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HMS Research Priorities & Federal Funding Opportunities Overview



HMS Advisory Panel Meeting
March 2015

HMS Management-Based Research Needs and Priorities

On November 20, 2014, NMFS published the Final HMS Management-Based Research Needs and Priorities document (79 FR 69097)

- Communicates key research needs that directly support Atlantic HMS management
- Contains a list of near- and long-term research needs and priorities
- Priorities range from biological/ecological needs to socio-economic needs
- Complements the HMS Research Plan currently in draft
- Between the draft and the final, a number of additions and small changes to research priorities were made based on AP and public input

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/documents/final_hms_research_plan_2014.pdf



Updates

- The HMS Research Working Group continues to meet
 - Identified funding sources for VIMS bottom longline survey
 - Inventoried cross-Agency HMS research funding (e.g. Science Centers, S&T, Sustainable fisheries)
 - Currently using cross-Agency funding inventory to identify HMS research gaps by species and priority
 - Continued high-level discussions with Agency leadership to incorporate HMS research needs to existing funding prioritization



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Federal Funding Opportunities Overview

Federal Funding Opportunities Overview

- Competitive grant funding opportunities are available for research, including research on HMS and HMS fisheries
 - Bluefin Tuna Research Program (BTRP)
 - Cooperative Research Program (CRP)
 - Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program (BREP)
 - Saltonstall-Kennedy (SK)



Bluefin Tuna Research Program

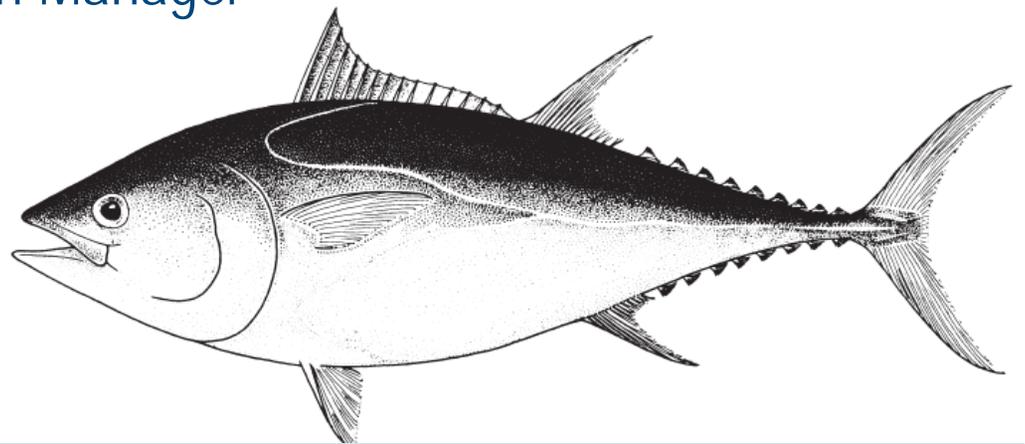
- Purpose is to provide information to aid fishery researchers, scientists, and managers to make informed management decisions about bluefin tuna
- Seeks to increase and improve the working relationship between fisheries researchers from NMFS, state fishery agencies, universities, other research institutions, and U.S. fishery interests (recreational and commercial) focusing on northern bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean

Bluefin Tuna Research Program

- Priority needs, in no particular order, are for information that can be utilized in future assessments:
 1. Sampling of tissues and otoliths for studies of population genetics, age growth and fecundity, and micro-constituent or other analysis in order to characterize the stock composition of catches
 2. Large-scale, conventional and genetic tagging experiments to estimate abundance
 3. Data mining to sharpen estimates of catch, catch composition, fishing effort, and spatial aspects of catch
 4. Modeling to simulate the effects of stock mixing and efficacy of alternative management regimes
 5. Archival tagging to track individual movement in the eastern and western stocks
 6. Aerial survey of schools or other approaches to support development of fishery-independent indices of abundance

Bluefin Tuna Research Program

- National competition
- \$600,000 available each year
- NOAA partner required
- 1-year awards ranging from \$25,000-\$300,000
- Anticipate awarding approximately 5 projects/year
 - In 2015, approximately 10 applications
- Contact: Dax Ruiz, Competition Manager
 - (727) 824 – 5324
 - dax.ruiz@noaa.gov



Bluefin Tuna Research Program

- 2013 & 2014 awards include:
 - *Incorporation of Stock Mixing in the Assessment and Forward Projection of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Populations* - Gulf of Maine Research Institute; Dr. Lisa Kerr
 - *Fisheries Independent Surveys of Juvenile Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* - UMass Amherst; Dr. Molly Lutcavage
 - *Biological Sampling to Determine Age, Growth and Sex of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna in the NW Atlantic*- U of Maine; Walter Golet, Ph.D.
 - *Age-Structured Simulation Model of Stock Mixing for U.S. Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Populations: Historical Stock Composition, Changing Demographic States, and Influence on Management Advice* – U of Maryland; Dr. David Secor & Dr. Lisa Kerr
 - *Integrating Spatially Explicit Information from Tagging to Improve Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessments* - UMass Amherst; Dr. Molly Lutcavage
 - *Implementation of Spatio-Temporal Analysis Tools to Reduce Catch of Bluefin Tuna in the US Atlantic Longline Fishery* – Duke; Dr. Patrick Halpin
 - *Accounting for the Influence of Feeding Success on the Growth and Survival of Bluefin Tuna Larvae in Stock Assessment Efforts* - U of Miami; Dr. Barbara Muhling