

Science, Service, Stewardship



Amendment 3 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan

Highly Migratory Species
Management Division
NMFS/NOAA

May 2010

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



Overview

- Need for action
- Management objectives
- Timeframe of action
- Summary of measures in the FEIS
 - Blacknose sharks
 - Shortfin mako sharks
 - Smooth dogfish (smoothhound sharks)





Need for Action

- Per the latest stock assessments:
 - Blacknose sharks:
 - Overfished
 - Overfishing occurring
 - Shortfin mako sharks:
 - Not overfished; Approaching an overfished condition
 - Overfishing Occurring
- Smooth dogfish are not currently managed at the federal level and are in need of conservation and management





Objectives

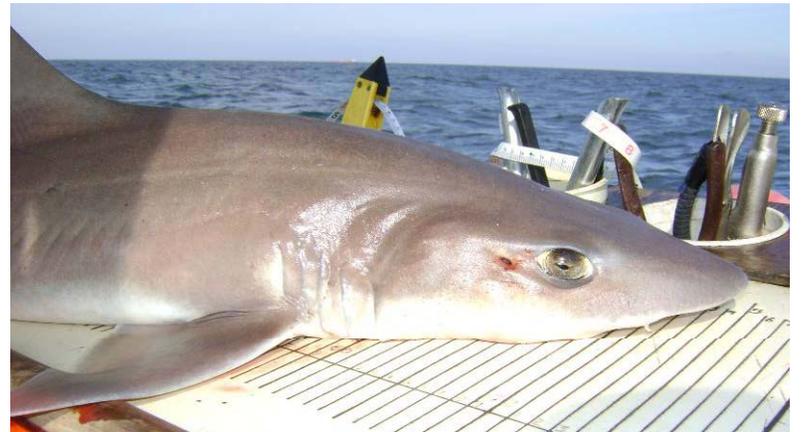
Overview of Amendment 3 Objectives:

- Rebuild and end overfishing of blacknose sharks
- End overfishing of shortfin mako sharks
- Ensure the sustainability of the smooth dogfish fishery by implementing federal conservation and management measures (defer effective date)
- Develop mechanism to specify Annual Catch Limits and apply Accountability Measures



Timeframe of action

- **Scoping:** July – November 2008
- **Predraft:** February 2009
- **Draft EIS and Proposed Rule:** 7/24/2009
- **Final EIS:** Published 3/19/2010
- **Final Rule:** Expected to publish late May/early June



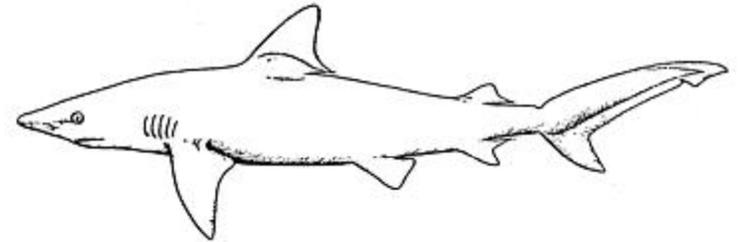


Summary of Measures By Species

- Blacknose sharks
 - Commercial quotas
 - Commercial gear restrictions
 - Recreational fishery measures
- Shortfin mako sharks
 - Commercial fishery measures
 - Recreational fishery measures
- Smoothhound (Florida smoothhound and smooth dogfish would be managed together in the smoothhound complex)
 - Federal conservation and management measures



Blacknose Sharks

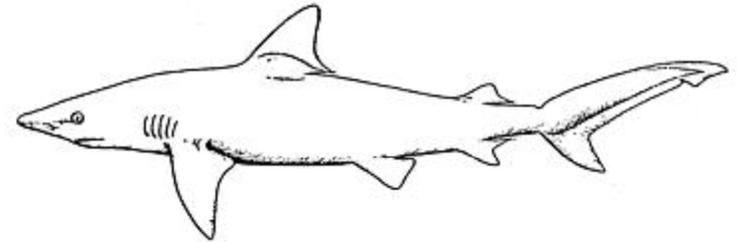


Commercial Quotas

- **DEIS: Alternative A4** – Establish a new SCS quota of 56.9 mt dw and a blacknose quota of 14.9 mt dw; remove shark gillnet gear as an authorized gear
- **FEIS: Alternative A6** – Establish a new SCS quota of 221.6 mt dw and a blacknose quota of 19.9 mt dw; **allow all currently authorized gear**
- Both blacknose and non-blacknose SCS fisheries would close when either quota reaches 80 percent
- Fishermen should avoid catching blacknose to keep non-blacknose SCS fishery open as long as possible



Blacknose Sharks

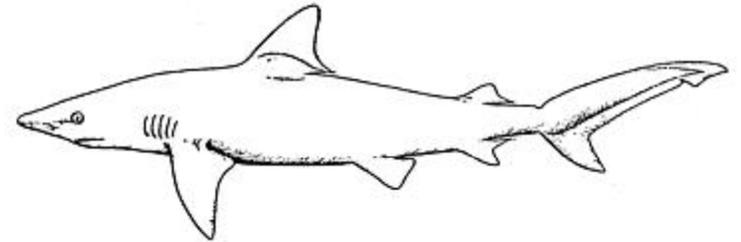


Commercial gear restrictions

- **DEIS: Alternative B3 – Close the gillnet fishery to commercial shark fishing from South Carolina south, including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea**
- **FEIS: Alternative B1 – No Action: Maintain all currently authorized gears for commercial shark fishing**



Blacknose Sharks

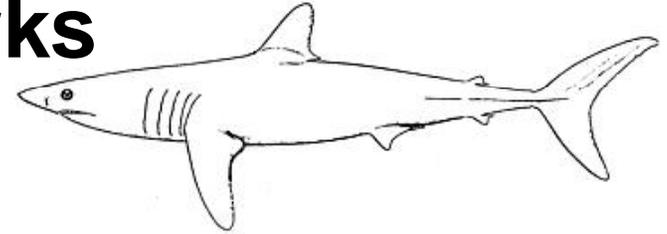


Recreational measures

- **DEIS: Alternative D4 – Prohibit retention of blacknose sharks in recreational fisheries**
- **FEIS: Alternative D1 – No Action. Maintain the current recreational retention and size limit for SCS**



Shortfin Mako Sharks



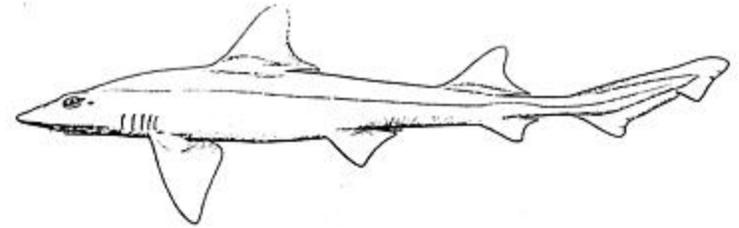
Recreational and Commercial Measures

DEIS and FEIS:

- **Alternative C5 & E3** – Take action at the international level to end overfishing of shortfin mako
- **Alternative C6 & E4** – Promote the release of shortfin mako sharks brought to fishing vessels alive



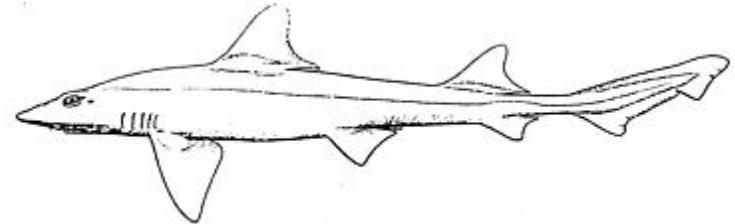
Smoothhound



- Smoothhound are not federally managed
- Incomplete catch data
- No stock assessment; unknown stock status
- Taxonomic classification issues between smooth dogfish and Florida smoothhound
- Florida smoothhound and smooth dogfish will be in the **smoothhound species complex**



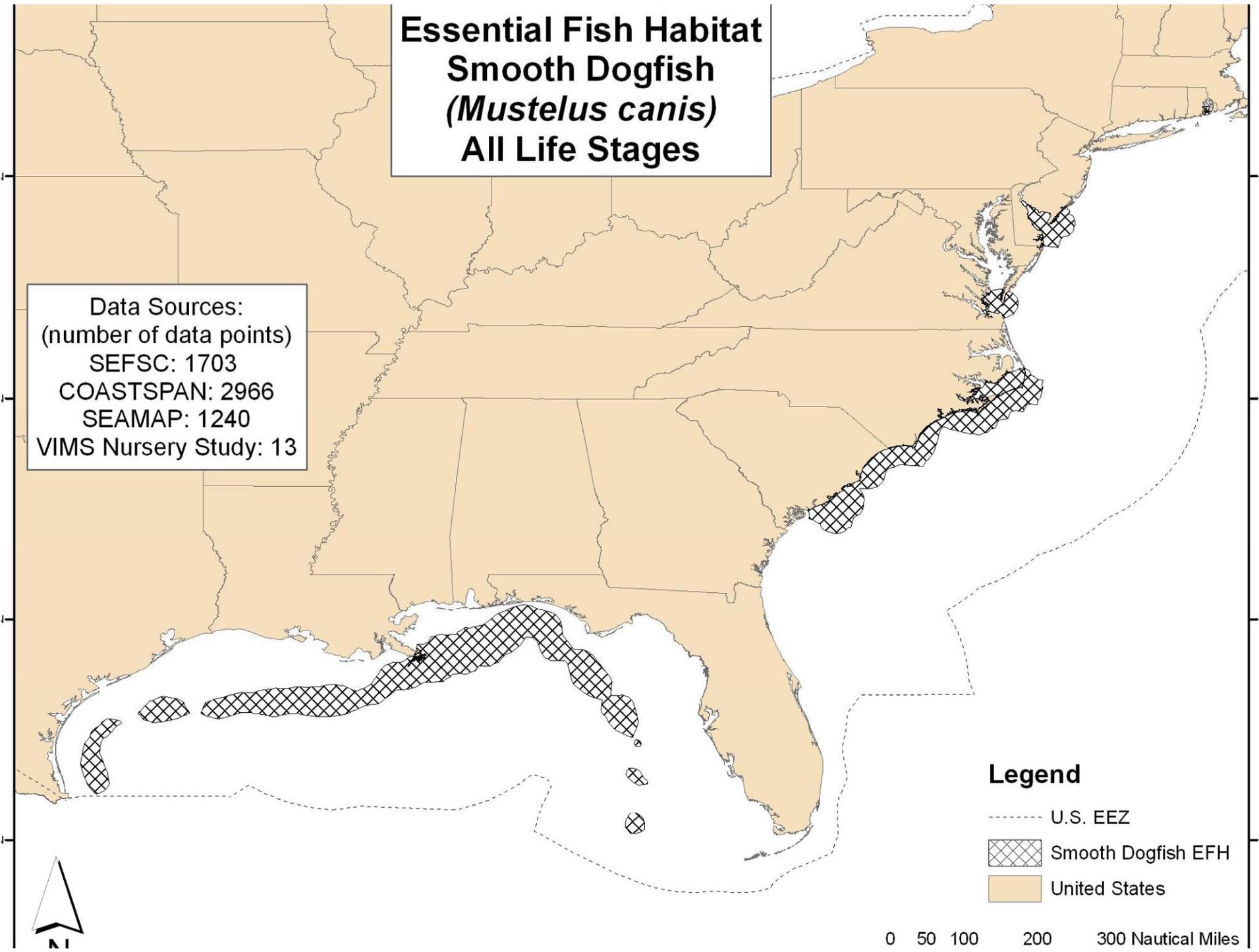
Smoothhound



- DEIS: Alternative F2 & F2a3
 - Open access commercial permit
 - Open access recreational permit
 - Commercial quota of 645.8 mt dw
 - Fins attached requirement
 - Dealer reporting
 - Observer coverage, if selected
- FEIS: Alternative F2 & F2a4
- **Delay until 2012**
 - Open access commercial permit
 - Open access recreational permit
 - Commercial quota of 715.5 mt dw
 - Fins attached requirement
 - Dealer reporting
 - Observer coverage, if selected

Essential Fish Habitat Smooth Dogfish (*Mustelus canis*) All Life Stages

Data Sources:
(number of data points)
SEFSC: 1703
COASTSPAN: 2966
SEAMAP: 1240
VIMS Nursery Study: 13



- Legend**
- U.S. EEZ
 - ▣ Smooth Dogfish EFH
 - United States

0 50 100 200 300 Nautical Miles



Additional Materials:

- Amendment 3 specific Compliance Guide
- Updated Recreational Shark Identification Placard

For copies of these and other Amendment 3 documents, please contact the HMS Management Division, or go to:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>

QUESTIONS?