

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES  
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES DIVISION

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ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES  
ADVISORY PANEL

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SPRING 2015 MEETING

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THURSDAY  
MARCH 12, 2015

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The Panel met in the Grand Ballroom A-B,  
DoubleTree by Hilton, 8120 Wisconsin Avenue,  
Bethesda, Maryland, at 8:30 a.m., Suzanne Lea,  
Facilitator, presiding.

PRESENT

SUZANNE LEA, Facilitator  
JASON ADRIANCE, Louisiana Department of Wildlife  
and Fisheries  
PATRICK AUGUSTINE, Recreational Sector  
TERRI BEIDEMAN, Commercial Sector  
RICK BELLAVANCE, Recreational Sector  
ANDRE BOUSTANY, Academic Sector  
ANDREW COX, Recreational Sector  
JACK COX, Commercial Sector  
PAMELA DANA, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management  
Council  
MARTIN FISHER, Commercial Sector  
SONJA FORDHAM, Environmental Sector  
ERNIE FOSTER (for ROMULUS WHITAKER),  
Recreational Sector  
WILLIAM GERENCER, Commercial Sector  
WALTER GOLET, Academic Sector  
LISA GREGG (for MARTHA BADEMAN), Florida Fish  
and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
RANDY GREGORY, North Carolina Division of Marine  
Fisheries  
RUSSELL HUDSON, Commercial Sector  
ROBERT HUETER, Academic Sector  
STEPHEN IWICKI, Recreational Sector  
WALLACE JENKINS, South Carolina Department of  
Natural Resources  
SHAWN JOYCE, Recreational Sector  
AMANDA KELEDJIAN, Environmental Sector  
MICHAEL KELLY, Recreational Sector\*  
DAVID KERSTETTER, Academic Sector  
MARK LINGO, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
STEPHEN LINHARD, Mid Atlantic Fishery Management  
Council  
SHANA MILLER, Environmental Sector  
VALERIE MILLER, Environmental Sector  
JEFF ODEN, Commercial Sector  
TIM PICKETT, Commercial Sector  
GEORGE PURMONT, Commercial Sector  
RICHARD RUAIS, Commercial Sector  
MARTIN SCANLON, Commercial Sector  
MICHAEL SISSEWINE, New England Fishery  
Management Council  
DAVID STILLER, Commercial Sector  
SCOTT TAYLOR, Commercial Sector  
RICK WEBER, Recreational Sector

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PRESENT (CONTINUED)

ANGEL WILLEY (for CARRIE KENNEDY), Maryland  
Department of Natural Resources  
MELISSA YUEN (for ROBERT BEAL), Atlantic States  
Marine Fisheries Commission\*

ALSO PRESENT

MARK CHANDLER  
GUILLERMO DIAZ  
DANIEL NAMUR  
DEREK ORNER  
MARGO SCHULZE-HAUGEN

\*present by teleconference

## C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

8:42 a.m.

1  
2  
3 FACILITATOR LEA: Welcome back for our  
4 third day, a short day. A lot of you have some  
5 travels to get to after.

6 So, we are going to start with an  
7 overview of NMFS and HMS Research Priorities and  
8 Funding Opportunities.

9 But I, first, would like to thank Bill  
10 for the salmon and bagels, and Randy Gregory as well  
11 helped out with getting us some bagels and salmon.  
12 So, please enjoy.

13 And I am going to turn it over to Margo  
14 to get us started with the overview of the research  
15 priorities.

16 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Okay. All  
17 right. I hope everybody had a good evening.

18 We have had some bagels and salmon. It  
19 is wonderful that you are feeding as well.

20 So, what we are hoping to do this  
21 morning is to give a quick update on the HMS  
22 Management-Based Research Priorities. We  
23 released the final version last fall. So, I will  
24 give a quick overview of that and where we are on  
25 some other things.

26 And then, I thought we would take any  
27 quick questions or comments on that before turning  
28 it over to the presentations. We have the Program  
29 Coordinators for the Bycatch Reduction Engineering  
30 Program, Cooperative Research, and  
31 Saltonstall-Kennedy. And we have Dr. Diaz here  
32 for the Bluefin Tuna Research Program, filling in  
33 for Dax Ruiz, who is the Program Coordinator.

34 What we are trying to do is just give  
35 an overview of each of the funding programs, make  
36 sure that you know how they work. Each of them is  
37 somewhat tailored to a different focus. Give you  
38 a sense of some recent awards specific to HMS, so  
39 that the agency is funding HMS research. And then,  
40 mostly, just to connect you with them. So that,  
41 if you have questions, you want to follow up, you  
42 know who to go to. Hopefully, this will be  
43 helpful.

44 Okay. So, the HMS Management-Based  
45 Research Needs and Priorities -- yes, Rich?

46 MEMBER RUAIS: Is there a document on  
47 that which I missed going around on any research  
48 priorities?

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1 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: We released the  
2 actual research priorities document last November.  
3 You were at ICCAT maybe. So, maybe you missed it.  
4 That is available online.

5 MEMBER RUAIS: It's the same one?

6 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: It's the same  
7 one, right. And then, the presentation that we  
8 have here should be.

9 And so, this was the combination of  
10 several discussions with you all and, then, work  
11 internally where we -- as you recall, the  
12 discussions within the agency, there is kind of the  
13 science side and, then, there is the management  
14 side. There is a bright line between those, so  
15 that management doesn't kind of have undue  
16 influence over outcomes of the science.

17 And so, the agency had prepared a  
18 research plan for HMS several years ago that the  
19 panel provided some input on, some concerns about  
20 priorities as well as funding, lack of funding for  
21 it. And so, that is still kind of in process.  
22 There are some other things that have been going  
23 on internally that we are working on first.

24 And so, in the interim, the Management  
25 Division, HMS Division thought it would be helpful  
26 to develop what we could do, which was  
27 management-based research priorities. So that  
28 that would be something that would help our  
29 internal partners as well as our external  
30 stakeholders, where we see the priorities for  
31 research, things that would help management. So,  
32 it is kind of a subset of what the agency research  
33 plan would be, a more management focus.

34 We have identified high, medium, and  
35 low research priorities by species groups. So, we  
36 looked at bluefin, BAYS, swordfish, sharks, and  
37 billfish, as well as, then, some of the research  
38 needs we thought were applicable to all  
39 HMS. So, there's a couple of categories.

40 It is a fairly-short document, kind of  
41 a series of bullets on what we think of as  
42 priorities, things that would help us. We think  
43 it will complement the agency plan when we have  
44 that.

45 And so, I also want to just let you know  
46 that it is final, but we do intend it to be a living  
47 document, something that we will revisit  
48 periodically, both ourselves as well as with you,

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1 particularly as research is funded. As we will  
2 hear in a few minutes, a lot of HMS research is  
3 ongoing. And then, as management needs change,  
4 new issues come up, we will, again, revisit this  
5 periodically.

6 We did get some AP comment. And so,  
7 there were some changes from what you may have seen  
8 in the summer, when we put it out for public  
9 comment, mostly refining some of the  
10 prioritization of the different levels. The basic  
11 structure is still the same.

12 And then, internally, we are also  
13 continuing to work with the HMS Research Working  
14 Group both at a staff and a leadership level.  
15 Right now, we are working through kind of an  
16 inventory of HMS research funding that is currently  
17 being done and, then, also, identification of gaps  
18 and working on how to prioritize that, use the  
19 cross-funding agency processes to fully fold in HMS  
20 in that prioritization process. In the meantime,  
21 we are also continuing to piece together some of  
22 the funding for a few of the high-profile gaps that  
23 exist right now.

24 And then, continuing to work at the  
25 leadership level on how to proceed. Then, I think  
26 after some of that discussion, which,  
27 unfortunately, had to be rescheduled a couple of  
28 times due to D.C. storms, I think, then, the group  
29 at the staff level would pick up the research plan  
30 again and move forward.

31 So, while the management-based  
32 priorities document is kind of done for now, there  
33 continues to be a fair amount of internal work.  
34 And I will be updating you as we make progress on  
35 that.

36 That is kind of it, what I had for an  
37 update. Again, I told you it was going to be brief.  
38 But we have time for maybe a couple of quick  
39 questions/comments before we turn to the funding  
40 overviews.

41 (No response.)

42 If none -- oh, I can't let it go, huh,  
43 Dave?

44 MEMBER KERSTETTER: No. Sorry,  
45 Margo, can't let it go.

46 We will be talking more after  
47 Guillermo's presentation. So, I appreciate that.  
48 Just a couple of questions for you. We

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1 have been hearing about the HMS research plan for  
2 years now. Do you have a target date?

3 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: No, and part of it  
4 is because I think the internal process is what  
5 needs to happen first, this kind of  
6 leadership-level discussion of how to proceed. It  
7 has been a slow process, and part of it is just the  
8 demands on leadership to do a variety of things.  
9 I think, once there is clarity from that group, it  
10 will go back to the staff to pick up the plan. So,  
11 I don't have a timeline right now, but I feel like  
12 we are making good progress at the leadership  
13 level. So, I am hoping it will be soon.

14 Jason?

15 MEMBER ADRIANCE: Thanks.

16 I notice there were a lot of  
17 age-structure-related research priorities that  
18 were medium instead of high. I would think to  
19 properly assess some of these stocks that would be  
20 a higher priority, but I just wanted to get your  
21 take on that.

22 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: I think where we  
23 would have put them as medium would be where we  
24 thought that there was already at least sufficient  
25 work that the assessments could proceed. Again,  
26 this was kind of the Division's view of priorities.  
27 A lot of what I think we think is needed to improve  
28 management is improved assessments. So, I think  
29 that you would see some correlations there. But,  
30 on those specifics, it was just maybe that there  
31 is some work that has already been done. So, it  
32 wasn't quite as high a priority as some others.

33 Okay. Well, thank you.

34 So, next up we have Dr. Diaz who will  
35 talk to us about the Bluefin Tuna Research Program.  
36 And then, we will have Mark Chandler talk about  
37 cooperative research, and we have Derek at the end,  
38 Bycatch Reduction Engineering. And then, Dan  
39 Namur on the Saltonstall-Kennedy.

40 Again, these are very quick overviews,  
41 kind of basic structure, purpose, some on the  
42 process, and then, a bit on some of the recent  
43 awards. So, again, trying to do a very quick  
44 high-level overview, make sure everybody has the  
45 same information, and then, turn it over to you for  
46 questions to the experts.

47 DR. DIAZ: Thank you, Margo.

48 Good morning, everybody.

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1           The Bluefin Tuna Research Program, also  
2 known as BTRP, started as kind of a spinoff of the  
3 ICCAT and a Bluefin Tuna Research Program, also  
4 known as the GBYP.

5           There was many years ago the commitment  
6 from many in ICCAT to provide funding to have this  
7 very large-scale Bluefin Tuna Research Program,  
8 and with a lot of focus mostly on the eastern stock.

9           For several reasons, some of them  
10 logistical, economics, et cetera, it became kind  
11 of difficult for the U.S. to provide the funds that  
12 at the beginning had been promised to the GBYP. It  
13 was decided that the best way to contribute to this  
14 GBYP program was to kind of what we call the in-kind  
15 contribution. Basically, the U.S. conduct for the  
16 western stock some of the research that was being  
17 planned under the GBYP.

18           The other thing that we were very  
19 excited about that idea was that, then, those  
20 fundings, instead of going to ICCAT, were going to  
21 be used to support U.S. scientists in this bluefin  
22 tuna research.

23           The research priorities that were set  
24 for this program were based on the research  
25 priorities that GBYP had. You see there a list of  
26 those priorities. I am not going to read all of  
27 them. But it was basically based on the need to  
28 have better information on mixing rates. That was  
29 with the view that we were going to have a new stock  
30 assessment -- this now has been scheduled for next  
31 year, 2016 -- that will incorporate mixing between  
32 both the stocks. But, again, in order to do that,  
33 it was necessary to know what those mixing rates  
34 are.

35           Those mixing rates have now been  
36 studied and estimated using a bunch of different  
37 approaches and methodologies. To do that, you  
38 need to estimate stock origin and we are using  
39 microchemistry on otoliths. We are using now new  
40 techniques that are based on the shape of the  
41 otolith. There are some genetic techniques that  
42 are being developed. Other technology studies  
43 that are being used for these mixing rates is  
44 tagging, electronic tagging; also, the regular  
45 spaghetti tags.

46           We also have a need to develop better  
47 indices of abundance, particularly  
48 fishery-independent indices of abundance that

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1 could be not limited to like aerial surveys, level  
2 studies, acoustic studies, et cetera.

3 So, the idea was to put this program to  
4 fund research that could support those main  
5 research priorities. It is a national  
6 competition. It is about \$500,000 and \$600,000 a  
7 year. Each proposal requires help by a so-called  
8 technical advisor from NOAA, a NOAA scientist being  
9 part of the proposal.

10 As you can see, the award that is  
11 provided was given to different proposals which  
12 vary greatly from about \$25K to almost \$300K. That  
13 is based on the budget that is presented with the  
14 proposal.

15 As you can see, my name is not on the  
16 screen. So, don't contact me. Just call Dax.

17 (Laughter.)

18 But the way this works is that there is  
19 a call for proposals. The proposals go through two  
20 levels of review. Each proposal is being scored  
21 based on, first of all, the contribution of the  
22 proposal to the research priorities that I spoke  
23 about; the budget, and if the budget is  
24 commensurate with the work that is being proposed.

25 The reviewers consider that the work  
26 that is being proposed can be finished in one year,  
27 the qualifications of the principal investigators  
28 and all those that are going to be participating  
29 in the work, and other things.

30 But, in any case, the proposals go  
31 through this first level of reviewers who score  
32 them. And then, the proposals move to the next  
33 level of review, which is -- how do we call  
34 it? -- the selection committee who reviews the  
35 proposal again and scores the proposals again.

36 So, for those who might think that a  
37 certain proposal is being given preference or a  
38 certain principal investigator is being given  
39 preference, it doesn't work that way. It goes  
40 through, as I said, many reviewers, and the scores  
41 are basically what defines which proposals are  
42 going to be at the end awarded.

43 Yes, that some of the awards that have  
44 been given in the past couple of years. Many of  
45 them, you can see, are people that we know have been  
46 sitting around this table.

47 As I said, they all support BTRP.

48 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Okay.

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1 DR. DIAZ: Thank you.

2 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: All right. So,  
3 thank you.

4 And so, the next is the Cooperative  
5 Research Program. Mark Chandler is with our  
6 Office of Science and Technology, and he is the  
7 Coordinator. And so, he will step us through that.

8 MR. CHANDLER: Good morning.

9 I would just like to run through the  
10 Cooperative Research Program. Basically, it is  
11 established through Section 318 of the  
12 Magnuson-Stevens Act, which directs the Secretary  
13 of Commerce in consultation with the Councils to  
14 carry out a Cooperative Research Program to address  
15 the needs identified under the Act and other marine  
16 resource laws. The Act requires NMFS to implement  
17 this program on a regional basis and encourages  
18 partnerships among federal, state and tribal  
19 managers/scientists, including interstate fishery  
20 commissions; fishing participants, commercial and  
21 recreational sector, and educational  
22 institutions.

23 It parallels the rest of NMFS, and that  
24 has six regional programs with Cooperative  
25 Research Coordinators in each. Structurally, it  
26 is broken down into three budget lines. There is  
27 a national budget line, a Northeast and a  
28 Southeast, with the national budget line  
29 supporting the National Cooperative Research RFP.  
30 The Northeast and Southeast, they have dedicated  
31 budget lines that initially started out as  
32 congressionally-directed programs, but are now  
33 part of the normal budget.

34 And then, the last facet of the  
35 Cooperative Research Program is the New England and  
36 Mid-Atlantic Councils have cooperative research  
37 set-aside programs. This is where funding is  
38 provided annually by the sale of set-aside  
39 allocations for quota-managed or  
40 days-at-sea-managed fisheries.

41 Basically, Section 318 covers the  
42 following research areas, which are enhancing  
43 stock assessments, quantifying and reducing  
44 bycatch, identifying habitat areas of particular  
45 concern, and collecting social and economic data.

46 But expanded, cooperative research  
47 proposals have funded these various topics. And  
48 so, basically, that is just more of a more robust

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1 picture of what the program can and does fund.

2 Next slide.

3 Basically, here are the goals of the  
4 Cooperative Research Program. There is a national  
5 overlay with this. There is a Cooperative  
6 Research Working Group which is comprised of the  
7 Cooperative Research Coordinators from each of the  
8 Regions, myself, as well as specialists from SF and  
9 for highly migratory species, protected resources,  
10 habitat conservation, and we are also  
11 congressionally mandated to coordinate closely  
12 with the BREP program. So, he is also part of the  
13 Working Group.

14 Our HMS Coordinator or member on the  
15 Working Group is Jackie Wilson, right over there.  
16 Specifically, Guy Davenport and Dax Ruiz are the  
17 Southeast Coordinators, and John Hoey and Ryan  
18 Silva are the Northeast Region Coordinators.

19 Basically, the program is funded at  
20 about \$12 million annually with about \$3.3 million  
21 base funds to the Southeast Region and \$3.4 million  
22 to the Northeast. There is \$1.5 million available  
23 for the national competition.

24 Next slide.

25 That was quick.

26 (Laughter.)

27 MR. NAMUR: Good morning, everybody.

28 I am not sure I can be quite that quick,  
29 but I will try to blow through the slides at a  
30 reasonable pace here.

31 My name is Daniel Namur. I oversee the  
32 Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program.

33 The Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program  
34 is a little different than the other programs you  
35 are going to hear about because they were  
36 congressionally mandated, but our budget is quite  
37 volatile. The reason for that is because the  
38 Saltonstall-Kennedy Act, it actually directs that  
39 funds that are derived from fish that are imported  
40 into the United States are taxed, and 30 percent  
41 of all those taxes are set aside for NOAA to use  
42 for research.

43 And so, as you look at our budget over  
44 the years, you will find that some years, like in  
45 2010 and 2011, we were actually zeroed-out because  
46 the economy went down so far. In the last year and  
47 this current year, we are actually in a boon and  
48 we are actually setting records for the amount of

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1 funds that we are going to be put out.

2 So, as the funds come over to NOAA, some  
3 of it is set aside for other things. Actually,  
4 part of it goes towards funding cooperative  
5 research, and then the rest is left for  
6 Saltonstall-Kennedy to run the both the  
7 competitive program nationally and, then, we hold  
8 some funds back for priorities within NMFS.

9 Go to the next slide.

10 So, the objectives. Essentially, here  
11 it is to address the needs of fishing communities,  
12 to optimize economic benefits while maintaining  
13 sustainable fisheries and, of course, all of this  
14 while still dealing with the impacts of our  
15 conservation and management measures.

16 To do that, what we do is we ask for  
17 applications to go ahead and meet those objectives.  
18 We center priorities each year. Each year as the  
19 nation changes, as the stocks change, as the  
20 economy changes, our priorities change. So, each  
21 solicitation the priorities will be changing  
22 somewhat through each year.

23 Go to the next slide.

24 For the FY13 funding cycle -- and the  
25 reason I am talking about that as our last one is  
26 because we actually put those awards out in FY14.  
27 There is a lot of story behind that, but we can talk  
28 about that offline, anybody who wants to get into  
29 it.

30 But we went ahead and we put the funds  
31 out in FY14. We actually set a record for the most  
32 funds that had gone out competitively ever in the  
33 S-K program at \$10.5 million. Forty applications  
34 were funded. We actually received over \$60  
35 million worth of applications. And so,  
36 unfortunately, we weren't able to fund all of them,  
37 but we were able to fund a very high dollar level.

38 You can go ahead to the next slide.

39 In that solicitation you can see our  
40 priorities here. I think you will start to see  
41 that there's lot of overlap between cooperative  
42 research, BREP, the program I run, and the bluefin  
43 tuna.

44 We focused on aquaculture. If you look  
45 down to the fourth bullet, the conservation  
46 engineering, that is basically just another way of  
47 saying bycatch reduction.

48 The ecosystem studies you saw listed in

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1 the last presentation. And then, Congress has  
2 actually directed us to concentrate on territorial  
3 sciences as well. So, that is now a called-out  
4 priority for our program.

5 You can go to the next slide.

6 So, for FY14 and '15, we actually  
7 combined the competitions. Again, lots of  
8 backstory with us and Congress and the  
9 appropriation cycle. But what it means is that we  
10 have a very large program that is ongoing --

11 (Microphone shuts off temporarily.)

12 Sorry about that.

13 So, we received almost \$100 million  
14 worth of applications. We are planning on putting  
15 out about \$22 million in awards this FY. And so,  
16 as we move forward, like I said, we are actually  
17 in the process of doing the reviews right now.  
18 Hopefully, coming very soon, we will start even to  
19 be able to make our recommendations and selections.

20 You can go to the next slide.

21 So, Congress directed us to go about the  
22 S-K program in a little different way in FY14 and  
23 '15 and deviate a little bit from our priorities  
24 that we had been using over the last probably 10  
25 years, of course, altering as needed.

26 Inside these four major themes, you  
27 will still find all the priorities that you are used  
28 to seeing with the Saltonstall-Kennedy Program.  
29 They just binned a little differently, and we have  
30 a little bit more of an increase in certain areas.

31 So, maximizing fishing opportunities  
32 and jobs really was a push from Congress. We were  
33 mandated to fund basically working waterfronts,  
34 waterfronts and operations that were affected by  
35 our management measures. And so, that is a  
36 standalone priority this year.

37 Also, you can see that the U.S.  
38 territories still stand out. And then, you can see  
39 the other two, basically, bin the other priorities  
40 that we talked about on the previous slides.

41 You can go to the next slide.

42 So, this will not be that much different  
43 than any other competitive process within the  
44 National Marine Fisheries Service. We had an FFO  
45 that went out. We do the evaluation based off of  
46 importance and technical merit. And then, you can  
47 see that we also do project cost and outreach and  
48 education.

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1 We use those and we set those at the  
2 beginning, so that every reviewer is looking at our  
3 applications on an even playing field. And so,  
4 based off of rank, not off of our own internal  
5 opinions, the applications are selected.

6 You can go to the next slide.

7 So, as I said, about 285 applications  
8 were received that are undergoing three  
9 meritorious reviews. If you do the quick math,  
10 that is about 900 reviews that need to come in the  
11 next couple of days. That is a big push. Some of  
12 you might have been contacted to do some of these  
13 reviews. If so, thank you very much.

14 After those reviews are done, we will  
15 establish a cutoff score. The applications on the  
16 top will go to our panels. We will be holding  
17 panels in April. We are planning on sending about  
18 150 applications to panel and funding  
19 approximately 80 to 90 applications for \$22  
20 million.

21 You can go to the next slide.

22 And so, that is the program in a very  
23 quick nutshell. As we move after Derek's  
24 presentation, I am certainly happy to answer any  
25 questions. Or if you can do it now? It is up to  
26 you as the facilitator.

27 FACILITATOR LEA: Let's keep going.

28 MR. NAMUR: Okay. Why don't we let  
29 Derek go? And then, I am certainly happy to take  
30 questions.

31 MR. ORNER: Good morning, everybody.

32 My name is Derek Orner. I am the  
33 National Bycatch Coordinator, coordinating the  
34 Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program for  
35 fisheries.

36 As Dan was mentioning -- you,  
37 obviously, heard from Mark, too -- I mean, our  
38 programs are relatively similar. Obviously, the  
39 priorities change slightly. Take everything they  
40 have said, change the acronyms around, change the  
41 dollar figures around, and that is pretty much my  
42 presentation.

43 The Bycatch Reduction Program was  
44 established through the Magnuson-Stevens Act. It  
45 said to develop technological solutions and  
46 conservation engineering changes to reduce or  
47 minimize bycatch and post-release mortality.  
48 National Standard 9 calls for minimizing bycatch

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1 and habitat impacts in fishery management plans.

2 It has been around for a number of  
3 years. The initial stages of the bycatch program  
4 were internal projects. In 2012, we had  
5 congressional direction to move to a non-federal  
6 or an external program. We did that for two years  
7 before we required a NMFS collaborator  
8 specifically in all the proposals. So, when you  
9 submit, it doesn't have to be quite as directed as  
10 the Cooperative Research Program, but you do need  
11 to identify a NMFS collaborator for the work.

12 On the funding availability, we end up  
13 with about \$2.5 million annually that we fund for  
14 one-year projects. They are allowed to come in for  
15 possibility for renewal, but we only fund for one  
16 year at a time.

17 We do partner with the Habitat  
18 Conservation Office within NMFS for basically our  
19 Deep Sea Coral Program. This year, for our FY 2015  
20 we are actually partnering with our Office of  
21 International Affairs for some bycatch projects in  
22 international waters.

23 Listed here are the priorities for  
24 2014. I give those as kind of an example of what  
25 to expect probably in about a month. Our FY15  
26 announcement is going through the final stages of  
27 review within the fisheries leadership and the  
28 Financial Assistance Law Division. We are  
29 expecting that to come out. Like I said, it will  
30 be published, hopefully, by the end of March.

31 But this gives you a sense of what the  
32 priorities were in 2014. They are somewhat  
33 generic or general, allowing for a lot of  
34 specificity to come in from researchers and from  
35 academics to come in with proposals. We don't want  
36 to go out and get into specifics with a species,  
37 a gear type, a location. That can still come in,  
38 but we are trying to make it somewhat general.

39 The first one is kind of a catchall.  
40 Developing innovative and effective gear  
41 technologies. We specifically request proposals  
42 that address protected species, seabirds. And  
43 this is where the highly migratory species category  
44 falls in, under Priority No. 1.

45 No. 2 is reducing post-release  
46 mortality.

47 The third one there is basically our  
48 deep sea coral habitat interactions. Like I said,

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1 we are going to be adding an international  
2 component to the FY15 program.

3 Next slide.

4 The selection process for BREP, very  
5 similar to Dan talking about the S-K program. We  
6 have an initial evaluation of the proposals that  
7 come in just to make sure that all the requirements  
8 are met. We go through a pre-proposal selection  
9 process. This does not necessarily weed out full  
10 proposals. This is basically an early stage to  
11 make sure that proposals are meeting the relevance  
12 of priorities of BREP.

13 We tend to cut or encourage or  
14 discourage pre-proposals at this stage, and we try  
15 to cut the numbers down by about 50 percent, and  
16 encourage full proposals to be submitted by the  
17 deadline.

18 Once the full proposals come in, we go  
19 through the same technical review process where  
20 every proposal gets technical scores or reviews by  
21 three technical merit scorers. We go through a  
22 panel review process as well. We also send a  
23 relevancy survey out to the Councils, so we can  
24 coordinate with the Councils and make sure that  
25 projects that are being proposed are of low,  
26 medium, high relevance to the Council to get their  
27 input into the process.

28 The past couple of years since 2012, we  
29 have funded, roughly, about one-third of the  
30 projects that we actually accept into the full  
31 proposal stage.

32 This is just a screen capture of the map  
33 that is in the report to Congress that I just sent  
34 around. This is our 2013 report to Congress. You  
35 notice it is not one of the big, heavy, 200-page  
36 documents. A nice, concise, eight-page; the  
37 center foldout basically has the maps for projects  
38 in FY12 and FY13. This one identifies the FY12  
39 projects.

40 The two just to point out, No. 4 down  
41 in Florida, is at the Florida Keys Community  
42 College, looking at developing alternative bait,  
43 synthetic baits in the shark fisheries.

44 And Project No. 5 in Virginia, in  
45 Arlington, is with a company called GeoEye, where  
46 they were developing kind of a geospatial database  
47 and real-time look at tuna, bluefin tuna habitat  
48 use.

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1 For FY13, the project in particular  
2 down in Florida, No. 15, is with Mote Marine Lab,  
3 specifically looking at shark bycatch. Again,  
4 that is our highly migratory species project for  
5 FY13.

6 We ended up with 16 projects that year,  
7 just a few more projects than we funded in 2012.  
8 And then, in 2014, again, we continued the work with  
9 the Mote Marine Lab. That is our main highly  
10 migratory species project.

11 I knew that Terri was going to be here.  
12 So, I actually threw up the Vast Array Corporation,  
13 which is a project that we supported through some  
14 of Terri's work.

15 And lastly, yes, I mention it, passed  
16 it around. Our report to Congress identifies the  
17 priorities that we supported in FY12 and the  
18 results that came in from those projects. The very  
19 back of the document has our web page for the  
20 Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program. There  
21 that page will list all the projects that were  
22 funded in FY12, '13, and '14. It provides contact  
23 information, quick summaries.

24 The FY12 projects, because most of  
25 those are completed, actually, have gray  
26 literature or manuscripts of the results of those  
27 projects up on the website.

28 And then, my contact information is on  
29 the very back as well and all over the website and  
30 everywhere else. So, feel free to call, email, or  
31 anything else.

32 I believe that kind of wraps up mine.  
33 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Great.

34 One thing I would add to all of these  
35 is the high number of reviews that happen inside  
36 the agency. We are regularly tapped, and HMS staff  
37 have reviewed project proposals for all of these.  
38 And so, we are getting our kind of input and things  
39 into the process at multiple levels.

40 FACILITATOR LEA: All right. So, we  
41 will take some questions right now.

42 George, I had seen you put your card up  
43 earlier. Okay. So, George, and then, Pat, Rich,  
44 and then, Mike.

45 MEMBER PURMONT: Good morning.

46 I have a particular interest in bluefin  
47 tuna, and particularly juvenile fish. I think too  
48 much focus has been put on the giants and the

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1 presence of giants. But, for me, the success of  
2 a quota system is found in the recruitment of  
3 juvenile fish, not the presence of giants.

4 I noticed that on your slide  
5 presentation there was an accommodation for aerial  
6 survey. And aerial surveys have been done with  
7 success. I participated in my first one in 1972.  
8 They have been done in the Mediterranean. Jerry  
9 Squire did it out of NMFS, La Jolla, many, many  
10 years ago very successfully.

11 Is there any impetus, serious impetus,  
12 for NMFS to conduct a non-fisheries-dependent  
13 study aerial survey relative to the presence of  
14 juvenile fish and the activity in catching them?  
15 My suggestion would be potentially a five-year  
16 study where you would take an airplane with  
17 somebody who would be qualified. You would go out  
18 there. You would find your schools of fish. You  
19 would determine the tonnage, the individual size  
20 of the fish. You could also determine the effort,  
21 and you could establish over several years a  
22 baseline. And then, from that baseline, you could  
23 determine whether or not there are more or fewer  
24 of this particular species of recruitment.

25 Any thoughts from your panel?

26 DR. DIAZ: Juvenile aerial surveys  
27 have been developed and being used for the eastern  
28 stock. The problems or the difficulties to  
29 develop an aerial survey for juveniles for the  
30 western stock are some kind of logistical in the  
31 sense that in the Mediterranean Sea you know  
32 exactly where to find these juvenile fish. In the  
33 U.S. East Coast it is valuable. So, you know an  
34 area where they are always going to be and you can  
35 make a survey.

36 Also, the problem with juveniles in the  
37 U.S., a certain proportion of those juveniles are  
38 fish from the East. They are eastern-origin fish.  
39 So, therefore, it would be extremely difficult to  
40 make an index of abundance of juveniles for the  
41 western stock when you know that it is a mix of East  
42 and West fish.

43 But, having said that, I don't know if  
44 it was on the screen, but Dr. Lutcavage, she has  
45 been funded for several years now to develop an  
46 index using aerial surveys and, also, to link those  
47 aerial surveys as seen with regards to abundance  
48 with acoustic surveys that are being conducted at

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1 the same time. That is a very exciting and  
2 interesting research.

3 But, again, that is not really aimed  
4 just to juveniles. It is whatever the fish shows  
5 in the area that she is working for.

6 MEMBER PURMONT: I am a collaborator on  
7 that, and we have a history of 40, almost 50 years  
8 of tracking juvenile fish from Cape Hatteras to  
9 Cape Cod. So, it is not a great mystery as to where  
10 they are and how to find them.

11 As to whether or not these fish come  
12 from the other side of the pond or not, it is almost  
13 irrelevant to the conversation because it is their  
14 presence that we are monitoring, not their point  
15 of origin, in my opinion.

16 DR. DIAZ: Well, I might,  
17 respectfully, differ with you. Because you are  
18 trying to make an index of abundance, it is not  
19 relevant what the origin of the fish is. And you  
20 were talking about recruitment, and that depends,  
21 also, on how are you defining recruitment.

22 MEMBER PURMONT: Well, I think the only  
23 way you could measure recruitment is by their being  
24 there. The fact that they are there, the fact that  
25 you can tell the individual size of the fish, the  
26 tonnage of the fish in that school is certainly more  
27 information than not doing it.

28 And whether or not there is a serious  
29 discussion as to what the interaction is between  
30 eastern and western, that is another conversation.  
31 But whether or not the fish are here tells you  
32 whether or not the adults are breeding, whether or  
33 not you are having recruitment, whether that fish  
34 actually comes from the Mediterranean or it comes  
35 from our shores.

36 FACILITATOR LEA: Rich, you were in  
37 queue, but you have something specific for this?

38 MEMBER RUAIS: Right. A follow-up to  
39 George's excellent comments on this and to a couple  
40 of points that Guillermo had made.

41 One of them is in terms of the  
42 distinction of it is easier or more scientifically  
43 valid to do an aerial survey in the Mediterranean  
44 versus here. Two reasons you gave, basically.  
45 One was in the Mediterranean you know right where  
46 they are and there doesn't appear to be that much  
47 movement.

48 In the United States, I mean, it is

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1 relatively -- or in the Western Atlantic, I should  
2 say, it is typically, from what we understand,  
3 limited to a couple of areas that could year to year  
4 be determined fairly quickly by either ground  
5 investigation of where the fleets are operating or  
6 by putting a plane out, for example.

7 It was done at a period in the past where  
8 I think George might have been one of the pilots  
9 who flew down over Virginia, off the Virginia capes  
10 area, to find out if there were a number of, if there  
11 were big bodies of school fish there and/or whether  
12 we were running into them in Cape Cod Bay, as we  
13 have done before.

14 So, in terms of the movements, it could  
15 be built in as part of the program. That would be  
16 the point: where are they? And then, start to  
17 assess them.

18 In terms of the origin of the fish, what  
19 are they? Are they eastern or western? Again,  
20 that is part of, could be part of the aerial survey  
21 goal, is to find out what is the mix right there.  
22 Once you have located those small fish, part of the  
23 program is you send, you include in the research  
24 program charter boats potentially, commercial  
25 boats potentially, to go in and sample, take fish  
26 from various aspects of the location of those fish  
27 and turn them over to the researchers, maybe  
28 combined with another research program that is  
29 underway under the scientific funding, to  
30 determine what is happening.

31 I think, to follow further on what  
32 George was saying, given that this was being done  
33 for Southern Pacific bluefin, bluefin in the East  
34 and Mediterranean, and that we did take a stab at  
35 it off and on in the United States, for S-K to be,  
36 if this is part of S-K, to be overlooking this, I  
37 don't see the objections as being valid to not  
38 consider seriously re-establishing a holistic  
39 aerial survey program here in the United States.

40 DR. DIAZ: I am not denying the  
41 validity of how valuable aerial surveys can be.  
42 But you need to be careful what is the question that  
43 you want to answer. You have to have a research  
44 goal and a hypothesis that you want to test.  
45 Aerial surveys by themselves, it is like anything  
46 else. I mean, it is a clue, but it is a clue to  
47 answer the question.

48 Write the proposal. So, we read it, we

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1 fund it.

2 (Laughter.)

3 MEMBER RUAIS: I agree that is part.  
4 What would the purposes be? I spelled out a couple  
5 of them, but I will give you a third one.  
6 Eventually, this is going to enter into the  
7 management discussion of how one allocates quota  
8 between the East and the West. The better you know  
9 the mix of young eastern fish into the Western  
10 Atlantic, that is going to become a variable in the  
11 political discussions, and already have become a  
12 point of discussion not only between some eastern  
13 countries in Panel 2, but also it enters in  
14 discussions between Western Atlantic parties about  
15 distribution of the shares in the western parties.  
16 So, it extends even beyond the purpose of science,  
17 if you will.

18 FACILITATOR LEA: And, Pat, I haven't  
19 forgotten about you, but Mike seems to have  
20 something specific to this.

21 MEMBER SISSEWINE: Yes, I actually  
22 have a whole bunch of other things.

23 (Laughter.)

24 But, specifically on this,  
25 specifically, Rich mentioned the use of aerial  
26 surveys for southern bluefin tuna off of Australia.  
27 And he is absolutely correct, there is an aerial  
28 survey program that is one of the two key elements  
29 of the assessment program. But it does have the  
30 advantages that Guillermo described for the Med.  
31 They know where the fish are and it is one stock.

32 I am not saying yes or no in terms of  
33 the suggestion that an aerial survey program could  
34 be successful here. It might be; it might not.

35 But I would add some information about  
36 the Australian one. The Australians have also  
37 invested in something called close-kin genetics to  
38 estimate abundance. They have had good success.  
39 It is certainly a technology that could be applied  
40 to bluefin in the Atlantic.

41 They have gotten to the point where, in  
42 my internal discussions -- I am part of the  
43 Australian delegation on this stuff -- they are  
44 considering downscaling or removing the aerial  
45 survey in favor of the genetics because it is much  
46 cheaper. That is just information. They haven't  
47 done that. They are still doing both. But that  
48 is just something to keep in mind.

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1 DR. DIAZ: Yes, really quickly to that  
2 point, Mike, the technique, the genetic technique  
3 that you just described, now scientists from the  
4 Southeast Fisheries Science Center are looking  
5 into ways to apply that technique to western  
6 bluefin tuna. Because of the mixture of stocks,  
7 it is more complicated, but it is something that  
8 we are looking into.

9 MR. ORNER: Just a quick comment from  
10 a program coordination aspect, I was involved in  
11 some of the development or trying to develop a  
12 menhaden aerial survey along the Mid-Atlantic and  
13 the Atlantic Coast. But, again, from not again  
14 pros and cons of the benefits of an aerial survey,  
15 but program coordination specifically is to look  
16 at something that looks like you need a five-year  
17 program to get the results out of it. When you are  
18 developing your priorities and you have your budget  
19 allocations come in annually, it is difficult to  
20 make a five-year commitment for funding.

21 So, we can do it like on a one-year  
22 process if you have the products and deliverables  
23 at the end of one year. But to really flesh out  
24 a full five-year aerial survey for almost what an  
25 annual priority program would be just makes it  
26 difficult.

27 FACILITATOR LEA: All right. So,  
28 Mike, I know you have some other stuff, but I am  
29 going to kind of move you a little.

30 Rich, did you have something else as  
31 well? I will put you back in the queue later, not  
32 right now, because I am going to go to Pat.

33 MEMBER RUAIS: No, I can't be back in  
34 the queue later, but I was going to ask --  
35 (Laughter.)

36 FACILITATOR LEA: Sorry, Pat.

37 MEMBER RUAIS: Actually, I can do a  
38 sidebar and answer my questions later.

39 FACILITATOR LEA: Okay, thank you.

40 Pat? And then, Bob, Terri, and Marty.  
41 And then, we will go back to Mike.

42 MEMBER AUGUSTINE: I was having so much  
43 fun, I actually forgot what I was going to ask.

44 (Laughter.)

45 No, back to the S-K Program, I noticed  
46 in your priority list that you did indicate  
47 something about optimum utilization of harvested  
48 resources. And yet, on the projects that you

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1 showed that have been funded, there is nothing to  
2 touch upon that. I am wondering if that is  
3 just -- I don't know -- I hate to do this, but is  
4 it a motherhood statement or is it something you  
5 would love to do when you grow up, or what? Optimum  
6 utilization of harvested resources.

7 MR. NAMUR: So, it is an excellent  
8 question.

9 MEMBER AUGUSTINE:  
10 Incidentally -- excuse me -- I'm not picking on you.

11 MR. NAMUR: No, no, no. Trust me, when  
12 you oversee the S-K Program, you are used to getting  
13 picked on. Don't worry about it.

14 (Laughter.)

15 So, first off, there were four  
16 presentations that went up. I actually didn't put  
17 a list of awards that went out. So, that is why  
18 you didn't see a list of anything.

19 We do a congressional report every  
20 year. We also have a website that we catalog  
21 everything in. I am also happy to send out what  
22 we have funded in the past.

23 We certainly have done a lot of optimum  
24 utilization of yield. That has really kind of  
25 morphed into part of theme 2, if you look at the  
26 FY14-15 process.

27 But, if you look at what we actually  
28 funded in FY14, we actually had almost even  
29 distribution across all of the priorities and  
30 across all of our regions. So, much like the other  
31 programs here, we do it regionalized, the six  
32 Regions. It is national priorities, but we do make  
33 sure that we have good diversification across all  
34 Regions.

35 And so, it is part of the process that,  
36 if we don't see good diversification, we actually  
37 will make sure that it happens. That is part of  
38 the review process.

39 MEMBER AUGUSTINE: And just a quick  
40 follow-on. Has anyone thought in recent years  
41 about food banks, utilization that way? Are we  
42 doing it anywhere?

43 MR. NAMUR: I missed the first part of  
44 the question. I apologize.

45 MEMBER AUGUSTINE: Food banks. Food  
46 banks.

47 MR. NAMUR: Yes.

48 MEMBER AUGUSTINE: We've got bycatch

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1 that goes back in the ocean. It is wasted use of  
2 it. We have been talking about this forever.  
3 When are we going to start talking about that?

4 MR. NAMUR: Yes. So, that actually  
5 was specifically included in both the '13 and the  
6 '14 FFO that went out, utilizing stock or bycatch  
7 that is currently not being used. We actually did  
8 receive and fund some proposals down in American  
9 Samoa. I can't divulge what has come in thus far  
10 through the '14-15 process since it is ongoing, but  
11 I can tell you that it was asked for and we are  
12 looking at some proposals.

13 MEMBER AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

14 FACILITATOR LEA: Thanks, Pat.

15 So, Bob, Terri, Marty, and then, we will  
16 go back to Mike.

17 Bob?

18 MEMBER HUETER: Thank you.

19 Good morning, gentlemen. I am Bob  
20 Hueter from Mote Marine Laboratory.

21 I want to commend all of you for these  
22 outstanding programs. It is wonderful to see the  
23 budget numbers going in the direction that they  
24 have been going the last couple of years for sure.

25 I have to tell you that, well, first of  
26 all, we are very thankful for the awards that we  
27 have been able to win through some of your programs.  
28 The programs are very well-administered in my  
29 Region, in the Southeast Region. Dax is great.  
30 So, just some feedback to you all that I am very  
31 happy with what we see in these very transparent  
32 or great programs.

33 When you are talking, let's say, a  
34 50-to-60-percent funding success rate, that is  
35 very encouraging scientists, especially  
36 scientists on soft money that have to make their  
37 living by getting grants, compared to something  
38 like a National Science Foundation where the  
39 funding rate is about 5 percent. So, you write 20  
40 proposals and you may get one funding.

41 But I want to take a bigger view and step  
42 back a moment and say that only one of these  
43 programs, the Bluefin Tuna Research Program, is  
44 dedicated strictly to HMS. This is an HMS body  
45 here, an HMS Advisory Panel. I suggest that, even  
46 with the combined effort of all these various  
47 research programs, it is not going to be able to  
48 make a real dent in this needs and priorities list

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1 that NMFS itself has identified for HMS.

2 The problem that we face with HMS with  
3 the species we work on is that they are large  
4 oceangoing animals. The work is at sea, which is  
5 expensive. And they are migratory fish that move  
6 around.

7 So, typically, the projects that are  
8 needed and the projects that are articulated to a  
9 great extent in this document are expensive. It  
10 is expensive work to do. It not only is expensive,  
11 but a one-year snapshot is almost never adequate  
12 with the kind of species that we are looking at.  
13 We are not looking at a closed population of  
14 something that stays in a bay. We are looking at  
15 large oceangoing fishes, often which move across  
16 international boundaries.

17 So, given all that, I certainly want to  
18 encourage these programs to continue and for you  
19 all to do the great work that you are doing. But  
20 I would like to advocate that the agency support  
21 the idea of creating a dedicated research program  
22 to HMS alone.

23 When we compete against essentially all  
24 of the other marine fisheries that exist in the  
25 nation and aquaculture, we are just not going to  
26 be able to get enough funding for what is needed,  
27 what has been articulated around this table the  
28 last three days.

29 I mean, I don't know how many times I  
30 have heard the cry for more data, more assessments.  
31 You can't do an assessment if you don't have data.  
32 When we compare HMS fisheries to other  
33 better-studied, better-known fisheries like cod,  
34 herring, salmon, whatever you want to name, the  
35 database is still very, very primitive. We are  
36 very data-limited.

37 And the only way to get the data is to  
38 have a dedicated research program that I see as a  
39 competitive grants program, similar to the way  
40 these others are administered, but that it is  
41 focused on HMS.

42 A number of years ago in the Southeast,  
43 our MARFIN Program used to do some HMS funding, but  
44 when Headquarters took over management of HMS,  
45 MARFIN pretty much stopped doing most of their  
46 funding on that.

47 So, I think that it is justified. I  
48 think that we all know the economic impact of HMS

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1 fisheries. I don't even know what the number is,  
2 but I am sure it is in the hundreds of millions of  
3 dollars. I would like to see us advocate for the  
4 agency creating a new program that is dedicated  
5 strictly to getting competitive proposals on HMS  
6 that address this needs and priorities document.

7 FACILITATOR LEA: Thanks, Bob.  
8 Terri?

9 MEMBER BEIDEMAN: Well, I think I would  
10 agree with that, Bob. So, I will also say that.  
11 I think that is important.

12 But my question was, are those  
13 presentations going to be posted up on the website,  
14 because they are not? I was good until the end of  
15 Guillermo, and then, that was it; it disappeared.  
16 So, I would like to have them. Thank you.

17 FACILITATOR LEA: Thanks, Terri.  
18 Marty?

19 MEMBER SCANLON: Yes. What I am  
20 wondering is, you know, a lot of the stuff that we  
21 are doing here and part of the problems I see in  
22 the HMS here is that we do everything almost  
23 prehistoric, you know, aerial surveys and stuff  
24 like that.

25 When I worked on the Pilot Whale Take  
26 Reduction Team, they were doing the stock  
27 assessments on pilot whales with a pair of  
28 binoculars riding around on a bow on Cape Hatteras  
29 randomly.

30 My curiosity is if it has been  
31 considered, if it is even feasible to do satellite  
32 imagery surveys of stock assessments. If so, what  
33 we use as a pelagic longliner, we get water charts,  
34 thermal water charts, downloaded to us, and we  
35 track the fish that way.

36 I mean, if we were to have almost  
37 instantaneously a complete image of where  
38 potentially bluefin would be at a particular time,  
39 it would be really helpful to us in avoiding those  
40 stocks completely. So, that might be a really good  
41 thing to look at, if it is even possible. I don't  
42 know.

43 I mean, you hear all these stories, how  
44 they could read the license plate off a car and  
45 everything else. I know of one instance there  
46 where they suspected a boat of smuggling drugs and  
47 they zoomed-in on a satellite, and they were  
48 watching them hand bait back and forth in the middle

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1 of the ocean. So, I mean, I think that is actually  
2 feasible in this time and age, and I think that  
3 would be something to be looked at. You know, it  
4 would be very helpful to the fishery.

5 FACILITATOR LEA: Thanks, Marty.

6 Mike? Oh, did you have something  
7 specific on that, Steve?

8 MEMBER IWICKI: As a career-long  
9 intelligence officer for the U.S. Government, it's  
10 not. It's the movies.

11 (Laughter.)

12 FACILITATOR LEA: Mike?

13 MEMBER SISSEWINE: And even if it was,  
14 he wouldn't tell you.

15 (Laughter.)

16 MEMBER IWICKI: Then, I'd have to kill  
17 you.

18 (Laughter.)

19 MEMBER SISSEWINE: Thank you for  
20 these presentations. Obviously, from a personal  
21 point of view, it is rewarding to see that there's  
22 lots of science and lots of commitment to science.  
23 And I compliment each of the individuals for what  
24 they are doing.

25 But, having said that, I am actually  
26 pretty critical of what I have heard overall. I  
27 will tell you why. I mean, what struck me is  
28 confirmation of actually a report that I made to  
29 the agency. They paid me to make this report. I  
30 didn't volunteer it. I was paid a lot of money for  
31 it.

32 It had 13 findings, and Finding No. 4  
33 was the science program is too fragmented. We just  
34 heard a small example of that in -- I don't know --  
35 three or four presentations of different programs  
36 that are all being run as small grant programs, each  
37 one of which would be way too small for the National  
38 Science Foundation to actually run it as a separate  
39 program. One of the speakers even noted that it  
40 is essentially the same as the program that was just  
41 described before it.

42 To me, this is a broad agency issue. I  
43 am sorry to burden Margo and HMS people with it.  
44 But it is an issue that we are not going to get as  
45 much money, as much bang for our buck, as long as  
46 we operate lots of small, fragmented programs.  
47 And this is the tip of the iceberg. There are many,  
48 many more that weren't discussed here. So, that

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1 is one very general comment that I really wish the  
2 agency would think about it carefully.

3 Another one that concerns me is the  
4 manner in which these programs are being run is  
5 universally as grants programs. Remember, one of  
6 the purposes of cooperative research, as has been  
7 described, is to get real cooperation between  
8 scientists and the industry.

9 The initial impetus for the program was  
10 cooperation between NMFS scientists and the  
11 industry. In fact, the way it is run now as a  
12 competitive grants program, I don't think it does  
13 a very good job at achieving or fostering that  
14 objective.

15 Industry tends to get involved by a  
16 scientist having an idea they want to pursue and  
17 realizing that, if they can get some industry  
18 person to work with them, they can compete for funds  
19 in this pot. It is not a mutually-initiated  
20 program between the industry and the scientists,  
21 and, in particular, scientists from NMFS, which is  
22 where you want to really build greater cooperation.  
23 So, again, I am critical of the program in the  
24 context of it being run as a grants program which  
25 does not particularly foster that cooperation.

26 My other concern is that -- again, this  
27 gets to the point of fragmentation -- I don't  
28 actually look at these as programs in the sense that  
29 they are designed as a set of components to lead  
30 to a final endpoint. They are a set of projects  
31 that are relevant to a final endpoint.

32 When NASA wanted to go to the moon, they  
33 must have somehow laid out, you know, 25 components  
34 it needed to get there and made sure that it funded  
35 at least one, maybe more than one, but at least one  
36 to get each one of those components built. It  
37 didn't just fund 25 projects and have five of them  
38 be on one component and eight on another and zero  
39 on several others. And again, that is what happens  
40 when you depend on this sort of grants process,  
41 rather than a more comprehensive organization of  
42 a program plan and funding it in a manner to achieve  
43 that.

44 So, it is great that this money is  
45 available and it is great that it is being spent  
46 on a lot of very, very good and successful projects,  
47 but it needs to deliver as a program.

48 Thank you.

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1 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you, Mike.  
2 Andre? And then, I see Tim and Dave.  
3 MEMBER BOUSTANY: Yes, I just wanted to  
4 voice my support for both Bob's comments and Mike's  
5 comments as well, and, also, say thank you to the  
6 people that operate these grants. We appreciate  
7 all the work you do, and we appreciate the funding  
8 that you allow scientists to use for doing what they  
9 do. So, thank you for that.

10 Just generally, to reiterate Bob's  
11 comments, with the strategic plan or the science  
12 plan for HMS, and looking at the list of priorities,  
13 yes, I agree that with these smaller grants,  
14 one-year grants, we are not really going to make  
15 a real dent in those and we do need a more concerted  
16 effort specifically looking at HMS funding  
17 priorities for research priorities. So, any way  
18 that we can move forward with that would be great,  
19 and any way that we, as scientists, could help  
20 support that would be great as well. So, just let  
21 us know.

22 FACILITATOR LEA: Thanks, Andre.  
23 Tim?

24 MEMBER PICKETT: Okay. To go with the  
25 aerial survey conversation, and not necessarily  
26 exactly aerial surveys, but the way I see something  
27 of that nature being very useful is in the  
28 accountability to user groups and fishing effort  
29 more so than the stock assessment end of things.

30 When you are talking about allocating  
31 quota and things to the user groups that have so  
32 many more users than the accountable commercial  
33 groups -- now we have cameras and electronic  
34 reporting, and every single fish that is being  
35 caught by the commercial sector and the pelagic  
36 longline sector is counted at least once now for  
37 certain. But we have no way of having any sort of  
38 accountability on the smaller commercial scale or  
39 the recreational scale.

40 I think it would be interesting, in  
41 terms of being able to set and adjust quotas, if  
42 we had that sort of data in a reliable dataset that  
43 would determine fishing effort. I know earlier  
44 when we were discussing swordfish, there were 260  
45 recreational swordfish landed last year, according  
46 to the reported data. I can tell you that that is  
47 two good weekends in south Florida.

48 So, if you were to fly over and every

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1 time you fly over on a nice day during the day into  
2 Fort Lauderdale you can get an aerial survey of how  
3 many people are out fishing on the swordfish  
4 grounds, and it is quite a few. But it is something  
5 that is a complete unknown at the moment in terms  
6 of fishing effort. And the swordfish stocks are  
7 just fine, and the fish are just fine where we are  
8 at.

9 But in these sensitive areas like when  
10 we are talking bluefin and mid-season quota  
11 adjustments and things like that in the  
12 recreational sector and in the General Category,  
13 and how we might use the Reserve Category as it  
14 comes forward in maybe allocating it to the  
15 longline sector or to the General Category sector,  
16 we need to have a better idea of fishing effort in  
17 some way, whether it is aerial surveys or some other  
18 way. I just want to give my input on the importance  
19 of that.

20 FACILITATOR LEA: Thanks, Tim.

21 Dave? And then, Scott.

22 MEMBER KERSTETTER: Thank you.

23 You know, it is awfully nice to have  
24 Andre, Bob, and Mike go first. It makes my  
25 comments much more brief.

26 Obviously, HMS is a lot more than  
27 bluefin. What the agency has done with bluefin is  
28 fantastic. We have lots of other HMS species out  
29 there. And so, I know that we seem to be  
30 increasingly bluefin-centric in a lot of ways.  
31 So, I would like to express the support for other  
32 HMS species and keep that going.

33 I am glad to see all the program people.  
34 I can't wait to talk with you finally in person,  
35 Dan, after all the years that I have been submitting  
36 grants to CRP, S-K, and all of these various  
37 programs.

38 But what I found striking from the  
39 presentation was the little points that you had for  
40 HMS research. I think that only kind of  
41 emphasizing the point that, as Mike commented, HMS  
42 projects are fragmented across these various  
43 programs. So, accordingly, I would strongly  
44 support Bob's idea of an HMS standalone project.

45 One of the other things that I have  
46 talked with you certainly in sidebars about, Margo  
47 and Guillermo, and I appreciate Craig Brown's  
48 presentation for the ICCAT Advisory Committee on

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1 the science going on in the Southeast Center, but  
2 it still seems awfully opaque at times.

3 You mentioned yesterday there was a  
4 Southeast Fisheries Science Center strategic plan  
5 that was done. Is that publically available?

6 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: I believe so. I  
7 think they have all been posted. As Lindsey  
8 indicated, I think they are moving into kind of a  
9 review of that. I believe that is all available.  
10 I don't know exactly where on the website, but I  
11 can try to find it.

12 Scott?

13 MEMBER TAYLOR: To continue along the  
14 last train of thought that I left the meeting with  
15 last night about cooperation, it has occurred to  
16 me, listening to this presentation, that  
17 particularly in light of the point that has been  
18 brought to me, how difficult the rulemaking process  
19 really is in here, and obviously through  
20 experience, and the immediate need for specifics  
21 in order to directly benefit certain areas for the  
22 commercial fisheries, it occurs to me that along  
23 with that rulemaking comes the research. As well  
24 pointed out, the research is expensive,  
25 particularly in regard to the pelagic fisheries.

26 I would challenge you and your staff,  
27 Margo, to maybe find a way to help coordinate, as  
28 was suggested, one, two, three really important  
29 things that we need to try to get resolved in the  
30 near future and to coordinate that with maybe  
31 scientific members on this panel that could help  
32 to make some of this grant money that is available  
33 for those specific projects. Because for us  
34 commercial guys that are out there, this is Greek,  
35 you know. I mean, there is lots of different  
36 science and lots of different projects that are  
37 going on.

38 But, if we could somehow try to use this  
39 process and the resources that are in this room to  
40 affect a specific need -- it is sort of like, as  
41 this stuff comes up, we deal with it, whether or  
42 not it is the sandbar research issue or whether or  
43 not there is something that can be of immediate help  
44 to these commercial guys that are out there. I  
45 don't see any way that they really get the  
46 rulemaking done without the science and the  
47 support, and it is very difficult to get the science  
48 and the support without the funding.

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1 Even though the commercial people may  
2 have the initiative, they don't have the  
3 wherewithal and the expertise to coordinate it.  
4 What we do have, especially if it is to an end, is  
5 the platform and the resource that we can provide  
6 if we are going to affect an end. And that dynamic  
7 becomes financially much more easily attainable  
8 and a much different dynamic if we are  
9 participating in it to a specific end.

10 And so, I would encourage maybe looking  
11 at that type of a vehicle. We were asked and were  
12 challenged to maybe come up with a couple of things  
13 that are important to us, that we start to deal with  
14 some of the things within HMS with specificity,  
15 because it is clear that, based upon the number of  
16 projects that are really coming out of HMS through  
17 the funding, that there maybe is not that specific  
18 direction.

19 FACILITATOR LEA: Thanks, Scott.

20 I don't see any other cards. Do you  
21 want to respond to that?

22 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Well, no. I just  
23 want a clarification on the last point, that there  
24 is not specific direction. Are you meaning there  
25 is no specific direction to the funding, the  
26 research funding programs? I wasn't clear on the  
27 last point.

28 MEMBER TAYLOR: No. I mean, if I can  
29 be frank, we kind of talked about it sidebar  
30 yesterday, that everybody in the room kind of  
31 recognizes that these commercial guys really need  
32 some specific things that potentially could help  
33 them. We are recognizing resurgence and different  
34 opportunities that are out there, and we really  
35 don't get access, simply because the science has  
36 not been available to support what necessarily  
37 observation may be.

38 So, ultimately, if there is going to be  
39 some relief, whether or not that it is a specific  
40 fishery or not, it seems to me that the only way  
41 to really affect that, have an effective end to  
42 that, because of the way that the rulemaking is,  
43 is to kind of have a laser-target approach to that  
44 end.

45 I mean, the comment was made that within  
46 the grant program there was one or two direct HMS  
47 research projects as a part of the funding, unless  
48 I missed that. Was that not -- so, that was what

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1 my point was. I think the other issues that have  
2 been raised are that, for sort of this pool of  
3 funding, that specific money is not necessarily  
4 being made available to direct HMS projects.

5 And I did, by the way, participate with  
6 that DigitalGlobe GeoEye Interspatial Program as  
7 far as trying to have a dynamic model for bluefin  
8 avoidance. That was a very short-lived deal.  
9 MOLLE was involved with it with the tagging.

10 But while it was a great project and a  
11 great idea, it didn't really have an end-game  
12 specific to it, is what I am saying. And so, what  
13 I am talking about is working along with the  
14 scientific community in the room in here when we  
15 know that there is a need to have an end-game and  
16 a target that the industry could participate in and  
17 minimize a lot of the expenses by using that  
18 platform that would otherwise be extremely costly  
19 and expensive. I think that you would find that  
20 level of participation if the end justified the  
21 means, is what I am saying.

22 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Okay, thank you.  
23 That's helpful.

24 And then, Dr. Kerstetter, apparently,  
25 in your email you have the Southeast Center  
26 strategic plan?

27 MEMBER KERSTETTER: Yes.

28 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Okay.

29 FACILITATOR LEA: All right. Well, I  
30 don't see any other cards or anything. So, I guess  
31 this is a good time for a 15-minute break.

32 Thank you, everyone, for being here.

33 (Whereupon, the foregoing matter went  
34 off the record at 9:54 a.m. and went back on the  
35 record at 10:16 a.m.)

36 FACILITATOR LEA: All right. So, we  
37 are going to get started again.

38 We have HMS Electronic Technology  
39 Implementation Plan, and then, public comment, and  
40 then, meeting wrap-up. And I know a lot of folks  
41 are going to be heading home, in many cases on  
42 flights. So, we want to go ahead and get going.

43 By the way, the folks that were up here  
44 talking about the different research programs all  
45 encouraged me to let you guys know that, if you have  
46 any further questions or you want to have any kind  
47 of further discussion, they are very open to that.  
48 Just contact them, and they are happy to talk with

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1 anyone about anything that they were talking about.

2 All right. Next, we are going to move  
3 HMS Electronic Technology Implementation Plan.

4 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: All right, the  
5 last one in the queue.

6 As you recall, we talked about this in  
7 September, where there is great interest across the  
8 country, both internally within the agency as well  
9 as with stakeholders, to expand the use of  
10 electronic technologies. I am using that as an  
11 umbrella term for electronic monitoring, which  
12 would include things like cameras or  
13 vessel-monitoring systems, as well as electronic  
14 reporting, which would include internet or  
15 web-based reporting, things like phone apps, or  
16 electronic logbooks. Somehow it is the means of  
17 providing the information in electronic instead of  
18 paper-based.

19 I think the idea is that this can reduce  
20 costs. It can reduce burden. It could increase  
21 some of the timeliness of the data. Right now, we  
22 are sending reams of paper through the mail, and  
23 then, someone on the other end has to, then, enter  
24 that data, kind of keypunch it. And then, it goes  
25 through quality control. So, it takes a time  
26 before you have kind of QA/QC data on the other end  
27 to use.

28 Automated systems, electronic systems  
29 can build in checks, so that the data comes in,  
30 obviously, more quickly, but, then, also, a higher  
31 quality. Things like you said at the top you had  
32 three fish, but you have reported four or your  
33 totals don't match, things that can stop before you  
34 actually submit to make sure that it is accurate  
35 and correct.

36 And so, the agency decided to have each  
37 Region, including Atlantic HMS, develop an  
38 Electronic Technologies Implementation Plan,  
39 which would be on the five-to-ten-year horizon.  
40 What do we have underway? What do we plan to  
41 pursue, things of that sort?

42 So, we had talked in September about  
43 what should go into that plan. That was at the  
44 beginning of our development of the plan. And so,  
45 we talked about some of the other examples in  
46 fisheries where we have electronic monitoring,  
47 basically, pilot studies across the agency,  
48 different fisheries, different Regions that we

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1 were looking to, participating in electronic  
2 monitoring workshops that were held in different  
3 places.

4 Also, NMFS had developed some  
5 electronic monitoring White Papers for  
6 consideration as people develop programs. So, we  
7 looked at those.

8 Then, on the electronic reporting side,  
9 there is a number of different things within the  
10 agency as well as with stakeholders that are in  
11 development, things like electronic logbooks in  
12 the Gulf and South Atlantic. The International  
13 Game Fish Association developing a catch log  
14 application. It seems like there are all kinds of  
15 people developing apps for all different kinds of  
16 things. And then, also, electronic logbook with  
17 the Gulf for-hire sector. So, there is a lot that  
18 is happening. It is in different stages,  
19 different places of testing or development.

20 And so, we kind of looked across what  
21 we knew of in developing the HMS plan, and we  
22 identified primary objectives as being improving  
23 quota or ACL catch limit monitoring, trying to make  
24 sure that the data coming in is timely and quality,  
25 and then, ensuring compliance with regulations, at  
26 least at this point.

27 Other objectives would be to improve  
28 perceptions and stakeholder buy-in on some of the  
29 data, increasing that data accessibility, and  
30 then, also, developing standardized practices and  
31 systems that reduce the burden and increase the  
32 quality. So, that is, again, some of these data  
33 checks.

34 And so, in September we had not yet  
35 implemented Amendment 7. So, we had kind of a  
36 current state and, then, a future state that now  
37 is kind of split by before 2015 and now.

38 So, prior to 2015, prior to Amendment  
39 7 implementation, the electronic monitoring that  
40 we had in place and had had for several years were  
41 the VMS requirements in the pelagic and bottom  
42 longline and, then, the shark gillnet fisheries.  
43 And electronic reporting was the web-based  
44 reporting of Angling Category bluefin tuna as well  
45 as the non-tournament swordfish, the white marlin,  
46 and sailfish landings.

47 We also have the release of the shortfin  
48 mako smartphone app, where folks can voluntarily

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1 indicate when they have released a mako. And our  
2 eDealer system, which is not voluntary, is the  
3 weekly electronic dealer reporting system. It is  
4 a very intensive program.

5 And then, in the one to three  
6 years -- so, we are in the first year -- we have  
7 a number of electronic technologies that are in the  
8 beginnings of implementation under Amendment 7,  
9 including the VMS daily catch reporting of bluefin  
10 tuna in the pelagic longline and purse seine  
11 vessels; also, the individual bluefin tuna quota  
12 system, which is online, as we talked about on  
13 Tuesday

14 The electronic monitoring of cameras on  
15 pelagic longline vessels to audit compliance with  
16 the other data reporting coming online this June.  
17 We talked about that at length as well.

18 And then, also, the online catch  
19 reporting. So, this would be landings and  
20 discards for the commercial bluefin handgear  
21 categories, the General, Harpoon, and  
22 Charter/Headboat. That is also in effect now.

23 And so, this kind of is stuff that is  
24 very new and in place, but there is also a number  
25 of other things that we are looking at pursuing in  
26 the near-term, the one-to-three-year timeframe.  
27 One of them being moving the bluefin tuna dealer  
28 reporting system to an electronic system. Right  
29 now, the landings cards are faxed. We have an  
30 optical character recognition system that, you  
31 know, it is kind of old school at this point, but  
32 it is still working. But where can we move that?

33 Looking at the permit website, where we  
34 have some of the other online reporting; looking  
35 at the IBQ system; looking at the eDealer system,  
36 there are pros and cons of different ones. And so,  
37 we are in the stages of exploring them, looking to  
38 see what makes the most sense for other uses of the  
39 data, efficiencies in scale and cost and where the  
40 dealers are already going. So, this is something  
41 that we are very actively looking at. Again, also,  
42 of benefit to you all would be reducing some of the  
43 burden of having multiple reporting systems.

44 We are looking with the Southeast  
45 Fisheries Science Center. They are developing an  
46 electronic logbook pilot program. I think they  
47 have reached out to some HMS folks. I know the HMS  
48 logbook is one of the ones that they are looking

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1 at doing a pilot on. And so, there are efforts  
2 there.

3 With the South Atlantic and Gulf  
4 Councils, there is interest in electronic logbook  
5 for charter/headboat. And so, they are including  
6 HMS in that development.

7 We are always on the lookout for a  
8 recreational reporting app. There's a lot of them  
9 out there, what would make the most sense for us  
10 and our constituents and how it would work.

11 And then, as I mentioned before, the  
12 online tournament registration, I have gotten an  
13 email this week that we are very close to that. And  
14 then, potential future expansion to including the  
15 reporting on that kind of a system as well.

16 So, these are the things that are kind  
17 of active consideration, underway, or fairly  
18 certain that we want to try to pursue them. But,  
19 again, the plan was supposed to be five to ten  
20 years. I have kind of a hard time thinking about  
21 10 years from now. So, what we ended up doing for  
22 that is more of the process that we intend to  
23 pursue, depending on how some of these things that  
24 are more near-term play out, you know, what works,  
25 what doesn't, lessons learned, what kind of funding  
26 may come along with electronic technologies.

27 We laid out a six-phase process that we  
28 intend to pursue where we are evaluating the  
29 programs, the needs, pros and cons, any input that  
30 we get from you all, looking at what specific goals  
31 and objectives we would have with different  
32 approaches. Obviously, designing the program.  
33 Again, checking in, I think, with the panel at the  
34 appropriate points. Maybe doing pilots or  
35 pre-implementation testing. Having folks like  
36 you trying something out. It can be very helpful  
37 to have real users give feedback on does it work,  
38 does it not, or do you like how it is designed. And  
39 then, obviously, to implementation and, then,  
40 review.

41 So, our plan is intended to be, as all  
42 of them, a living document. We will revisit this  
43 periodically, including with the panel and  
44 stakeholders. So, we don't have specific  
45 end-goals of where we want to be in 10 years, but  
46 we have a process.

47 So, we have prepared a plan. It is  
48 online. It was part of the national rollout.

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1 But, again, it is a living document. We have had  
2 a lot of discussions, things popping up through  
3 this meeting on electronic technologies, ideas.  
4 So, we are planning to update the plan as  
5 appropriate, based on what we hear from you all at  
6 this meeting, and then, again, revisit it  
7 periodically over the next couple of years.

8 Obviously, we are going to be  
9 continuing with Amendment 7 implementation and,  
10 then, pursue additional opportunities as they  
11 make sense, we have resources and time. And again,  
12 the coordination with other folks I think can be  
13 a great way to maximize the benefits. And then,  
14 we will check-in with you all periodically.

15 So, this is a fairly-brief overview. I  
16 am trusting that you all have seen the plan. We  
17 sent it to you all in early January. I didn't get  
18 feedback. So, this would be a point for you to let  
19 us know what you think. Like I said, we are  
20 prepared to revise it and, then, keep checking in.

21 So, I know Rick had comments earlier.  
22 I think Scott has had some feedback. And then, I  
23 think some others, too.

24 FACILITATOR LEA: All right. It looks  
25 like Pam.

26 MEMBER DANA: Thank you, and thank you,  
27 Margo, for the presentation.

28 Sitting on the Gulf of Mexico Council,  
29 we have gone over the electronic logbooks for the  
30 for-hire charter sector, and it is more than just  
31 an interest to put that program into play. In  
32 fact, I believe the next meeting that we have we  
33 are going to move to put that into a requirement.

34 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Oh, okay.

35 MEMBER DANA: We have had strong  
36 support from the for-hire charter industry  
37 throughout the Gulf to go to electronic logbooks.  
38 Their reasoning is primarily to help in collecting  
39 better data for NOAA, for NMFS, for the Gulf of  
40 Mexico, and to be accountable. But the rewards for  
41 the charter sector, beyond collecting better data  
42 or helping to collect better data, I mean, that is  
43 basically the reward.

44 My major concern about electronic  
45 logbooks is that the cost to be involved in that  
46 program, the cost in equipment has to be borne by  
47 the charter boat owners or operators. Thus far,  
48 there is no monies in place from the federal

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1 entities, NOAA, the Gulf, to fund the equipment.  
2 There have been pilots, of course, the bigeye  
3 snapper. But, anyway, whatever the equipment is,  
4 it hasn't been funded; it needs to be provided by  
5 the charter guys. And I just wish that they  
6 weren't the ones that had to bear the cost.

7 FACILITATOR LEA: Okay. Thanks, Pam.  
8 Rick? And then, Scott.

9 MEMBER BELLAVANCE: Thanks, Margo. I  
10 appreciate the presentation. It was very good. I  
11 am encouraged that you folks are taking the time  
12 to try to get some comprehensive look as to what  
13 is already out there, develop a plan moving  
14 forward.

15 I guess I would just like to reemphasize  
16 once again that it is important to take a real good  
17 look at what is already in existence. There have  
18 been different agencies that have worked towards  
19 some of the goals that we have heard already around  
20 the table.

21 To me, it seems like the actual  
22 interface and the app, or whatever you are  
23 developing, is the lesser-important part of the  
24 issue. Where we need to resolve and move forward  
25 is how the different agencies speak to each other,  
26 and trying to come up with some comprehensive data  
27 warehouse storage facility that everything goes  
28 into in a standardized manner, so that the folks  
29 in the Gulf can report the way that they want to  
30 with the tool that they want to use; the folks in  
31 the Northeast can report what they need to with  
32 whatever tool they choose to, instead of trying to  
33 have every agency say, "Okay, this is the one we're  
34 going to use for HMS." And then, the state folks  
35 pick a different one, and they are going to use that  
36 one. And now, I have got five tablets on my boat  
37 instead of just one.

38 I think that taking the time to really  
39 think that through, and maybe even swallow some  
40 pride in some agencies to say, "Listen, we're going  
41 to hand this off to this group of people and let  
42 them go with it," that is going to be the folks that  
43 handle that data collection, and work all towards  
44 that common goal, I think that is going to be how  
45 we will have success with this and develop  
46 inexpensive programs that industry probably should  
47 bear the cost of it; it is their job, but if it is  
48 cheap enough.

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1           Having all these different things  
2 starts to get the cost coming up. I think one tool  
3 that does everything is probably a better bet.  
4 That is my suggestion.

5           MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN:       Okay.       Yes,  
6 thanks for that. We actually have experienced  
7 quite a bit of that with the eDealer program. If  
8 you remember, we have multiple systems that are  
9 approved for people to report through, and that was  
10 designed that way, so that we didn't reinvent the  
11 wheel, and we provided a mechanism for people that  
12 didn't want to go through another avenue.

13           But there was quite a lot of that kind  
14 of back-and-forth, modifying data fields or not,  
15 and that sort of accommodation. So that, in the  
16 end, the users could continue using the systems  
17 that they were used to and still meet the reporting  
18 requirements for HMS.

19           So, I take that point very well.

20           FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you, Rick.

21           Scott, and then, Bob.

22           MEMBER TAYLOR: I want to take this  
23 opportunity just to reiterate again how important  
24 that I believe that it is that the end-game for this  
25 is going to result in a system that is going to  
26 lessen the burden rather than to place additional  
27 burden on the commercial sector.

28           Fundamentally, the new addition to this  
29 new layer of electronic monitoring associated with  
30 Amendment 7, beyond the camera issue, which I will  
31 speak to in a second, created a whole other layer  
32 of activity onboard the vessel for the crew. The  
33 initial field feedback was they were excited about  
34 it because they thought they could do their logbook  
35 on the system and that that would take care of the  
36 logbook need. When they found out that it was just  
37 another layer that they had to do to report and  
38 there is some level of redundancy, of course, that  
39 level of resistance moved to the level of  
40 frustration because the equipment doesn't work.

41           You know that there are certain systems  
42 that are more problematic than others. I  
43 understand that, as part of the review, you all are  
44 determining what is an eligible vendor and what is  
45 not an eligible vendor, but there really still is  
46 not an immediate solution on the horizon for how  
47 we are going to deal with that problem for the boats  
48 that have a consistent inability to be able to

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1 report in that one sector.

2 So, what I would want to use this  
3 opportunity for is to encourage you that, as we move  
4 forward -- and this is going to be a moving  
5 dynamic -- that there is a tremendous opportunity  
6 here. That is just that: that from the  
7 standpoint of reporting, at least as far as the HMS  
8 and the pelagic longline fleet is concerned, if  
9 these guys had an app on their system that  
10 essentially would allow them to fill their log out,  
11 then we could transmit that log at the end of the  
12 day and be done with it. And then, the agencies  
13 could share it, rather than having to have this  
14 redundancy in paperwork and in time and in effort  
15 that just, quite frankly, is archaic in the way that  
16 it works.

17 It is hugely problematic. You can't  
18 renew a permit through the Science Center without  
19 there being missing logbook reports and having to  
20 duplicate stuff for them. It is just because of  
21 the voluminous nature of the paperwork that gets  
22 handled.

23 We keep confirmations. We know the  
24 stuff has been sent in emails. And somehow it gets  
25 just lost in the human shuffle of where it is. I  
26 think that is not a problem that is limited solely  
27 to us.

28 I think that so that we don't wind up  
29 with a bunch of different fragmented systems here,  
30 that you kind of have to have an end-game before  
31 you start to implement about where it is that you  
32 were going to go.

33 I think it was Pamela that was just  
34 talking about the charter boat app, you know,  
35 reporting. There isn't much anymore that you  
36 can't do on this little device. So, it really  
37 amounts to the software application to be able to  
38 fill out. Whether it is on this or whether or not  
39 it is on a computer, you know, the ability to take  
40 information from an Excel sheet and spread it  
41 across various different reports is only limited  
42 to the ability of the user that is capable of  
43 disseminating that information.

44 The other issue that Andre raised  
45 yesterday, when we were talking about science, is  
46 how unreliable the recreational data is that is  
47 coming out. But it seems to me that really what  
48 we should be talking about is a national app, at

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1 least for HMS, that could be tied right to the  
2 permits. So, you have one form that gets  
3 filled-out that is user-friendly, whether or not  
4 that it is for a charter boat or whether or not it  
5 is for recreational, that you make it so user simple  
6 that at the end of the day you report what you are  
7 going to report.

8 In areas like the Mid-Atlantic where  
9 they are bluefin fishing, they get tag. It would  
10 be simple to tie a confirmation number into that  
11 report at the end of the day, rather than having  
12 to fill out those little cards, or whatever it would  
13 be. All the data would go into one place, and then,  
14 the various agencies could share that. Because we  
15 all know that there is the whole other layer that  
16 goes on electronically from the dealer reports.

17 You are going to hear around this room  
18 in the next couple of minutes, I'm sure, about the  
19 camera systems. I am not going to be negative  
20 about that. There are problems with it. There's  
21 going to be problems with it. But I am confident  
22 that, if the resolve is there, they will be worked  
23 through logistically.

24 That seems to be the general will of  
25 everyone. There has been a lot of money that has  
26 been spent on it up to date. The hardware provider  
27 will figure out what is going to work on the boats,  
28 what is not going to work on the boats, and we will  
29 get it fixed and we will move past that.

30 But the voluminous nature,  
31 particularly from the standpoint of other guys that  
32 are owners, operators, and also may, in fact, be  
33 dealers or marketing their own product, the layer  
34 of redundancy, the ridiculous amount of time that  
35 has to get spent to deliver the data to the various  
36 different agencies, you know, could really be  
37 streamlined down. I think that is really the  
38 direction that this thing needs to go.

39 If, in fact, there is going to be a new  
40 generation -- Margo, I have been trying to get in  
41 contact and I can't think of his name down out of  
42 the Science Center right now that is working on the  
43 Electronic Logbook Program that we talked about.  
44 You could help me with his name maybe?

45 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: David Gloeckner?

46 MEMBER TAYLOR: Right. I have been  
47 speaking to his staff and showed him about what we  
48 were doing with some of the stuff that was part of

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1 the DigitalGlobe thing and sharing that with  
2 Richard Holmquist and stuff with them.

3 So, I know that there is some stuff that  
4 is in development. The problem is my  
5 concern -- and I just want to voice it and, then,  
6 I am going to let somebody else have the floor -- is  
7 that we have tended to try to move the technology  
8 faster than we have had the proper hardware in the  
9 environment in which it needs to operate in.

10 That was clearly demonstrated by the  
11 SkyMate debacle. Tron & Tron, the other VMS  
12 providers that are out there that are providing you  
13 the dongles or the thumb drives to download the  
14 additional software that are on there have been  
15 somewhat less problematic, but some of them still  
16 have some issues as well. I am talking about this  
17 bluefin reporting update that we are dealing with  
18 right now.

19 But what I would encourage is that I  
20 don't know that the format for -- I mean, the format  
21 could be one really format that would encompass  
22 everything that we need to report for the pelagic  
23 fleet. We have satellite capacity on almost every  
24 one of these boats at this point. If that  
25 information was being entered in real time at the  
26 end of the afternoon on the boats, rather  
27 than -- you know, even though these guys are  
28 supposed to sit down and fill out all their logbooks  
29 at the end of the day, from a practical standpoint  
30 that is not what always happens.

31 If at the end of their set they sat down  
32 and entered everything in, hit a button, it would  
33 be done. It would make everybody's life a lot  
34 easier.

35 Again, I would encourage that the  
36 format -- and I know that, Rick, you did some work  
37 with that or you referred to that. I  
38 wholeheartedly agree that there is probably  
39 already stuff that is out there that probably works  
40 reasonably well, that you could really have the  
41 same basic format for recreational as you do for  
42 charter boat, with maybe just a different field for  
43 business name or something.

44 So, I would really encourage you to try  
45 to have a long-term goal, and then, figure out the  
46 best way that we can get there, and to prove the  
47 hardware technology before we wind up implementing  
48 it and having it out there in the field.

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1 FACILITATOR LEA: Thanks, Scott.  
2 All right. We are going to move to Bob,  
3 and then, Shawn, Rusty, and then, Terri.

4 MEMBER HUETER: Yes, thanks.  
5 I am very sympathetic with what Scott  
6 just said. Being on this panel in the past,  
7 hearing the complaints about the other system, it  
8 sounds like you guys have been burned. So, I  
9 definitely would endorse what Scott said about  
10 improving the hardware.

11 But this is the trajectory of any new  
12 technology, is you are going to have these problems  
13 in the beginning. We just have to get past that  
14 phase and make sure that we have a plan to make it  
15 all work.

16 As a scientist, I really like the power  
17 and potential of the electronic video monitoring.  
18 To me, it is the next best thing to being on the  
19 boat, to be able to see the catch coming in.

20 My lab is working with the snapper  
21 grouper fisheries, I mentioned before, to monitor  
22 not only the directed catch, but the bycatch, and  
23 we hope to use this to maybe work on this shark  
24 bycatch problem they are having.

25 But it has been really gratifying to me  
26 to see how the fishermen themselves, in this case  
27 the reef fish community, have really said they  
28 really like the cameras, that they don't have to  
29 feed a camera, they don't have to give it a life  
30 vest, they don't have to get insurance for it.  
31 They don't even have to talk to it, if they don't  
32 want to. So, they like it so much better than  
33 observers onboard.

34 So, it seems to be a really nice synergy  
35 that is growing. I think that the future  
36 definitely is already here in terms of implementing  
37 the use of this partly in fisheries.

38 What I would recommend, Margo -- and  
39 this goes beyond HMS to the agency as a whole -- is  
40 that, again, we think about what Mike said earlier  
41 and that we don't approach this from a fragmented  
42 kind of point of view of just doing a little bit  
43 here, a little bit there, just sort of a Darwinian  
44 system of whoever comes to the surface.

45 But establish regional centers for EM  
46 for all the fisheries, and put resources most  
47 efficiently to those places that can do the work  
48 with the highest quality and the quickest

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1           turnaround.

2                     I can tell you that, on the science  
3 side, when the data come in, it is a very  
4 labor-intensive process to have to go through all  
5 the hours and hours and days and days of video. So,  
6 it is important that we think with some wisdom and  
7 strategically about where to put resources for this  
8 on the human side as well as the hardware side.

9                     FACILITATOR LEA: Thanks, Bob.  
10                    Shawn?

11                    MEMBER JOYCE: Yes, the first time I am  
12 hearing about the bluefin catch reporting  
13 requirements was today. To be honest, I mean, I  
14 scrolled down and I found it in the website. But  
15 I think most of the guys where I am from will never  
16 know that. They will just renew their permits and  
17 never know that requirement, nor will they even use  
18 it, you know.

19                    So, my question is, can is somehow  
20 prompt them? It would be brought up on the website  
21 further. So, when they actually go to click on  
22 their permit, they see that that is that new  
23 requirement?

24                    MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: It is there.  
25 They were notified through the permit renewal  
26 mailing. So, what I am hearing is that maybe  
27 people didn't see it.

28                    MEMBER JOYCE: Well, I renew my permit.  
29 I just go online and I just look at it, and I would  
30 have never seen this unless I scrolled down. I  
31 just look at the retention limits. I mean, I would  
32 follow the rules, but the reality is that I have  
33 to scroll down and see this.

34                    And then, again, I will be honest with  
35 you. Most guys are not going to report within 24  
36 hours. A lot of those guys are out on the ocean,  
37 go right back out, turn around, that kind of thing,  
38 and it gets lost.

39                    So, I know the effort is great and I  
40 report, but I think that it is hard for people to  
41 be able to see that they are going to have this  
42 requirement. To be quite frank, if there is  
43 nothing that drives them to do it, they are not  
44 going to do it, you know.

45                    MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: So, we will take  
46 a look at ways to highlight that, particularly as  
47 we get closer to the main fishing season.

48                    FACILITATOR LEA: We have Rusty and,

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1 then, Terri, and back to Andrew.

2 MEMBER HUDSON: Rusty Hudson.

3 Thank you very much.

4 Rick brought up some stuff associated  
5 with the ACCSP. I have been involved in that for,  
6 I guess this is going to be my second-and-a-half  
7 season or something. But, Rick, thank you for your  
8 help so far. John Jolly, who used to be on the HMS  
9 AP also helped me.

10 We had a little issue that came up with  
11 regards to our Bycatch Prioritization Committee,  
12 which I am on. We are going to have to redo the  
13 matrix during the month of May. We will have a  
14 meeting, I think, in Providence, Rhode Island for  
15 the entire week.

16 Apparently, it was originally  
17 constructed in the Northeast, mostly predominated  
18 by that. But, as we get into the Southeast -- and  
19 I have been reviewing a lot of the situations that  
20 are in the matrix. I was offering input both from  
21 my background in the Council, fishes, as well as  
22 the HMS situations, both gear, bycatch, all the  
23 other types of stuff that goes with that.

24 I guess what I am saying is you might  
25 want to look it over. You might want to give me  
26 some ideas.

27 I worked with Joe with the Biological  
28 Panel also that I am on, when he was there, but he  
29 had to leave early, over in St. Pete. But that is  
30 a whole other critter.

31 But, getting back to Bonnie Ponwith at  
32 the Science Center and these electronic logbooks  
33 that you are looking to have some volunteers for  
34 and stuff, I might be able to help with some of that,  
35 too.

36 One of the things that she had  
37 originally ascribed to VMS, which is only usually  
38 on an hourly paying or something like that, and it  
39 is costly once you start going to a rapid, like  
40 every-five-minute ping. The electronic logbooks  
41 I believe have the capability of a GPS or something  
42 maybe being added to that, and being able to track  
43 not on large grids, but on actual areas and times  
44 fished. And then, it will upload all that at the  
45 end of the trip. It is kept confidential. It  
46 gives the analysts, when we are doing stock  
47 assessments, something to work with, just like this  
48 whole bycatch matrix is aimed to be doing.

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1           That I feel is a useful thing because  
2 going at a five-minute rate of tracking, it gives  
3 you the information that the scientists like to  
4 have to be able to sort of understand the fishing  
5 techniques and areas and stuff like that. It is  
6 a public resource. I kind of felt like we need to  
7 be able to have the best information available, so  
8 we can produce the science.

9           So, I encourage this pilot program. As  
10 I said earlier, we are supportive of electronic  
11 reporting, a lot of us that have been around the  
12 periphery of that. And I have seen where it has  
13 been used in pilot programs for the headboats and  
14 stuff like that. They generally like to have a  
15 pretty reliable input of data. I mean, Pat, like  
16 my cousin that does his headboat, he winds up going  
17 between spots and they fill out the stuff for the  
18 bycatch that they had to discard, for the catch,  
19 and all that stuff. It is real hard to get that  
20 recall at the end of the day or the end of the trip.

21           So, simplicity, like Scott brought up,  
22 avoiding redundancy, duplication, all this other  
23 type of thing. I know that a lot of the camera work  
24 occurs on the monitoring end. They want to be able  
25 to have an observer matched up with the cameras  
26 until they can get a good feel.

27           So, let's just say, when we get into the  
28 month of May and we are at that matrix thing, and  
29 then, we get all the way to working with our future,  
30 I know ACS, ACCSP, and the data warehouse, and all  
31 that, and I think the angling intercept goes into  
32 effect early next year. There is a whole world  
33 there of data. That is so important because, just  
34 like Tim brought up about the swordfish and what  
35 I call the gorilla in the room with the recreational  
36 privates, I mean, the professionals, they've got  
37 skin in the game. The headboats, the charter  
38 boats, the commercial boats, working with those  
39 platforms, you are working with professionals.  
40 Working with the private guys, you are working with  
41 part-timers that are out for fun.

42           But, again, we need some kind of subset  
43 of those people, too, working with the fishing  
44 groups. The Apex Predators Program for years,  
45 decades, worked with a lot of the tournaments and  
46 stuff like that. But there are other ways to do  
47 things.

48           So, I would say let's just brainstorm

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1 over the near future. I look forward to the  
2 meeting next September, but it looks like there is  
3 going to be some potential conflicts with certain  
4 other meetings. So, I would hate to see overlaps,  
5 and maybe we can discuss some of that. I don't know  
6 what your timing is, but before I leave maybe you  
7 have got some ideas on that.

8 So, thank you very much.

9 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you, Rusty.

10 Terri? And then, Andrew.

11 MEMBER BEIDEMAN: Okay. Well, the  
12 electronic reporting I think, you know, since we  
13 have had logbook reporting in the pelagic longline  
14 fishery since 1985, you know, we are well past there  
15 at this point.

16 Most of our problem back then was that  
17 we were counting beans and we had to do it pretty  
18 quickly. People were actually looking at these  
19 logsheets like right away. But that isn't the case  
20 now, from what I gather. We do get quite a bit of  
21 our bean-counting directly from the SAFIS program.

22 So, I think electronic reporting would  
23 save -- so long as it is reliable, if you fill in  
24 a box and it corresponds to the proper box on the  
25 other side, and the information is accurate. But  
26 I do think that pilot programs are necessary.

27 I think that a lot of the shock factor  
28 from some of the items that have just been made  
29 mandatory could have been mitigated by having a  
30 pilot program in our realm that people had been able  
31 to be a part of, rather than just have it kind of  
32 thrust on us. We know other places have had pilot  
33 programs, but we have not.

34 So, I am going to suggest that  
35 electronic reporting is further down the line than  
36 some of this video monitoring. That might be an  
37 easier transition. But I do know there are already  
38 problems with some of that currently which will,  
39 hopefully, work out soon.

40 But I believe for electronic monitoring  
41 that there should be pilot programs. I think that  
42 all sectors in the HMS fisheries have an impact on  
43 stock. They catch fish. They have an obligation  
44 to also try to help provide science. Some  
45 percentage of coverage should be required, and that  
46 that information can be used to expand estimates.  
47 Our SAFE report says for decades that there is  
48 insufficient information to make estimates on

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1 discards by certain segments, and it shouldn't say  
2 that year after year. We should make progress on  
3 that.

4 So, I look forward to seeing this, but  
5 I would like to see all of these items be piloted  
6 and people have some knowledge about how they work,  
7 rather than just have them kind of in place. So,  
8 I think that would be helpful.

9 Thanks.

10 FACILITATOR LEA: Thanks, Terri.

11 All right. So, we have Andrew, and  
12 then, Mike, Marty, and Ernie.

13 MEMBER A. COX: First, I want to  
14 applaud Scott and Rick for their first comments on  
15 the need for a recreational app and, then, also,  
16 Rusty for addressing the gorilla in the room as far  
17 as recreational swordfish are concerned. I think  
18 it is a large problem, and I have told that to Margo  
19 as well as Randy, that I think we need to find a  
20 way to address that issue.

21 It is not like we are counting hundreds  
22 of thousands of fish. We are counting thousands.  
23 And it is a relatively-small group of anglers that  
24 we can put our finger on relatively easily.

25 As we go forward developing electronic  
26 apps and websites to register, I have had the  
27 experience with the Gillfish Foundation  
28 redeveloping their entire tagging database. And  
29 one thing I can say is fishermen don't like to fill  
30 out a lot of stuff. But, if you can make it easy  
31 for them, a couple of clicks, a couple of boxes they  
32 have to fill in, it makes their life a whole easier.

33 Just some simple things with the  
34 current website. The compliance tag to report an  
35 HMS species, it is in compliance and, then, you have  
36 to go to the permit shop. I sent an email about  
37 it last year. Things like this could be addressed  
38 with just a simple button "Report Your Catch" on  
39 the HMS home page or making things mobile-adaptive.  
40 The website we have now, right now, I mean, working  
41 for Marlin magazine, over 80 percent of our traffic  
42 is driven from mobile devices. People are using  
43 these things constantly. And why not, when you  
44 come back in from an offshore trip, once you hit  
45 cell service, you should certainly be able to pull  
46 it up and report your catch while you are still  
47 running it.

48 There are apps right now. I know

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1 iAngler, which was developed by Snook & Gamefish  
2 Foundation, they are basically subleasing the  
3 back-end of their database to different  
4 organizations, including Florida. And Steve told  
5 me that the Mid-Atlantic is in communication with  
6 them. So, obviously, people are seeing that this  
7 is a viable solution. I know tournaments are using  
8 that same app, and they are just redesigning the  
9 interface on the front-end to see what they want  
10 to push out on the back-end.

11 So, I encourage that we look at things  
12 that are already built and see. I mean, they have  
13 been doing this development for five-six years at  
14 this point. They know what anglers want and how  
15 it is easy for them to do.

16 I also saw this morning that Florida  
17 released an app on the fishing wire this morning  
18 where you could buy your license there and pull up  
19 different information. So, if HMS could somehow  
20 adapt that and make it a lot easier for anglers?

21 I stated in our email before, when you  
22 go hunting for deer or alligator, before you can  
23 get a hunting license, you have to take some sort  
24 of online class. I have encouraged that, that you  
25 guys look into that and five questions, or  
26 something they have to read when they renew their  
27 permit online, just so people understand the  
28 current regulations or remind them to report.

29 So, I applaud you guys for addressing  
30 this issue. Hopefully, we can communicate in the  
31 future as we go forward.

32 FACILITATOR LEA: Thanks, Andrew.

33 Let me check in real quick. Do we have  
34 anyone here for public comment?

35 (No response.)

36 No? Okay. So, we could probably  
37 spend a few more minutes on this. But we want to  
38 be somewhat mindful of time because I know people  
39 are catching flights and stuff.

40 So, Mike? And then, Marty, Ernie, and  
41 then, I saw Marty as well -- Mark, I'm sorry.  
42 Martin. Okay, sorry.

43 MEMBER SISSEWINE: Yes, I will be very  
44 brief. I would echo many of the comments that have  
45 already been made and that this is very, very  
46 positive. You know, there will be hiccups along  
47 the way. That is just inevitable, but I just urge  
48 the agency and all those people who have to live

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1 with the hiccups to persevere, work it out, and make  
2 it work, because I am sure it is the way things need  
3 to be done in the future.

4 I also appreciate the reason why we have  
5 a regional implementation, and in the case of HMS,  
6 it is a separate HMS implementation of the policy.  
7 That makes sense and is fine because there are so  
8 many regional differences.

9 But there are some aspects of this  
10 effort that are not particularly regional. I  
11 mean, some of the technology needs, particularly  
12 things like image processing, and so on, which  
13 require much more of a concerted, in my view,  
14 national effort. So, regionalization is truly  
15 appropriate and necessary for large portions of  
16 this.

17 I recall Sam mentioning yesterday that  
18 there might be a fair amount of money that becomes  
19 available for some of the technology side of this.  
20 I would clearly urge that to be a very focused  
21 program that is above critical mass level to attack  
22 some of the most serious technology problems.  
23 Image analysis would be one of my big candidates  
24 for it, but there are other people who know better.

25 Thank you.

26 FACILITATOR LEA: Thanks, Mike.

27 All right, Marty, and then, Ernie and  
28 Martin.

29 MEMBER SCANLON: Yes. You know, as  
30 far as these illegal fish being landed, primarily,  
31 I would say it sounds like in the Florida region,  
32 one of the things we did on Long Island back in the  
33 early seventies there we had a problem there with  
34 tainted clams. One of the things that we did  
35 there, at that time anybody that brought clams into  
36 New York and the Fulton Fish Market were mandated  
37 by law, State law, to re-tag the bags with New York  
38 State tags. So, all the clams appeared to be New  
39 York State clams.

40 Just like with fish, you see the fish  
41 come on the market; there is no way of telling where  
42 they came from. And perhaps an origin-of-catch  
43 tag that could be distributed to each individual  
44 permit-holder with a permit number on it can be  
45 applied to these fish. So, at least as they come  
46 off the boat in their whole form, at least we have  
47 an idea of who and where and when they were caught.  
48 It would really make it pretty helpful to

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1 enforcement to track those fish. That might be one  
2 thing to handle that situation.

3 I will reiterate on the verification of  
4 the bluefin trip reporting on a daily basis, you  
5 know, on a catch report, very important I think to  
6 us, especially with the problems that we have with  
7 the VMS machines, I think that would go a long way  
8 in solving a lot of long-term problems and a lot  
9 of paperwork for you people.

10 And I would like to see that also  
11 extended to the reporting back to the dock. We get  
12 a verification when we report and declare what  
13 fishery we are in and what we are doing as we leave,  
14 but we don't get a report that you received that  
15 report that we are coming back in. So, you don't  
16 know if it came, it didn't come. I have never  
17 gotten an issue on it, but I would hate to see that  
18 six months down the line you have got a pile of  
19 noncompliance issues for not reporting back, with  
20 whatever reason.

21 Touching on the cameras, you know, you  
22 have all heard my complaints about them there. The  
23 warranty issue I think is a big issue. How well  
24 are they going to stand behind those units? I  
25 mean, it is a new unit, and I think we have to be  
26 very careful of that. I know you don't want to get  
27 stuck with the cost, after speaking to Margo and  
28 Brad, and we don't want to get stuck with the cost  
29 of it.

30 Also, the repair cost, what it is going  
31 to cost for these guys to come, and if there are  
32 issues with it, who is going to pay for that? I  
33 think that is an issue that needs to be dealt with.

34 One of the ways to kind of deal with  
35 that, I would think, is to maybe, especially being  
36 there firsthand and understanding how limited they  
37 are in the size of their staff and who they have,  
38 and the capability of their staff to not only  
39 install those units, which none of them are  
40 installers -- I like to refer to them as "computer  
41 geeks" and some are computer-illiterate -- but they  
42 are not really capable of installing those units  
43 properly. They are not trained in that field. We  
44 just see a magnitude of problems coming down the  
45 road with those.

46 Perhaps we could encourage them, if  
47 they can't handle -- you know, I anticipate quite  
48 a significant amount of problems with these

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1 machines when we first turn them on, come June 1st.  
2 It may be important for us to encourage Saltwater,  
3 Inc., like any piece of electronics that we have  
4 on the boat, we don't have the dealer to spend a  
5 specific guy to the boat to repair that unit, no  
6 matter who manufactures it. And perhaps we should  
7 encourage them to authorize dealers in each port  
8 that specifically do business with on a regular  
9 basis, that we have confidence in, to be able to  
10 come and help repair or keep those units up and  
11 running. It would be a lot better for us, helping  
12 us in our turnaround time.

13 I mean, rather than having to make plans  
14 for the guy to take a flight, get his equipment,  
15 come to the boat -- I mean, that could take a week  
16 sometimes, you know, where you could pre-call your  
17 electronics guy, get in touch with them on the  
18 phone, make whatever arrangements they may deem  
19 possible, and meet you at the boat and get the boat  
20 back out there. I mean, I think that is something  
21 that we need to consider encouraging them to do.

22 Other than that, the other thing I would  
23 like to throw out there, I did get a contact from  
24 Jared Fuller from Saltwater, Inc., surprisingly,  
25 yesterday afternoon. I would like to thank  
26 whoever made that phone call for me.

27 (Laughter.)

28 I didn't think I would have to go to the  
29 top man to get that done, but it may have worked.

30 But I do want to let you know that  
31 between the 19th and the 26th that they will be  
32 coming to -- you know, I will give them a better  
33 date on when my schedule will be. But Brad did  
34 indicate that he would be willing to come, and Tom,  
35 perhaps to look at, you know, to oversee the  
36 reinstallation of the system on the boat.

37 And I would be more than willing to turn  
38 my system on to try to shake out some of the bugs,  
39 like we tried to do back in October. To be quite  
40 honest with you, I am pretty insulted in the fact  
41 that, after putting my neck on the line in front  
42 of all my fellow fishermen, which gave me quite a  
43 bit of grief, I might tell you, for putting it and  
44 participating in the program, and to basically just  
45 leave me out there hanging and not follow up and  
46 making sure that those units were up and running,  
47 I think it is not that hard a deal to do, if you  
48 would just put your mind to getting them working

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1 on the particular boats you put them on.

2 I mean, you know, it is a piece of  
3 electronics, and it is a new piece of electronics.  
4 It is not that difficult to get working, if you just  
5 put your mind on mixing the ones that you've got  
6 going.

7 So, I would still offer my services to  
8 use for that. I want that on the public record,  
9 that I will do that. You know, the industry is more  
10 than willing to cooperate in this process.

11 And that is about all I have to say  
12 there. So, if you want me to continue to do that,  
13 you just touch base with me and I will be more than  
14 willing to step up and continue to try to develop  
15 that system as smoothly as possible.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Thanks, Marty.  
18 I do appreciate that. I appreciate your  
19 willingness to be the first. I know that there  
20 were some initial issues, and I will definitely  
21 follow up with Saltwater on fixing them. I think  
22 there were some issues, having been the first, that  
23 I think we aren't seeing in others. But, no, I do  
24 appreciate your continued willingness, and we will  
25 get to the bottom of it.

26 MEMBER SCANLON: Thank you, Margo.

27 FACILITATOR LEA: Thanks, Marty.

28 All right. Ernie, and then, Martin  
29 will close this out.

30 MEMBER FOSTER: Yes, I would just like  
31 to add my voice to the chorus really. The idea of  
32 going to logbooks and using the electronic logbook  
33 system, what Rick said and what Scott said is very,  
34 very important.

35 I would hope that National Marine  
36 Fisheries gets their internal communications in  
37 line, so that we do not have the redundancy that  
38 he is talking about, as you move up or down the  
39 coast.

40 I also ran into his problem. I just  
41 renewed three general permits, and it is not real  
42 clear, he is exactly right, as to the website. Now  
43 you can find it, but it is probably not my highest  
44 priority to read, you know, 10 minutes.

45 And then, what Andrew said about the  
46 need to keep it as simple as possible, if I am going  
47 to be an advocate on my waterfront for doing these  
48 things and trying to encourage the other captains

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1 to be part of it, it genuinely does need to work,  
2 first of all, and be relatively simple, if  
3 possible. So, I just strongly encourage to do that  
4 in-house before it is imposed upon us.

5 Thank you.

6 FACILITATOR LEA: Martin, and, of  
7 course, I said you were going to be last, and then,  
8 I think a couple of other cards popped up.  
9 Valerie, do you have a card up? And then, Scott  
10 popped up again. He promises me he is going to be  
11 brief, though.

12 So, Martin, go ahead.

13 MEMBER FISHER: That means I can take  
14 at least a half an hour.

15 (Laughter.)

16 So many of the things that have been  
17 said I wanted to say. That's great.

18 One thing I think we are missing is,  
19 where and who does the beta testing for all these  
20 electronic devices? NOAA has a fleet of  
21 enforcement vessels, has a fleet of research  
22 vessels. All of these machines should beta-tested  
23 on your boats. You are the people that are  
24 certifying the manufacturers. You should have  
25 firsthand knowledge whether those devices are  
26 working or not.

27 Marty would never have had to gone  
28 through this if those camera systems were put on  
29 your boats and you got to see where the bugs were  
30 first. All that could be sorted out, worked out,  
31 before they ever get to the fishermen. It  
32 shouldn't be the onus of the fishermen to be the  
33 testers of these things. We should have working  
34 systems that actually improve our time at sea, give  
35 you the data that you need, without being a  
36 hindrance and a burden to us.

37 I can tell you the VMS program in the  
38 Gulf of Mexico is fraught with problems. Tron &  
39 Tron service there is awful, absolutely terrible.  
40 Boat Tracks is an antiquated Lojack for truckers.  
41 It has no business being on a boat. The array, the  
42 radar array or the locator is constantly turning,  
43 so that motor is always at work on that particular  
44 unit.

45 There are newer units out, but my point  
46 is that the beta testing should be on your boats.  
47 You guys are certifying them. So, that would be  
48 my suggestion.

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1 Thank you.

2 FACILITATOR LEA: Thanks, Martin.

3 Valerie?

4 MEMBER V. MILLER: Thanks. And thanks  
5 to many of the comments already, Rick and Scott.  
6 It was nice to hear your comments. I agree that  
7 the more comprehensive the system, the better.

8 On behalf of EDF, we were really  
9 encouraged to see this plan come out and the details  
10 that it provides to the technology; and, also,  
11 encouraged that there were funding sources already  
12 identified for many of the projects.

13 I did have a question regarding  
14 evaluation of the projects, not just in terms of  
15 cameras, like Martin and others have described.  
16 But, if there is going to be a process to determine  
17 if these pilot projects and other types of EM  
18 technologies are achieving their goals, and how  
19 that is going to be identified?

20 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Well, I think it  
21 is going to vary by the program themselves. Some  
22 of them are new. So, we will be evaluating as we  
23 go. Some of them are longstanding. VMS  
24 requirements have been in place for years, decades.

25 You know, there was a recent national  
26 rulemaking getting at some of the vendor  
27 performance issues. That is not final and that is  
28 being implemented. So, things I think happen  
29 differently in different ways. I don't have a  
30 prescriptive stepwise that is general at this  
31 point. But, you know, we trust you all to let us  
32 know when things aren't working. You have in  
33 spades already done that. So, I expect that to  
34 continue, and we will take it, fix it from there.

35 FACILITATOR LEA: Thanks, Valerie.

36 And finally, Scott, the last word from  
37 the AP panel for the March meeting -- briefly.

38 MEMBER TAYLOR: So, in listening to  
39 Marty, actually, something occurred to me, that  
40 from a practical standpoint I think you really need  
41 to get out in front of, which is that the practical  
42 application of these cameras on the entire fleet,  
43 even though the majority of them are installed, I  
44 would tend to think that our vessels are probably  
45 the exception rather than the rule, in that most  
46 of these guys are not operating the cameras until  
47 June the 1st.

48 What is going to happen is everybody is

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1 going to go online June 1 and there is not going  
2 to be a few problems. I am just telling you that  
3 the problems range from interference with ADF, you  
4 know, the Automatic Direction Finders -- that is  
5 how they find the buoys -- electronic noise, you  
6 know, even things that don't necessarily have to  
7 do with the camera that will inhibit the ability  
8 of these boats to operate. We have already seen  
9 that on a couple of different vessels in the way  
10 that the stuff was installed.

11 And there is going to be no way  
12 practical Saltwater, Inc., with the staff that they  
13 have, with the range of where these boats are  
14 installed, are going to be able to troubleshoot and  
15 to deal with these installation problems in the  
16 short-term. Now you all demonstrated ability, a  
17 flexibility with the other electronic components.  
18 But it probably would be extremely helpful to get  
19 out in front, whether or not that it is local IT  
20 people, or whatever it is going to be, for there  
21 to be some sort of a way to deal with this trouble,  
22 the issues.

23 The question in all this statement is,  
24 what is your position going to be in regards to that  
25 for vessels that are not necessarily out fishing  
26 with a problem, because that is self-explanatory,  
27 but if they are at the dock with a camera problem,  
28 are we going to be precluded from leaving?

29 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: So, yes, we are  
30 doing a lot of installs because there are a lot of  
31 installs to do. The requirement goes into effect  
32 June 1st. So, there is necessarily a lag between  
33 some vessels' installations and when they have to  
34 turn it on and start recording and submitting data.

35 What we have been advising people and  
36 what we have been advising Saltwater to advise  
37 people is it is in your own best interest, your own  
38 significant best interest, to turn it on before  
39 June 1st and make sure it works.

40 I mean, we know it is new. I think we  
41 are ready to be flexible within reason when there  
42 are legitimate issues that come up. Yes, I know  
43 June 1st is going to be an interesting day, but I  
44 am not going to try to pre-guess what we are going  
45 to do. We are going to look at the circumstances.

46 When people on January 1st were trying  
47 to report and they didn't have their VMS updates,  
48 you know, they called us and we knew. I'm like,

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1 "Okay, we know you got it." Or somebody got it on  
2 January 2nd, and they are working on it. We know  
3 that. We are reasonable people.

4 But the requirement does go in June 1st.  
5 And so, there is an expectation that people will  
6 be doing what they need to do to be ready, and we  
7 are trying to do the same.

8 So, I am sure we will be in touch.  
9 Please communicate with us. And as you go back and  
10 talk to your people, communication will be very  
11 important and it needs to be both ways.

12 I have gathered a list of things that  
13 we will be trying to communicate back out to the  
14 fleet on a variety of issues, and I think this will  
15 be one. And then, please stay in touch with us.  
16 That will us know where the issues are and work on  
17 fixing them. So, it really does need to be both  
18 ways.

19 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you, Scott.

20 MR. McHALE: Hey, Margo, can I have  
21 June 1st off?

22 (Laughter.)

23 FACILITATOR LEA: Brad will be on  
24 vacation that week.

25 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: No.

26 (Laughter.)

27 FACILITATOR LEA: All right. I just  
28 want to double-check one last time that there is  
29 no one here for public comment. Anyone here for  
30 public comment?

31 (No response.)

32 No?

33 All right. Are we ready for the  
34 wrap-up.

35 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Yes, hopefully,  
36 we are ready for the wrap-up.

37 All right. So, it is live fire; we just  
38 finished this. So, I think while we are loading  
39 it up, I see people starting to trickle out.

40 Thinking about next meeting, you know,  
41 we try to squeeze in between Council meetings. So  
42 do a lot of other groups that need meetings. And  
43 so, sometimes some degree of overlap is  
44 unavoidable.

45 Looking at September, the week of  
46 September 7th, which is also the week of Labor Day,  
47 has no Council meeting, as well as the week of  
48 September 21st. So, those are likely the weeks

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1 that we will be looking at for a panel meeting.  
2 Hotel availability can sometimes drive when and  
3 where we meet. So, if you could let me know if  
4 there's huge conflicts with either of those weeks,  
5 that would be great. We can do our best and go from  
6 there.

7 I would also be interested -- this is,  
8 I think, the second time that we are in Bethesda.  
9 I think Silver Spring is a little bit closer to home  
10 for us. This will be easier for agency folks to  
11 pop up and say hello and check in, but Bethesda is  
12 not that far, a slightly different mix of  
13 restaurants. So, if you have got feedback on  
14 Bethesda versus Silver Spring -- and we have also  
15 attended meetings in other parts of the greater  
16 D.C. area.

17 The Atlantic States Commission meeting  
18 tends to meet down in Alexandria. They have got  
19 some nice spots down there. So, interested in  
20 feedback on that. So, let me know.

21 All right. So, I will be giving my  
22 typical caveat. I haven't seen this. I will be  
23 seeing it for the first time with you all.

24 It is intended to be kind of a  
25 big-picture takeaway. Not every point is intended  
26 to be here. If you see something that  
27 misrepresents what you have said, if you feel like  
28 a critical issue was missed, those are the kinds  
29 of things we are looking for. But the  
30 blow-by-blow, every detail, we have the  
31 transcripts for that. So, try to send high-level.

32 I know people try to use this to report  
33 out back to their groups back home. So, I think  
34 it has been helpful for you all as well as for us.  
35 And then, we try, also, to highlight upcoming  
36 dates, you know, comment period closures, things  
37 of that sort, so that you all kind of know what is  
38 coming from us.

39 We do like to try to turn around travel  
40 vouchers pretty quickly. It is good for you; you  
41 get your money. It is good for us; we know how much  
42 money we have left. So, if you can get your  
43 receipts in within a couple of days, that really  
44 helps us help you.

45 I don't know. What else?

46 Maybe PI will take a moment now to thank  
47 the HMS staff. There's a lot of work that goes into  
48 these meetings specifically as well as the

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1 preparation and all of the work throughout the  
2 year. I could not do it without them.

3 Maybe I will call out Katie at this  
4 moment, who has been taking notes as we go through  
5 the meeting.

6 And I see we have been taking more  
7 pictures, which is not my favorite activity. All  
8 right. So, see yourself. All right.

9 Let's see, all right, comments from the  
10 overview:

11 Support for actions to reduce IUU  
12 fishing.

13 Recommendation to work with Fish and  
14 Wildlife Service on this CITES requirements and  
15 paperwork.

16 And then, interested in expediting data  
17 collection for the new CITES requirements.

18 On the recreational fishing policy, the  
19 policy has become more detailed and transparent,  
20 which is good. But several AP members would like  
21 to see inclusion of education and outreach as well.

22 More engagement of the fishing  
23 community with smartphone apps.

24 Data collection surveys must be  
25 thorough, as with commercial fisheries.

26 Atlantic bluefin tuna -- we really have  
27 taken a lot of pictures.

28 IBQ program, value of leased bluefin,  
29 availability of allocation concerns, issues about  
30 conversion, expectations of what it would be versus  
31 maybe what it is, conversions addressed to whole  
32 weight.

33 Continuing need to educate fishery  
34 participants about A7 comments coming in just now,  
35 particularly comments about the website as well.

36 Process of redistribution of the  
37 reserve quota, when and where would such a  
38 distribution happen? Will it be useful?

39 Regulatory flexibility, again, hitting  
40 on this just a few minutes ago, '15 and '16.

41 And then, continuing questions about  
42 specifics, performance metrics, how does it all  
43 work and hang together?

44 For electronic monitoring, questions  
45 about non-eligible vessels specific to EM  
46 installation, funding. How would all that work?  
47 When we know? These are things that I will be  
48 talking about with my folks in a little bit.

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1                   Questions about logistical details,  
2 swapping hard drives, mailing things back and  
3 forth. And then, continuing communication.  
4 Certainly, we will plan on doing a lot more of that.

5                   And then, a lot of concerns, I think,  
6 questions about functionality. Moving straight  
7 to implementation to pilot was some of the recent  
8 comment.

9                   And cost/benefits, long-term funding,  
10 and then, folks are interested in actually seeing  
11 some of this footage. So, we will work on some of  
12 those questions.

13                   For VMS, we kind of came full circle.  
14 We talked about bluefin on Tuesday and EM here. We  
15 have a lot of parallels.

16                   Ongoing technical issues with VMS. I  
17 am very hopeful the National Final Rule will get  
18 at some of this. This is exactly what it was trying  
19 to do. I think there will be some changes. So,  
20 I think these fixes are on the horizon.

21                   And then, the strong interest for  
22 confirmation of reports. I think that is a very  
23 valid point. How do you know we have gotten the  
24 information, a follow-up on that.

25                   Values in data? I am not exactly sure  
26 what that one means.

27                   Moving on, purse seine measures.  
28 Concern about the two inactive participants  
29 getting quota. What is the long-term vision? And  
30 then, start date? We will be putting out a notice  
31 on that in a couple of months.

32                   And then, reiterated concerns about  
33 future viability of the longline fishery, given the  
34 new regulations. Request to see more collated  
35 information on the value of the pelagic longline  
36 fishery in the SAFE report.

37                   Continuing concerns about access to  
38 closed areas, and the three-year review of  
39 Amendment 7.

40                   Looking at swordfish, a few specific  
41 concerns about the quota, but questions/comments  
42 about the international transfers, again, trying  
43 to clarify that those are for South Atlantic  
44 swordfish.

45                   Many comments on reduction in landings  
46 and effort driven potentially  
47 by overly-burdensome regulations.

48                   Are imports driving down prices?

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1                   Requests to allow access to closed  
2 area, potentially dynamic access.

3                   Move towards results-based management.  
4                   Provide goals to industry and  
5 flexibility to meet those goals.

6                   Draft essential HMS EFH five-year  
7 review.

8                   A lot on non-fishing impacts.  
9 Certainly, we will go look in the other FMP  
10 amendments for some of those non-fishing impacts,  
11 see what we can pull as related specifically to HMS.  
12 I think maybe that is part of the disconnect there,  
13 where we were searching for HMS impacts, and I think  
14 we will look a little bit more broadly and see what  
15 we can find that would be relevant, and then,  
16 include that in the final document.

17                   From public comments, the member of the  
18 public from Pew Charitable Trust talking a lot  
19 about eBCD, Electronic Bluefin Catch Document  
20 system, needing to get that in place. Very  
21 interested in the domestic process on that and  
22 getting it online internationally.

23                   For Magnuson Act review, a lot of  
24 concern about underlying science and the need for  
25 more stock assessments, particularly for sharks.

26                   Questions about how the guidelines  
27 apply to HMS, indicator stocks.

28                   Concern about changes between the  
29 international and domestic stats, termination  
30 criteria.

31                   Ecosystem-based management, and then,  
32 timelines and prioritization.

33                   Concerns about mixed-stock issues,  
34 bycatch, and uncertainty.

35                   So, I would encourage you all, as both  
36 AP members as well as the public to weigh-in on  
37 this. Obviously, this is a national rulemaking,  
38 but, I mean, hearing the voice, the specific HMS  
39 voice other than from me can be very helpful..

40                   When Sam came, important to rebuild  
41 trust with the recreational community.

42                   Interested in the change to review the  
43 policy and the implementation plan.

44                   Interest in pursuing management with  
45 Cuba.

46                   Raising the concerns about electronic  
47 monitoring.

48                   Interest in improving recreational

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1 representation on Councils and guidance on things  
2 that you all may be able to do on that front.

3 The need for funding to resolve  
4 disconnects between observations and stock  
5 assessments, what the fishermen see on the water.  
6 And then, needing more monitoring and observer  
7 coverage.

8 I guess we couldn't get a picture of  
9 Enric or Dean. So, we have a picture of a phone.  
10 (Laughter.)

11 For smooth-hounds, concerned about the  
12 fate of Gulf smooth-hounds caught incidentally,  
13 and dead discards should be landed and utilized  
14 instead of discarded.

15 Interested in knowing what the average  
16 size of the dogfish is, so that we can get a handle  
17 of what the TAC may be. So, we will work on that.

18 And then, interest in the total catch  
19 between the Gulf and Atlantic and how these  
20 estimates relate to future quotas.

21 And then, on Amendment 9 specifically,  
22 encourage expediting the Final Rule. Interest in  
23 what observer coverage and bycatch coverage we  
24 have.

25 Obviously, the savings caused and  
26 cost/benefits of processing smooth dogfish at sea.

27 Concerns about having a zero-tolerance  
28 policy.

29 The quota should be based on the stock  
30 assessment. We heard that a lot in the public  
31 comment as well.

32 And then, some questions and concerns  
33 about enforceability of some of the biological  
34 opinion measures on net checks and set time.

35 Turning to dusky sharks, I think the  
36 encouraging news in the survey abundance trends,  
37 but some disappointment on the lack of progress on  
38 the rule itself.

39 Interest in working with other  
40 countries on the international cooperation.

41 And then, support for assessing duskies  
42 in 2016, but concerns about the process. I will  
43 have to look into the process for an update on what  
44 may be options there. An update may not use all  
45 of the new data. We will certainly work within the  
46 SEDAR process on what we can do on those fronts.

47 And the need to turn to sandbar, to get  
48 an assessment for sandbar sooner than later.

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1           And then, interest I think in moving  
2 forward with some of the recreational measures,  
3 simplifying regulations, doing education and  
4 outreach, but not prohibit a species unless you  
5 have got a good reason.

6           On Amendment 6, interest in a trip limit  
7 for blacknose in both regions or prohibit retention  
8 in the Gulf to prevent early closure of the  
9 non-blacknose small coastals.

10           Discussion of the dates of opening the  
11 Atlantic large coastal group, January versus  
12 March, and that the seasonal opening dates have  
13 impacted fishing effort and participation. Some  
14 of those historical participants didn't have all  
15 the same opportunities.

16           Increased retention would only help  
17 state water fishermen in North Carolina. I think  
18 was the hook limit on the short lines.

19           Interest in dividing the Gulf  
20 subregionally slightly different than what we had  
21 proposed.

22           And then, interest in looking at the  
23 upgrading restrictions in other HMS fisheries and  
24 support for eliminating it in shark fisheries.

25           And then, support for increasing the  
26 Atlantic small coastal non-blacknose quota.

27           And shark numbers are increasing and  
28 affecting other non-HMS fisheries.

29           Looking at eDealer quota monitoring,  
30 appreciative of staff's efforts towards getting  
31 dealers in compliance. Time to marry  
32 point-of-sale with the logbook, federal reporting,  
33 and state reporting. Address the two-year time  
34 lag. And then, some concern that some states will  
35 have paper reports.

36           I think folks had interest, too, in the  
37 ACCSP's vessel swipe card. That is being piloted  
38 in two states.

39           And request for verification of the VMS  
40 reports came up here as well.

41           And then, a similar ITP CITES link on  
42 sharks.

43           Well, the Office of Sustainable  
44 Fisheries' Strategic Plan, improve the science  
45 processes. Need real-time data, more data for  
46 analysts, more analysts. Streamline data.  
47 Grants and contracts should be longer-term to help  
48 the next generation of scientists.

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1 Protect fishermen and industry.  
2 Educate them about regulations, even if that means  
3 new technologies.

4 Need opportunities for new entrants.

5 Monitor the success of fisheries, not  
6 just the species, getting at that community aspect.  
7 Working waterfronts.

8 Interest in streamlining the  
9 regulatory process, so that management can be a  
10 little more nimble in addressing issues.

11 Potential goal is a bigger share of  
12 domestic consumption. It should be from domestic  
13 production. That is getting at the imports  
14 issues.

15 May need a higher goal for recreational  
16 fishery participation.

17 Voiced from the manufacturing side, how  
18 dramatic regulatory changes can affect the  
19 manufacturer inventory.

20 Look at the old strategic plans and see  
21 where they worked.

22 It sounds like more interest in how the  
23 budget process works as well. We can work on that.

24 And then, I think a great comment about  
25 starting the end. You know, start with the end and  
26 plan for that.

27 Comments about how to help NGOs help the  
28 United States in international arenas.

29 And then, comments again that we heard  
30 a few minutes ago about synching up Northeast,  
31 Southeast HMS data reporting, so that we have more  
32 consistency up and down the coast in terms of  
33 reporting.

34 Public comment yesterday. Allow for  
35 for-hire fishery. Have a larger trip limit for  
36 school-sized bluefin. It worked well last year.  
37 Look at doing that again this year. But, then,  
38 also, request to evaluate that retention limit for  
39 different fisheries in different regions.

40 Revisit the 5-percent demersal/pelagic  
41 rule. Jeff, I hope we connected with you on that.

42 Preference for Alternative 6,  
43 alternatives that will allow year-round fisheries  
44 and reduce the effect of one region's behavior  
45 patterns on another.

46 Interest in a tagging program for  
47 sandbar. I think we heard that for recreational  
48 swordfish as well this morning, as a way of

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1 providing access, but still having enforcement and  
2 tracking.

3 Comment: the research fisheries not  
4 representative of all shark fisheries.

5 And then, a request to revisit the  
6 regulations on bait, given overlap with the dolphin  
7 wahoo fishery and kind of how that fishery operates  
8 versus the HMS fisheries.

9 HMS research, priorities, and funding.  
10 So, fresh from this morning.

11 Suggested establishment of a separate  
12 research program that funds HMS research. The  
13 current funding opportunities are appreciated, but  
14 they are not enough and are fragmented.

15 Research funding is bluefin-centric.  
16 We should look at other HMS.

17 And the concern that current  
18 cooperative research programs may not meet their  
19 potential in fostering relationships, are not as  
20 cooperative as they could be.

21 And then, discussion of the aerial  
22 surveys for research and some of the different  
23 views on potential for that in estimating effort  
24 or stock recruitment.

25 And then, for electronic technologies,  
26 the opportunity to develop an app or program that  
27 eliminates some of the reporting redundancy and  
28 paperwork, having a more comprehensive system,  
29 sharing data, but test them before you implement  
30 them in the field. And we should use NOAA vessels  
31 to beta-test some of the systems.

32 Support for video monitoring replacing  
33 observers, but, also, the need for education and  
34 outreach and reinforcement of some of the  
35 recreational reporting requirements.

36 The website comments.

37 Be cautious on cost and burden.

38 And then, some of the comments about  
39 June 1st, what happens on June 1st when Brad is not  
40 on leave.

41 (Laughter.)

42 All right. So, I think those are  
43 high-level takeaways.

44 I thank you for -- oh, we have one  
45 comment.

46 So, let me just run through reminders.  
47 Nametags, table tents, we will re-use them. so,  
48 please return them.

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1           The evaluation forms, we also really  
2 look at these. Your input is valued.

3           And please get your forms back to us,  
4 receipts by the 18th. We appreciate that.

5           And then, again, I didn't quite finish  
6 my thanks for the HMS staff. But it really is a  
7 lot. I hope you recognize that. I certainly do,  
8 and I am very appreciative of all that they do. So,  
9 please join me. Thank you, HMSers.

10           (Applause.)

11           All right. So, I see a couple of  
12 comment cards.

13           FACILITATOR LEA: Yes, I saw Terri and,  
14 then, Bob.

15           MEMBER BEIDEMAN: I don't really have  
16 a comment to your slideshow. But I did want to  
17 state that I would appreciate it if you could, on  
18 the behalf of fishermen, active fishermen who  
19 attend this panel, that you might give  
20 consideration to the timing of the September  
21 meeting.

22           The last quarter in September 2015, the  
23 moon phase, is probably the best week, as much as  
24 I would like a long weekend, too, because the new  
25 moon is on the 13th, and then, the first quarter  
26 is on the 21st. That is when fishermen are more  
27 likely going to be heading out to go fishing. So,  
28 I would request on their behalf that you time the  
29 meeting for the earlier September date for that  
30 reason.

31           Thank you.

32           FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you, Terri.  
33 Bob?

34           MEMBER HUETER: Just asking, Margo,  
35 could you please have the final version of the  
36 wrap-up posted on the website, along with the  
37 updated version of the HMS research presentation.  
38 That was cut off after bluefin, and the rest of it  
39 needs to be added in.

40           So, thank you.

41           MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Yes. And on that  
42 point specifically, there was a slide that, when  
43 we put them all together, we dropped on cooperative  
44 research that included some information on some of  
45 the HMS-specific projects that that program has  
46 funded. So, we will do that. We will make sure  
47 that that is included. So, you might want to go  
48 back and, if you are interested in that, look at

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1 that again, because it will have an extra slide than  
2 what we saw.

3 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you, Bob.  
4 And finally, Stephen.

5 MEMBER IWICKI: First, it was a great  
6 conference again, Margo. So, I appreciate it.  
7 And I know you kind of had a reference  
8 to it under the leadership slide in the wrap-up,  
9 but for the rec policy you had three or four people  
10 ask that the implementation plan be staffed either  
11 publicly or at least with the panel before it goes  
12 final. So, I think it is more appropriate to put  
13 that up there on the rec policy one, because there  
14 were at least three or four people that asked for  
15 that.

16 Thanks.

17 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Yes, I tried to  
18 say that, but we will get that on the slide, too.

19 FACILITATOR LEA: Thanks, Stephen.  
20 George?

21 MEMBER PURMONT: Yes, as a first-time  
22 participant, I would like to say thank you very  
23 much. It has been enlightening. It has been a  
24 pleasure. It has been an honor.  
25 Thank you.

26 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Thank you,  
27 George.

28 FACILITATOR LEA: Any other questions  
29 or comments?  
30 (No response.)  
31 Well, thank you to George.  
32 Oh, Pat, I'm sorry.

33 MEMBER AUGUSTINE: Congratulations,  
34 Suzanne. You did a great job. Very appreciated.

35 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you very much.  
36 I appreciate it.  
37 And I am glad, George, that you had a  
38 good first time, and welcome to all the other  
39 first-time members.  
40 With that, we will adjourn. Safe  
41 travels, and we will see you in September.

42 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Thank you,  
43 everybody.  
44 (Whereupon, at 11:38 a.m., the meeting  
45 was adjourned.)

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