

Science, Service, Stewardship



HMS AP Summary

May 11-13, 2010
Silver Spring, MD

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Caveats

- This is only a summary
- It does not cover every point made by every AP member
- Working group slides are condensed from Report Out and note some major points, not all
- If we missed something you feel is significant, please let us know
- A more in-depth written summary will be coming



HMS To Do List

- Follow up conference call with AP on BFT Angling Category 2010 options and simplify web-reporting for BFT
- Investigate permit stacking for shark fishery
- Schedule dedicated time for recreational issues - at next AP meeting?
- Distribute information on decontamination ports in the Gulf of Mexico and monitor effects of oil and dispersants on HMS
- Focus on comments and Agency response from final rules at AP meetings (esp. AP comments) to increase understanding of rationale and increase responsiveness
- Send Working Group summaries to AP
- Add NC data to LPS figures and distribute



BFT Working Group

- Recent overharvest of Angling cat. quota
 - Inseason management in short term (seasons, retention limits, slot limits, differential considerations for CHB & Priv based on goals)
 - Continue discussion on specific inseason options w/ AP via conference call
 - Longer term - consider adjustments to reporting to provide for inseason landings estimates (i.e. tail tag options, web reporting, etc.) and dedicated quota for CHB; schedule mtg on recreational issues
- Other Angling cat. issues could be addressed with outreach and enforcement include illegal sale of Angling cat. fish, illegal chartering, and catch & release mortality



BFT Working Group

- Recent quota overharvest and excessive BFT bycatch in Longline category
 - Move forward on weak hook research (voluntary/mandated in Gulf; research in Atlantic; include other species)
 - Increase observer coverage and focus in necessary areas
 - Consider longer term options including Gulf of Mexico bycatch caps & closed area modification
 - Meet with industry on discard estimation methodology
- Consider transfer of purse seine quota to reserve and future management when vessels leave fishery
- Continue to consider General category & Harpoon category actions to fully utilize quota and/or constrain fishery within quota as necessary (i.e., reg amendment issues and inseason actions)



Shark Working Group

- Discussion of general and targeted goals
 - Consider economics; maintain precautionary approach; improve science, data, observers, & international success; species-specific mgmt; close pupping seasons; participate more in EFH discussions
- Overall Fishery Direction
 - Move towards species-specific mgmt
 - Investigate permit stacking
 - Consider regions and changing Gulf LCS complex
 - Consider managing similar to grouper fishery
 - Mixed discussion on catch shares



Shark Working Group, cont.

- Data needs/Information sharing
 - Improve trust in and transparencies of science/stock assessment
 - Find funds for and use more science (e.g., field, non-NMFS, cooperative)
 - Improve international (e.g., bi/tri-laterals) and domestic (e.g., with states) cooperation
 - Improve data and conduct more stock assessments
- Outreach
 - Encourage participation in tagging programs, provide list of research needs to partners, research fin ratio, provide draft AP summaries, include glossary of terms



AP Comments: Swordfish Issues

- S. FL is unique area –don't increase effort or participants; consider area differently when revitalizing fishery
- South FL buoy gear gear conflicts have been resolved
- Consider tail tags
- Don't change PLL closed areas without sound science
- If implement General Category permit, (1) don't do it for S. FL and (2) use incidental quota, not directed
- Expand species that can be landed with buoy gear
- Open parts of DeSoto Canyon due to oil spill
- Modernize limited access permits & fleet, inc vessel upgrading & GRT
- Continue revitalization efforts and consider long term goal (e.g., base quota versus adjusted quota)
- Demonstrate U.S. can catch quota under ecosystem approach
- Concerns about various sea turtle issues



AP Comments: Billfish Issues

- Support for species complex mgmt. concept for WHM and RSS
- Distribute Dr. Goodyear's billfish bycatch assessment
- Need outreach on morphological characteristics between WHM and RSS
- Distribute weak hook study results to other countries to reduce take of BUM
- Release all recreationally-caught sailfish, consistent with commercial sector
- Recreational fishery is about opportunity including the ability to retain the fish even if you don't actually do so; it's tough to put this in terms of market value
- Concerned about enforcement in other countries and impact on stock



AP Comments: VMS Issues

- Need VMS operators available 24/7/365
- USCG needs to monitor VMS units for safety
- Is the equipment MEA 1803 or 2000 compliant?
- SPOT transmitters are another option
- VMS reporting on 24/7 uses battery quickly
- Will VMS be combined with video cameras instead of observers?
- Need meeting/outreach between USCG, NMFS Enf., and industry about VMS issues



Upcoming Actions

Proposed:

- 2010 SWO Specs
- Follow up on Shark Issues
- Follow up on ANPR Issues – e.g. squid trawl

Final:

- Amendment 3 – Final rule
- 2010 BFT Specs
- BFT Reg Amendment



Reminders and BOLOs

- Travel receipts due May 28, 2010
- Shark Data Workshop: June 21-25, Charleston, SC
- Upcoming workshops/public meetings/conf. calls
 - Shark Issues
 - Follow up on ANPR - e.g., squid trawl, HMS general commercial handgear permit
 - Angling Category Inseason mgmt.
 - BFT discard estimation methodology



Thank you!

- We value your comments.
- Have a safe trip home.