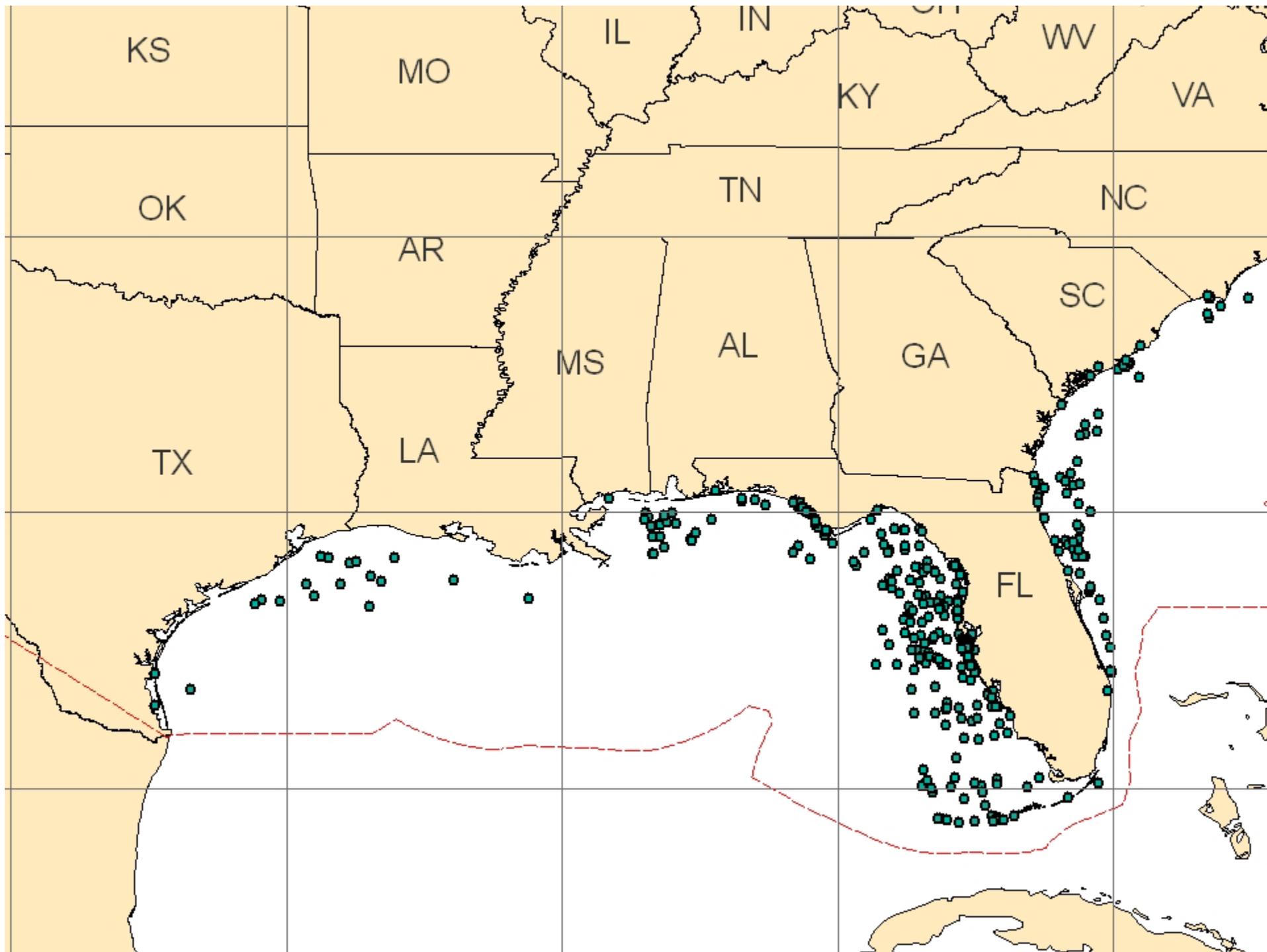
Non-HMS Fisheries

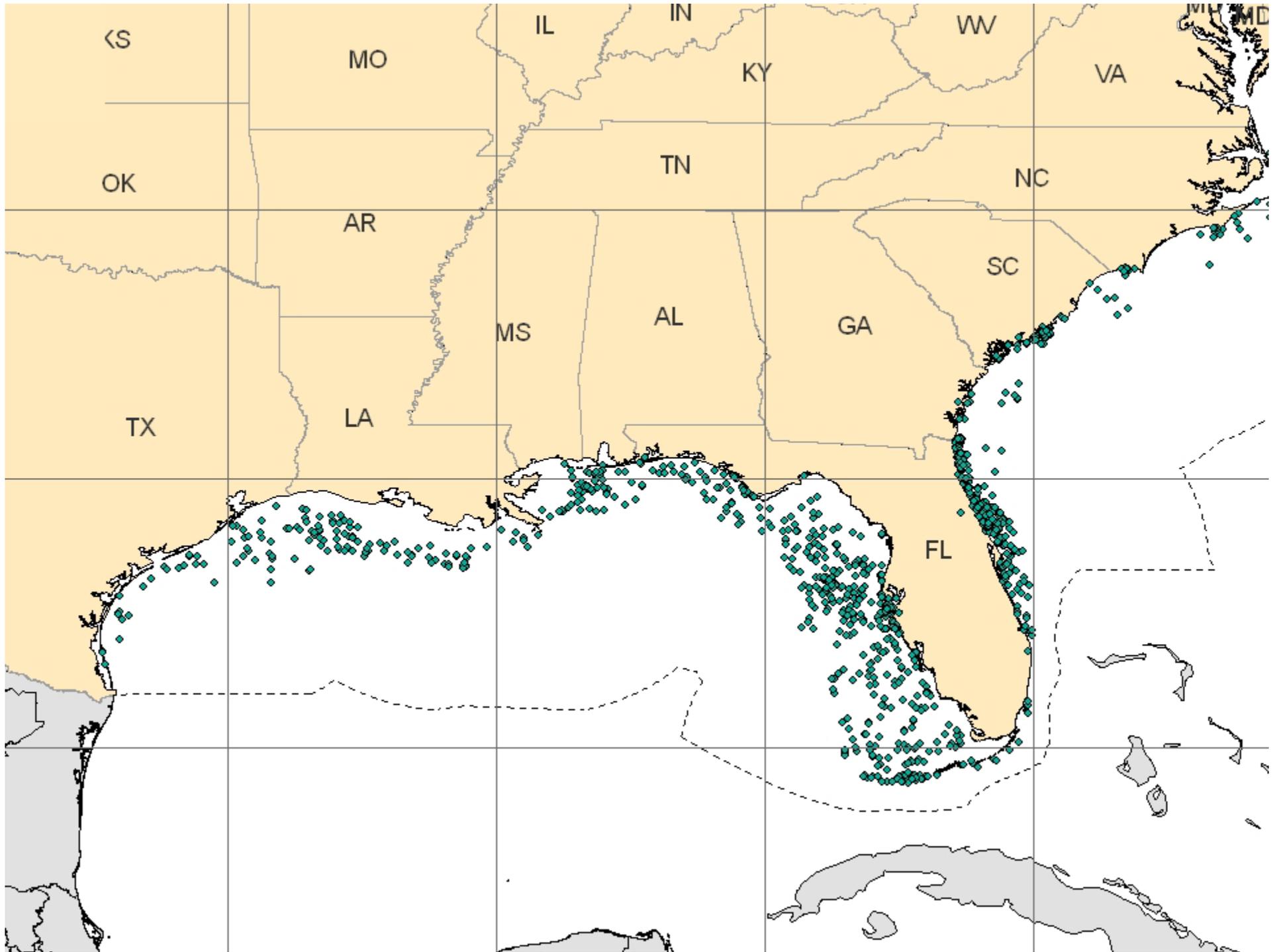
- 8) Work in cooperation with the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils to implement closures to reduce mortality of juvenile and neonate blacknose sharks in Council-managed fisheries

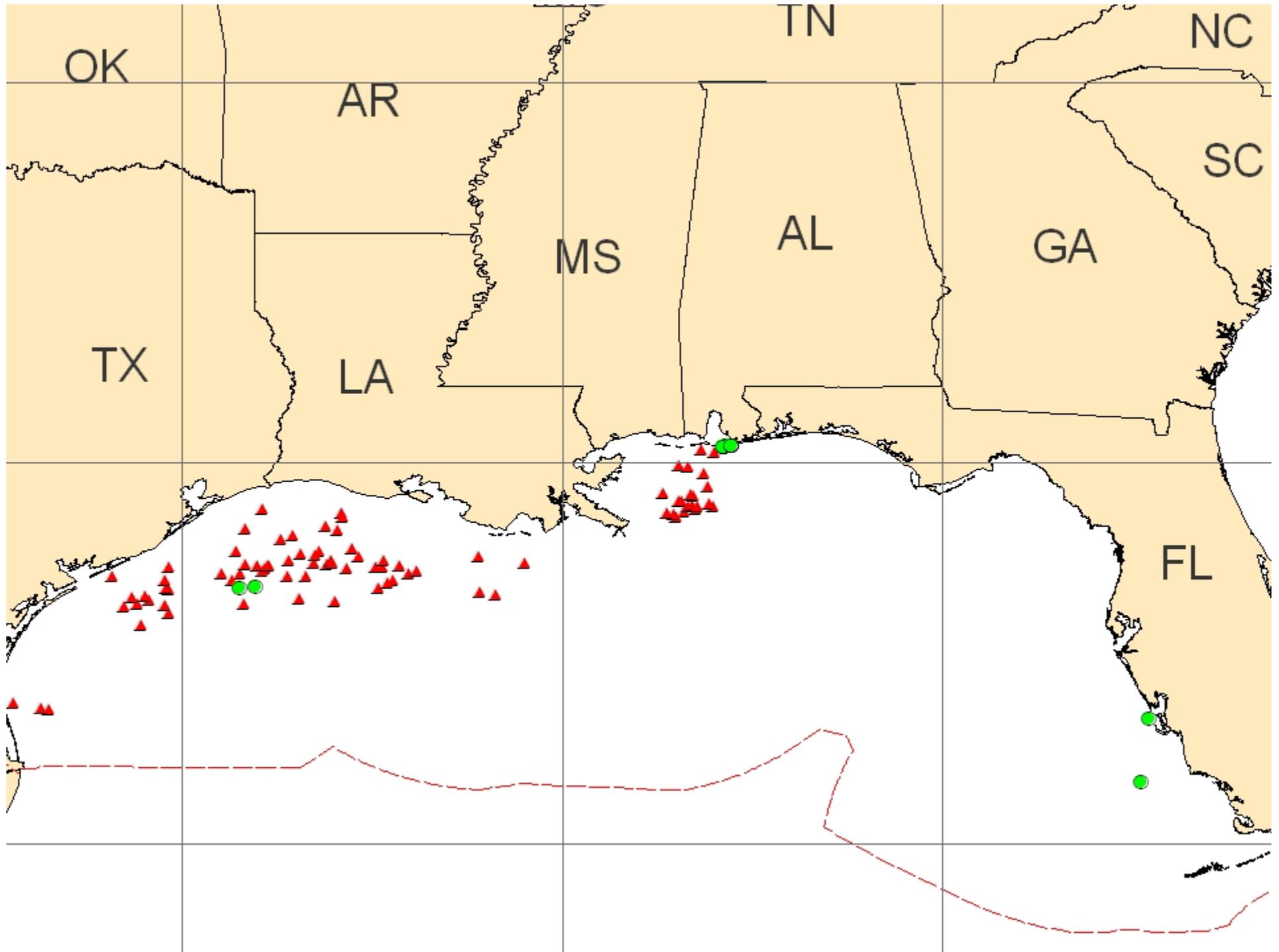








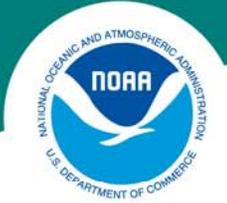






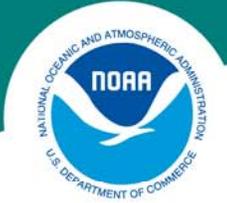
Monitoring & Compliance Vessel Monitoring Systems

- 1) No Action. Maintain current VMS requirements
- 2) Increased reporting frequency for gillnet/BLL vessels that are currently required to possess VMS (every 15-30 minutes, 24/7, even when in port)
- 3) Mandatory VMS for all BLL/gillnet vessels that possess directed shark permits and fish in the vicinity of new time/area closures
- 4) Hail-in and Hail-out requirement to declare what fishing gear will be used on a given trip
- 5) Additional requirements to improve proper VMS unit operation including professional installation and repair of units and a visual indicator that shows when the VMS unit is powered on and transmitting



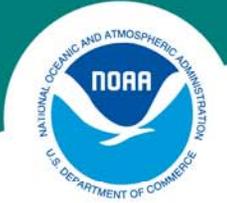
Monitoring & Compliance Dealer Reporting

- 1) No Action. Dealer reports on a bi-weekly basis
- 2) Dealer reports received by NMFS within 5 days of receiving product
- 3) Dealer reports faxed/emailed to NMFS within 24 hours of receiving product



Monitoring & Compliance Recreational Reporting

- 1) No Action. Recreational fishermen not required to report shark landings
- 2) Recreational fishermen required to report landed sharks
- 3) Recreational fishermen required to report released and landed sharks
- 4) Anglers or tournament operators to report all sharks landed in tournaments



Additional Species Considerations

Prohibited Species Criteria for Shark (must meet at least two):

- 1) There is sufficient biological information to indicate the stock warrants protection, such as indications of depletion, low reproductive potential, or the species is on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) candidate list;
- 2) The species is rarely encountered or observed caught in HMS fisheries;
- 3) The species is not commonly encountered or observed caught as bycatch in fishing operations; or,
- 4) The species is difficult to distinguish from other prohibited species (*i.e.*, look-alike issue).



Additional Species Considerations

Smooth Dogfish Measures

- 1) No Action. Do not add smooth dogfish to the Atlantic HMS management unit
- 2) Add smooth dogfish to the Atlantic HMS Management unit and implement management measures
- 3) Add smooth dogfish to the Atlantic HMS Management unit and mirror management measures implemented in the ASMFC Interstate Shark FMP



Additional Species Considerations

Deepwater Shark Measures

- 4) No Action. Do not add deepwater sharks to the Atlantic HMS management unit
- 5) Add deepwater sharks to the management unit and place these species on the prohibited species list
- 6) Add deepwater sharks to the management unit and require all catches be given to NMFS for scientific research

Ragged-Tooth Shark (*Odontaspis ferox*) Measures

- 7) No Action. Do not add ragged-tooth sharks to the Atlantic HMS management unit
- 8) Add ragged-tooth sharks to the management unit and place these species on the prohibited species list



Comments/Questions

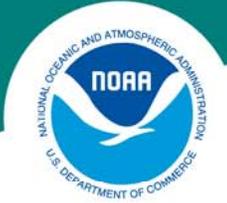
Send Comments by 5 pm, March 16, 2009

Mail:

- Karyl Brewster-Geisz, HMS Management Division, F/SF1, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 – indicate “Comments on Predraft for Amendment 3 to the HMS FMP” on envelope

FAX:

- 301-713-1917
- Indicate “Comments on Predraft for Amendment 3 to the HMS FMP”



Break Out Session Questions Group A

- 1) How should NMFS allocate the 19,200 blacknose/year TAC among the different fishing sectors (*i.e.*, recreational vs. commercial) and fisheries (*e.g.*, HMS fisheries, Council Fisheries, etc.)?
- 2) What combination of management actions in cooperation with the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils could reduce blacknose shark bycatch in shrimp trawl fisheries?
- 3) What other alternatives should NMFS consider in the Predraft?



Break Out Session Questions Group B

- 1) What measures should NMFS consider to end overfishing of shortfin mako sharks?
- 2) What management measures should NMFS consider for smooth dogfish?
- 3) What other alternatives should NMFS consider in the Predraft?

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