

*Science, Service, Stewardship*



# Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel HMS Management Overview

September 9, 2013

**NOAA  
FISHERIES  
SERVICE**

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## Goal of Presentation

- Provide a brief update of recent actions
- Provide updates on actions recommended at previous AP meetings
- Will defer issues to be discussed later at meeting:
  - Swordfish Final Amendment 8
  - Bluefin Tuna Draft Amendment 7
  - Shark Amendments 5a, 5b, & 6
  - HMS recreational issues
  - Shark & Billfish Conservation Acts national rulemakings
  - Vessel monitoring system proposed rule
  - International trade updates
  - ESA potential listings



## Rulemaking/Operations Update

### **Since the January 2013 AP meeting:**

- Published four final rules & five proposed rules, including Draft Amendment 7 on bluefin tuna management
- Received AP input on proposed Shark Amendment 5
- Oversaw 24 workshops
- Conducted public conference call on HMS recreational issues
- Fully implemented eDealer reporting system
- Initiated the HMS For-Hire Cost and Earnings Study

### **In 2013, so far:**

- Issued 35 EFPs, SRPs, & LOAs
- Issued 5 shark research fishery permits; some changes this year
- Registered 220 HMS tournaments
- ~4,400 people receiving Atlantic HMS News



## Bluefin Tuna 2013 (to date)

### **2013 Specifications final rule published June 19 (78 FR 36685)**

- Details in Bluefin Year in Review handout

### **2013 Inseason Actions:**

- General Category retention limits (large medium/giant BFT):  
Jan 1 - Feb 15 = 2; June 1 - Aug 31 = 3; Sept 1 – Dec 31= 3
- Closures:
  - General category on February 15
  - Angling category Trophy South on April 4
  - Longline category North & South on June 25 (not including the Northeast Distant area)



## Swordfish 2013 Quotas

- **Established 2013 North & South Atlantic swordfish quotas**
  - Accounted for 2012 underharvests & transfer of 112.8 mt dw to Morocco (May 16, 2013; 78 FR 28758)
  - 2013 North Atlantic adjusted quota is 3,559.2 mt dw
  - 2013 South Atlantic adjusted quota is 75.2 mt dw
  - Underharvest limited to 25% baseline quota (2,937.6 mt)



## Shark 2014 Specifications

- **Proposed rule published August 23 (78 FR 52487)**
  - Open all shark fisheries on or about January 1, 2014
  - Adjust the Gulf of Mexico blacktip shark and non-blacknose SCS management group quotas based on underharvest in 2013
  - Adjust the regional blacknose shark management group quotas over a one to five-year timeframe based on an overharvest in 2012
  - Adjust the porbeagle quota to complete accounting for overharvests from 2011 and 2012
- **Comment period ends on September 23, 2013**

## 2014 Proposed Shark Quotas

Management Group	Region	2013 Annual Quota (A)	Preliminary 2013 Landings (B)	Adjustments (C)	2014 Base Annual Quota (D)	2014 Proposed Annual Quota (D+C)	Season Opening Dates
Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks	Gulf of Mexico	157.5 mt dw (347,317 lb dw)	147.6 mt dw (325,476 lb dw)	-	157.5 mt dw (347,317 lb dw)	157.5 mt dw (347,317 lb dw)	On or about January 1, 2014
	Atlantic	168.9 mt dw (372,552 lb dw)	88.1 mt dw (194,327 lb dw)	-	168.9 mt dw (372,552 lb dw)	168.9 mt dw (372,552 lb dw)	
Blacktip Sharks	Gulf of Mexico	256.6 mt dw (565,700 lb dw)	231.3 mt dw (509,984 lb dw)	25.3 mt dw (55,716 lb dw)	256.6 mt dw (565,700 lb dw)	281.9 mt dw (621,416 lb dw)	
Hammerhead Sharks	Gulf of Mexico	25.3 mt dw (55,722 lb dw)	10.1 mt dw (22,156 lb dw)	-	25.3 mt dw (55,722 lb dw)	25.3 mt dw (55,722 lb dw)	
	Atlantic	27.1 mt dw (59,736 lb dw)	8.4 mt dw (18,523 lb dw)	-	27.1 mt dw (59,736 lb dw)	27.1 mt dw (59,736 lb dw)	
Non-Sandbar LCS Research	No regional quotas	50.0 mt dw (110,230 lb dw)	10.7 mt dw (23,582 lb dw)	-	50.0 mt dw (110,230 lb dw)	50.0 mt dw (110,230 lb dw)	
Sandbar Shark Research		116.6 mt dw (257,056 lb dw)	27.2 mt dw (59,884 lb dw)	-	116.6 mt dw (257,056 lb dw)	116.6 mt dw (257,056 lb dw)	

## 2014 Proposed Shark Quotas cont'd

Management Group	Region	2013 Annual Quota (A)	Preliminary 2013 Landings (B)	Adjustments (C)	2014 Base Annual Quota (D)	2014 Proposed Annual Quota (D+C)	Season Opening Dates
Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks	Gulf of Mexico	67.7 mt dw (149,161 lb dw)	36.8 mt dw (81,062 lb dw)	22.8 mt dw (50,159 lb dw)	45.5 mt dw (100,317 lb dw)	68.3 mt dw (150,476 lb dw)	On or about January 1, 2014
	Atlantic	261.5 mt dw (576,484 lb dw)	53.5 mt dw (117,985 lb dw)	88.0 mt dw (194,111 lb dw)	176.1 mt dw (388,222 lb dw)	264.1 mt dw (582,333 lb dw)	
Blacknose Sharks	Gulf of Mexico	2.0 mt dw (4,513 lb dw)	0.6 mt dw (1,411 lb dw)	-0.2 mt dw (-437 lb dw)	2.0 mt dw (4,513 lb dw)	1.8 mt dw (4,076 lb dw)	
	Atlantic	18.0 mt dw (39,749 lb dw)	10.8 mt dw (23,784 lb dw)	-0.5 mt dw (1,111 lb dw)	18.0 mt dw (39,749 lb dw)	17.5 mt dw (38,638 lb dw)	
Blue Sharks	No regional quotas	273.0 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	4.5 mt dw (9,885 lb dw)	-	273.0 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	273.0 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	
Porbeagle Sharks		0 mt dw (0 lb dw)	0 mt dw (0 lb dw)	-0.4 mt dw (2012 overharvest)	1.7 mt dw (3,748 lb dw)	1.3 mt dw (2,874 lb dw)	
Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue		488 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)	55.5 mt dw (122,342 lb dw)	-	488 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)	488 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)	



## Shark 2013 Commercial Fishery Closures/Transfers (to date)

- Fisheries opened January 1, 2013
- Gulf of Mexico Blacktip Sharks (under A5a regulations)
  - Closed July 7 (78 FR 40318); 93% of quota landed\*
- Gulf of Mexico Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks & Gulf of Mexico Hammerheads (under A5a regulations)
  - Closed July 17 (78 FR 42021); 103% (aggregated LCS) & 42% (HH) of quota landed\*
- 68 mt transfer of Atlantic non-blacknose small coastal shark quota to Gulf of Mexico (Sept 3; 78 FR 54195)
- Porbeagle Shark Closed for 2013

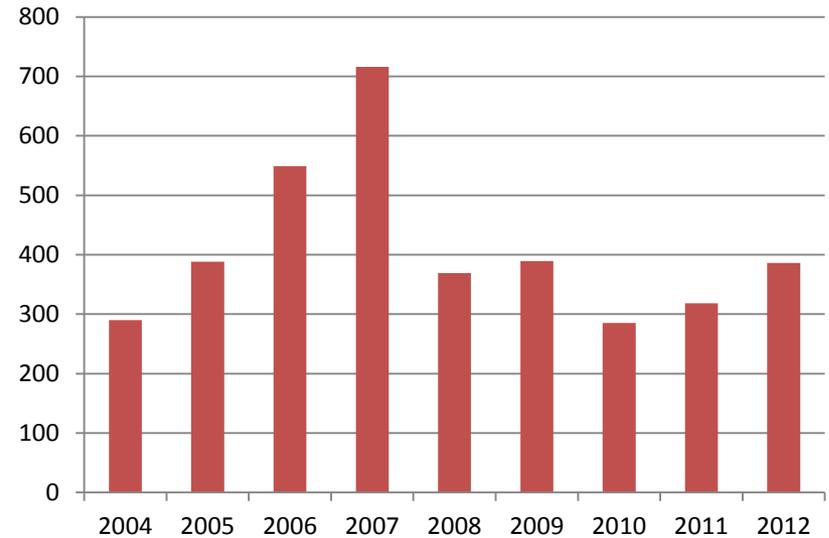
\*landings data as of August 14, 2013



## Recreational Swordfish Issues

### Non-Tournament SWO Landings

• CY 2004: 290	• CY 2009: 389
• CY 2005: 388	• CY 2010: 285
• CY 2006: 549	• CY 2011: 318
• CY 2007: 716	• CY 2012: 386
• CY 2008: 369	• CY 2013: 188*



- Calendar year 2013 landings to date



## Recreational Billfish Update

### **Marlin Landings**

- CY 2010: 25 Blue marlin; 41 White marlin; 19 Roundscale spearfish (final)
- CY 2011: 43 Blue marlin; 56 White marlin; 7 Roundscale spearfish (final)
- CY 2012: 63 Blue marlin; 30 White marlin; 4 Roundscale spearfish (final)
- CY 2013: 26 Blue marlin; 2 White marlin; 0 Roundscale spearfish (through June)

### **Sailfish Landings**

- CY 2010: 185 (final non-tournament)
- CY 2011: 166 (final non-tournament)
- CY 2012: 184 (final non-tournament)
- CY 2013: 122 (to date)



## Tournaments Update

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Number Registered (All HMS)</b>
<b>2010</b>	270
<b>2011</b>	248
<b>2012</b>	238
<b>2013</b>	220*
<b>2014</b>	3* <small>* as of Sept 2013</small>

- Email: [HMSTournamentRegistry@noaa.gov](mailto:HMSTournamentRegistry@noaa.gov)
- <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/tournaments>
- Internal program restructuring
  - Satisfaction survey to tournament operators
  - Merging HMS and NMFS Science Center databases



## Litigation update

- **Humane Society of United States v. NMFS**
  - Alleges Agency violated Administrative Procedure Act by not putting porbeagle sharks on prohibited species list
  - Briefing complete; awaiting court decision
- **Center for Biological Diversity v. NMFS**
  - Alleged Agency violated Magnuson-Stevens Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Administrative Procedure Act by increasing fishing opportunities for bluefin tuna in General & Harpoon categories
  - Court granted summary judgment for the United States on March 28; case dismissed



## Operations/Other



- Continued coordination with Councils & Commissions; ASMFC for sharks
- North Carolina greenstick gear study report in review
- Louisiana greenstick gear study underway for FY12-13
- ICCAT submissions: bluefin monthly landings, bigeye/yellowfin vessel lists, changes to HMS permitted vessels monthly
- ICCAT electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (e-BCD) system in progress; rulemaking soon for 2014



## ICCAT updates

- Two recommendations required rulemaking
- Recommendation 12-01 – South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limits
  - Extended 09-03 through 2013. TAC is 15,000t; U.S. SSWO quota unchanged (100 mt ww); U.S. can carry over underharvests up to 100t; Allocation from United States to Namibia (50t), Côte d'Ivoire (25t), Belize (25t)
- Recommendation 12-02 – Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding
  - One-year rollover of 1,750-mt TAC (inclusive of dead discards); U.S. baseline continues to be 923.7 mt, plus 25 mt to account for NED bycatch related to pelagic longline fisheries; Maintains school BFT tolerance of no more than 10%; Maintains 10% cap on underharvest carried forward (94.9 mt); Establishes an absolute minimum size consistent with U.S. regulations (67 cm straight fork length, the equivalent of 27" curved fork length)



## CITES updates

- On March 14, 2013, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) adopted the listing of porbeagle, oceanic whitetip, and great, smooth, and scalloped hammerhead sharks on Appendix II.
- The Appendix II listing becomes effective September 14, 2014. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the lead agency with responsibility for implementing CITES under authority of the Endangered Species Act.
- Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.
- A CITES-listed species may be imported, exported or re-exported from a CITES member State only if the appropriate documentation has been obtained and presented for clearance at the port of entry or exit.



## HMS Research Plan Update

- We continue to elevate HMS research priorities
  - Briefed NMFS leadership to elevate HMS research needs
  - NMFS leadership created an internal working group to review funding processes & priorities, including representation from HMS Management Division, Southeast & Northeast Fisheries Science Centers, & the Office of Science & Technology
  - Working on several documents to highlight key needs, starting with the *Stock Assessment Improvement Plan Including Priorities on Research and Monitoring Needs*
- One recent outcome was FY13 funding for the VIMS Shark Longline Survey, which is the longest running time series for Atlantic sharks.



## HMS Workshops

### **Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops**

- For Swordfish and Shark longline and gillnet vessel owners and operators
- Angler Conservation Education (ACE) continuing to conduct ~ 24 workshops annually
- Certificates expire after 3 years, so most attendees are renewing
- Schedule published quarterly

### **Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops**

- For Atlantic Shark dealers
- Eric Sander continuing to conduct ~ 12 workshops annually
- Certificates expire after 3 years, so most attendees are renewing
- Schedule published quarterly



## Looking Ahead – 2013/2014

- ICCAT support – fall Advisory Committee meeting (October), Annual meeting (November)
  - Measures for bluefin tuna, swordfish, sharks?, trade?
- Current Proposed Rules and Public Hearings:
  - Bluefin tuna Amendment 7
  - 2014 Shark Specifications
  - VMS (Webinar scheduled for Sept 23)
- Upcoming Proposed Rules:
  - Shark Conservation Act and Smoothhounds
  - Shark Amendments 5b and 6
- Re-initiation of Consultation on PLL Biological Opinion



## Outgrowth of 2009 ANPR

### **Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) published June 1, 2009 (74 FR 26174)**

- Intended to obtain public input on:
  - Increasing opportunities to harvest available U.S. quota while ending overfishing & rebuilding bluefin tuna
  - Continuing efforts to revitalize swordfish fishery while minimizing bycatch
  - Clarifying & simplifying HMS permit structure
  - Implications of catch shares, limited access privilege programs, and individual bycatch caps for HMS fisheries
- ANPR issues have been addressed via:
  - Bluefin tuna management – Amendment 7
  - Swordfish revitalization – Amendment 8, plus other rules/actions
  - Future of the shark fisheries – Amendment 6
  - Bycatch management – Amendment 7



## Suggestions from Prior AP meetings Underway

- Improve dealer reporting, i.e., electronic reporting on a real time basis (*eDealer final rule/implementation*)
- Consider catch shares for sharks (*Amendment 6 discussion*)
- Potentially adjust regulations to address bluefin tuna discards (*Amendment 7 discussion*)
- Work with states on recreational tagging programs (tag issuance, data collection, and enforcement) (*Pilot in Massachusetts, LPS redesign*)
- Conduct research in the Mid-Atlantic Bottom Longline closed area (*ongoing in shark research fishery*)
- Investigate electronic monitoring technology through pilot studies (*Bycatch Reduction Engineering Project*)



## Suggestions from Prior AP meetings Under Consideration

- Permit-Related Suggestions
  - Re-issue lapsed permits; Use or lose permit requirement; Reopen Swordfish handgear permits; Allow permit leasing
  - Establish gear-based permits or Limited Access Privilege Programs (*Amendment 7 discussion*)
  - Create Swordfish General category permit (*Amendment 8*)
- Create placards for other HMS species



## Communication Goal: No Surprises

- Goals for All
  - Advisors/Public aware, informed, and engaged
  - Agency aware, informed, and engaged
- AP Member Role
  - Listen and Engage in Discussions
  - Share with Your Constituents
  - Bring Ideas to and Advise Agency
- Agency Role
  - Ensure compliance with all domestic & int'l requirements
  - Raise Issues and Inform AP and Public
  - Listen and Engage in Discussions
  - Make Decisions Considering Feedback



## Conclusion/Looking Forward

*In conclusion,*

- We are covering *a lot* of ground at this meeting
- Operational activities continue to require substantial agency resources

*Looking forward,*

- We value your input & want your input on priorities & potential solutions



Questions?

Thank you!