

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC  
ADMINISTRATION

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ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

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FALL 2014 ADVISORY PANEL MEETING

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THURSDAY  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

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The Advisory Panel met in Grand Ballroom A  
of the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel located at 8120  
Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland, at 9:00  
a.m., Suzanne Lea, Facilitator, presiding.

PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT

JASON ADRIANCE  
PATRICK AUGUSTINE  
ANNA BECKWITH  
TERRI BEIDEMAN  
RICK BELLAVANCE  
ANDRE BOUSTANY  
ANDREW COX  
PAM DANA (via telephone)  
STEVE DOSS (Proxy for Allan Willis)  
SONJA FORDHAMWILLIAM GERENCER  
WALTER GOLET  
JOHN GRAVES  
LISA GREGG (Proxy for Martha Bademan)  
RANDY GREGORY  
MARCOS HANKE (Proxy for Eugenio Pineiro)  
DEWEY HEMILRIGHT (Proxy for Stephen  
Linhard)  
RUSSELL HUDSON  
ROBERT HUETER  
STEPHEN IWICKI  
WALLACE JENKINS  
AMANDA KELEDJIANCARRIE KENNEDY  
DAVID KERSTETTER  
JAMES LAWSON  
MARK LINGO  
SHANA MILLER  
VALERIE MILLER  
(Proxy for Pamela Baker)  
JEFF ODEN  
TIM PALMER  
RALPH PRATT  
RICHARD RUAIS  
MARK SAMPSON  
MARTIN SCANLONMICHAEL SISSENWINE  
DAVID STILLER  
SCOTT TAYLORRICK WEBERCHRISTOPHER WEINER  
ROMULUS WHITAKER

ALSO PRESENT

SUZANNE LEA, Facilitator  
MARGO SCHULZE-HAUGEN, Division Chief, Highly  
Migratory Species Management Division (HMSD)  
RANDY BLANKINSHIP, HMSD  
KARYL BREWSTER-GEISZ, HMSD  
CRAIG COCKRELL, HMSD  
PETER COOPER, HMSD  
JENNIFER CUDNEY, HMSD  
KATIE DAVIS, HMSD  
JOE DESFOSSE, HMSD  
GUY DUBECK, HMSD  
STEVE DURKEE, ERT  
LEANN HOGAN, HMSD  
NEVA HOWARD, HMSD  
OTHEL FREEMAN, HMSD  
ALEXIS JACKSON, HMSD  
JACKIE JOHNSON-CRAGG, ERT  
BRAD MCHALE, HMSD  
DELISSE ORTIZ, ERT  
PAT O'SHAUGNESSY, NOAA Fisheries Service  
RICK PEARSON, HMSD  
GEORGE SILVA, HMSD  
CARRIE SOLTANOFF, HMSD  
JERON STANNARD, HMSD  
DIANNE STEPHAN, HMSD  
JENNI WALLACE, HMSD  
THOMAS WARREN, HMSD  
JACKIE WILSON, HMSD

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

8:44 a.m.

FACILITATOR LEA: So, I'll go ahead and just review the schedule briefly today, and then in a couple of minutes we're going to have a moment of silence to remember the folks who perished on 9/11.

So, we're going to have this morning the HMS management-based research priorities. We're going to talk about Amendment 6. We're going to give that a little bit more time because the National Standard I Update isn't going to be happening. We will still have a break, and then we'll go to electronic monitoring, and public comment, and then finally the wrap-up. So, just as a broad heuristic of where we're going this morning.

I did want to say as someone who's been doing dialogue for 10 years, I was really impressed that with so many big things on the table, you all were very respectful, and it was very much a good testament to our shared humanity, which we'll take a moment to remember here.

Okay, so let's take a moment of silence.

(Moment of silence observed)

FACILITATOR LEA: All right, thank you. And we'll go ahead and get started then with the HMS management-based research priorities.

MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Thanks, Suzanne.

All right. So, if folks remember, we spent quite a bit of time in the spring talking about the HMS Research Plan, and some of the struggles that we have had in producing that, and that we had intended and discussed in the spring about producing a document that was more from the management side of the Fishery Service with a management focus, things that we as managers saw as needs to improve management. So, that could be science, but it could also be things that are much more management-based like gear reduction, gear technologies, things of that sort that aren't necessarily strictly science. So, we did as we said we would, which is publish the HMS Management-Based Research Priorities, and this came out in July, and was open for a 30-day comment period.

1           We were trying to communicate our key  
2 research needs that would directly support  
3 management. Again, this is from our view and  
4 isn't an attempt to be an agency-level document.  
5 Contains a list of near and long-term research  
6 needs and priorities, and also tries to give some  
7 measure of priority to those with high, medium,  
8 and low.

9           And the view is that this would be  
10 complementary to the Agency Research Plan for  
11 HMS. That is still under discussion internally in  
12 development. There's a recognized need at the  
13 leadership level for better coordination, and  
14 more focus for HMS research.

15           Just as a little bit of background, we  
16 had first developed that plan and distributed  
17 that to you in the fall of 2012. Folks didn't see  
18 what they wanted in it, and we had been working  
19 internally to address some of the very critical  
20 needs, including funding the Shark Virginia  
21 Institute of Marine Science Survey. That's one of  
22 the longest time series we have for sandbar and  
23 dusky sharks. So, that group was able to secure  
24 funding and are patching it together. And then we  
25 had come back with the idea of a management-based  
26 document since then. And this is similar to what  
27 several Councils have produced, and it's fairly  
28 short, but we think it covers the ground that we  
29 see as management needs.

30           So, we didn't get a lot of comment or  
31 feedback. We had one comment from a regular  
32 commenter that's very critical of everything we  
33 do, so it's particularly focused on this action.  
34 And then a comment that we should look at a slot  
35 limit for bluefin tuna, and that socioeconomic  
36 studies really should be all low priorities. So,  
37 we wanted to take this time to really hear from  
38 you all, since we didn't get much through the  
39 public comment, and get your reactions to it  
40 before we move ahead and finalize.

41           Did you see it? Maybe --- oh, okay, so  
42 some additional time might be worthwhile. Summer  
43 is very busy, we know, and then a lot of folks  
44 are out doing different things, so we can make  
45 that available, send that back out to you. We do  
46 want your feedback. This is something that we  
47 want to be a useful document. I think it will be  
48 useful for us internally as we continue the

1 internal dialogue, but then also wanted it to be  
2 of some benefit and use to you all.

3           Seeing that people did miss it, how do  
4 we make sure that people see things? Sometimes  
5 when you don't get comment, it's hard to know  
6 exactly why. It can mean it's perfect and  
7 everybody loves it, and they're just not  
8 bothering to tell you, because you often only  
9 hear from people when there's something they  
10 don't like, or it can mean that they completely  
11 missed it, or something else. It's hard to know,  
12 so that's why we wanted to touch on it at this  
13 meeting to make sure we carved out the time to  
14 see from you what your thoughts were.

15           We would like to finalize this. The  
16 internal discussions continue, and I think it  
17 would be helpful to have something that we can  
18 very clearly say is a piece that will feed into  
19 that as we move forward.

20           So, if folks are online, you can go to  
21 the document via this link. I think it's a live  
22 link. Okay. So, really, wanted just to have the  
23 time for you all to share your thoughts on where  
24 we are.

25           FACILITATOR LEA: Bob?

26           MR. HUETER: Thanks. Bob Hueter, Mote  
27 Marine Lab. Some feedback on maybe why you didn't  
28 get so many comments, not an excuse but an  
29 explanation. It did come out in July, scientists  
30 are --- that's field season, peak of the field  
31 season for many scientists, so it's a tough month  
32 to look at something like this. But I think ---

33                           (Off-mic comment)

34           MR. HUETER: All right. Okay, I'm done.  
35 To offer something positive, in my view I felt  
36 that the list was very good, was excellent. And I  
37 think that complaints come a lot faster than  
38 praise, so because you didn't get except for the  
39 one wacko complaint, that I think it's perhaps  
40 somewhat of an endorsement that this is on the  
41 right track. This is good.

42           I really like, actually, the priority  
43 list and how things were stacked, but I think the  
44 bigger question is what does this thing mean? And  
45 we're still, you know, the scientists are still  
46 not clear on that.

47           And you referred to the HMS Research  
48 Plan, which we know has been in development for

1 several geological periods, I think. And, you  
2 know, we're still looking for, of course, any  
3 kind of budget behind that plan. But I'm  
4 wondering, in hearing you talk now, and I don't  
5 want to read too much into your words, but is  
6 this going to break out such that these  
7 priorities are sort of for the outside-of-NMFS  
8 research community to look at and focus on in  
9 terms of what would best research data to help  
10 with management?

11 And then the HMS Research Plan is  
12 going to be an internal plan for the Agency? So,  
13 I mean, is that how to characterize this document  
14 vis-a-vis the research plan, or is the research  
15 plan also going to include the outside research  
16 community and what they should be doing? So,  
17 there's a lot of confusion about the meaning of  
18 this. I hope it means something, because I did  
19 like the priority list that was developed.

20 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: So, yes, I think  
21 our hope was that this would be useful for you  
22 all, and it is something that we felt we could  
23 produce fairly quickly on a geologic scale, while  
24 the internal discussion is continuing.

25 I do not think that an Agency-level  
26 HMS Research Plan would be solely an internal  
27 document. We haven't worked out exactly how that  
28 will evolve, but I do expect that it would be  
29 shared, and we would have some input from folks  
30 outside the Agency, as well. But I don't have  
31 that schedule, I don't have, you know, clear  
32 deadlines, but I can tell you that it is of  
33 interest to NMFS leadership. And, actually, our  
34 document here helped spur some of those  
35 conversations, so I think it has been useful  
36 already, and I do hope that it will be useful for  
37 you all in the interim outside, as well.

38 FACILITATOR LEA: David.

39 MR. KERSTETTER: David Kerstetter,  
40 academic. I, also, want to echo Bob's thoughts  
41 and yes, thank you for putting this together. It  
42 is a good start, as a bit of my own mea culpa. I  
43 didn't really have any serious disagreements with  
44 it. I can always find something to quibble with  
45 around the edges, but it just wasn't worth  
46 commenting on at this point. Especially, as Bob  
47 was saying, that there's very --- there was very  
48 little direction about what this document was

1 going to be used for.

2 I guess the question that I still have  
3 is regarding this internal working group, and are  
4 there any plans at all to have external input  
5 other than a public comment period? I mean, you  
6 look around the table, and Bob, John, a number of  
7 us, we're HMS researchers. We know what's going  
8 on in the research community, at least as well as  
9 some of the guys on the inside, people on the  
10 inside. So, I think that only having our input  
11 in a public comment period kind of does a  
12 disservice to the development of the plan. I  
13 think that there are a lot of things that could  
14 be gained from our participation. Thank you.

15 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Yes, I appreciate  
16 that. I think that's a useful comment. Right now,  
17 I think that the internal working group, and  
18 there are lots of internal working groups that  
19 are just internal, and that's what this is at  
20 this point, but I will share that feedback, and  
21 we'll see how it goes.

22 I don't feel like I can commit either  
23 way at this point, but I think it's good to know.  
24 I think it's also really good to know that our  
25 academic partners are very interested and want to  
26 be engaged, and have a lot to offer. You know,  
27 our resources within the Agency are really  
28 strapped, so I think working with partners in a  
29 full partnership is in all of our interests, so  
30 I'll certainly convey that back.

31 FACILITATOR LEA: Other questions or  
32 comments? Yes, Mike.

33 MR. SISSENWINE: I have to say, I find  
34 that the document, at one level, reasonable and  
35 okay, because it's a list of things that are all  
36 interesting and would be useful to answer them.  
37 But on another level, I find it fairly useless. I  
38 mean, it's essentially a list of things that are  
39 interesting.

40 There's no way the --- well, it's  
41 unclear who it's for, whether it's just for the  
42 public, in general, whether it's for other  
43 agencies to consider using as priorities for  
44 their funds, whether that be Sea Grant or  
45 whomever, or states; whether it's going to  
46 supported by HMS management funds, or whether it  
47 applies broadly to research throughout the  
48 Agency. So, that's a bit unclear.

1                   And then the actual items themselves,  
2 while it's hard to say that any of them are bad  
3 things to do, they are so disparate in terms of  
4 the level of sophistication and research, or  
5 likelihood of actual success, and the lack of any  
6 clues to strategy of how this would be  
7 approached, that I don't see it very useful. In  
8 some level, there are fairly straightforward gear  
9 research projects which, you know, probably  
10 people can pursue. And in the other extreme,  
11 there's something like solve the stock  
12 recruitment problem for bluefin tuna, which it's  
13 nice, but I'm trying to figure out who's going to  
14 develop the proposal for that, that it's going to  
15 be worth reading.

16                   So, I don't know. It may fulfill some  
17 need, but it's unclear what actual need it's  
18 fulfilling, and how it'll be used. Thank you.

19                   MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: So, I guess one  
20 question for folks that hadn't had a chance to  
21 really look at it yet. Would another couple of  
22 weeks be helpful? So, if we asked for your  
23 thoughts by, I don't know what, two weeks? I  
24 don't know. Bob?

25                   MR. HUETER: I think the place that  
26 we're stuck in here is that people are not that  
27 motivated to spend time to go through the list  
28 point by point and say this is good, or change  
29 this, change that. So, because of this overall  
30 lack of clarity as to, you know, how this is  
31 going to be used. If we get down to more of an  
32 operational level, maybe we'll have this working  
33 group together and start discussing what the  
34 assets are that are out there that could do  
35 various things, then it makes sense to start  
36 picking away at this.

37                   So, I think if you're looking for that  
38 kind of feedback, I'm not sure you're going to  
39 get it. But if you're looking for, you know, a  
40 pat on the back saying thanks for putting time  
41 into this, I think you've got that. But we need  
42 to move forward, you know, like Mike said, and  
43 Dave said, clarify and identify how this document  
44 is going to be used, and where the funds are  
45 going to come from for some of these things. And  
46 at that point, it makes sense to put time into  
47 it.

48                   FACILITATOR LEA: David.

1 MR. KERSTETTER: David Kerstetter,  
2 academic. One of the other things that has  
3 mystified me for a while has been the research  
4 actions of the Southeast Center. In particular,  
5 these are great ideas. I imagine that some of the  
6 scientists at the Southeast Center and elsewhere  
7 within the Agency are working on them already. It  
8 might be helpful to know who's doing what within  
9 the Agency.

10 You know, part of the concern that I  
11 have, you know, when you give a broad list like  
12 that, certainly, some things are going to be  
13 easier, some research projects are going to be  
14 easier than others. And in a time of very limited  
15 funding it would be helpful to know what's  
16 already being worked on so that there's no  
17 duplication of effort. Thanks.

18 FACILITATOR LEA: Rusty, and then Rom.

19 MR. HUDSON: Thank you. Rusty Hudson,  
20 commercial. I did not comment on this, probably  
21 was caught up in a whole bunch of other things  
22 for the Council level, as well as whatever might  
23 go on here with highly migs occasionally.

24 I do believe that there are some  
25 things here that's very useful. I, of course, am  
26 focusing right now just on chart, the high,  
27 medium, and low priorities from the document  
28 that's online. And several of these things are  
29 things that in some ways we've already been  
30 doing, at least the Science Center down there in  
31 Panama City. Unfortunately, they're very  
32 understaffed. We have only two analysts handling  
33 everything. We've got an abundance of sharks,  
34 several of which have already gotten past the  
35 normal five years of when we try to update and/or  
36 other types of choices that we can do with this.  
37 It's just like some of the exercises Dewey and I  
38 have gone through for years dealing with fin  
39 ratios, and different species, and stuff like  
40 that.

41 There's a lot of ways that NMFS  
42 science can engage the stakeholders and become a  
43 little better here. Now, it does frighten me a  
44 little bit when I see these innovative stock  
45 assessment techniques applied to sharks because I  
46 have seen some things that I believe that are  
47 used to stock assessments that aren't actually  
48 assessments, they're more like a working paper,

1 at best. Hammerhead shark was one of those  
2 examples, and when I found the problems in the  
3 database with that and great hammerhead, and the  
4 confusions with smooth hammerheads, I brought  
5 that out in some of my comments.

6           Going back to the straddling stock  
7 issue that's existed for 21 years with the shark  
8 FMP since we put it online in May of '93 is a big  
9 deal, because whether it's just Mexico, or  
10 whether it's the Caribbean or the High Sea  
11 Fleets, whatever, we have the multiplicity of  
12 sharks that interact with so many different  
13 fisheries that it behooves you to engage all  
14 those other fisheries, too, as well as the  
15 countries. And the only real moment in time  
16 besides having the fellow there at the Mote  
17 Marine meeting back in '93, and then the SEDAR  
18 29, having the Mexican fellow there; otherwise,  
19 it's just been like an absent audience. And when  
20 you've got a straddling stock and you've got tag  
21 recoveries for duskies, like 16 to 20 percent  
22 coming back from there, and you've got 6 percent,  
23 possibly even more on the sandbar, they all over  
24 winter down there.

25           Unilaterally, we have taken the hit  
26 here, and economically it would have behooved us  
27 21 years ago to have already had Mexico and the  
28 other countries at the table. So, I would love to  
29 see this, but you all have another problem. It's  
30 a budget problem. That's why Bonnie can't hire  
31 any analysts to do the job at the Panama City  
32 just for sharks, and we're running into the same  
33 problem on the Council level for all the reef  
34 fish and coastal migratory pelagics. So, I don't  
35 see where you're going to be able to get a lot of  
36 this work done unless somehow you do some CRPs,  
37 MARFIN grants, and really engage stakeholders  
38 with the science people. So, that's really the  
39 best I can say. I'd love to be able to comment on  
40 this a bit more, because there is a lot of things  
41 that's important here, and you've already been  
42 doing some of it, you know, like trying to deal  
43 with the habitat and identification of all  
44 essential fish habitat. I mean, it's a no-  
45 brainer. We've got to learn these type of things,  
46 so thank you very much.

47           FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you. Rom, and  
48 then Marcos, and then Carrie.

1                   MR. WHITAKER: Rom Whitaker, charter  
2 boat, Hatteras. Speaking from a charter boat  
3 perspective, I'm a little bit confused as to what  
4 you want, my comment. Yes, I saw some things in  
5 here that I thought were very, to me, very  
6 important, you know. I mean, just one, kind of  
7 picking off the top of my head, that the  
8 yellowfin seasonal migration and localized  
9 abundance. You know, I've been talking about  
10 yellowfin for the last about six or seven years.  
11 Like to know where they're going and when they're  
12 coming back. But I never done any grant or  
13 anything, so I'm not sure the process. I guess  
14 I'd have to get with somebody in here to figure  
15 out how you pursue that.

16                   So, I'm a little bit confused as  
17 exactly what kind of feedback you want from me as  
18 a fisherman. You mean, you want me to prioritize  
19 what I think is the best? Yes, I think these are  
20 some good ideas, but I'm not sure what you want.

21                   MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Rom, thanks for  
22 that. So, I think, you know -- the kind of  
23 feedback, if there's something we completely  
24 missed that would really be helpful for  
25 management, if the priorities are out of wack.  
26 Some of the larger budget issues, this is not  
27 going to be able to address that.

28                   We have had some success. I would like  
29 to note, and maybe we can include some of that on  
30 funding through property research, through  
31 bycatch reduction engineering. If you notice the  
32 bycatch reduction engineering priorities included  
33 tunas and sharks this year. So, there are some  
34 avenues; not all of them are going to be  
35 successful. There's lots of research on every  
36 single species up and down the coast, so there's  
37 a lot of competition.

38                   So, if you see that -- you think that  
39 the priorities are wrong, something is really  
40 missing, that would be very useful feedback. If  
41 you think something is low that should be high; I  
42 mean, we did get the comment that socio-economics  
43 should be low. You know, that kind of feedback I  
44 think would be helpful.

45                   FACILITATOR LEA: Marcos.

46                   MR. HANKE: Marcos, Charter, from  
47 Puerto Rico. In Puerto Rico, the management of  
48 HMS, talking about sharks right now, keep going

1 to a higher level, but we need in the Caribbean  
2 very basic science that is not being developed.

3 Right now there is interactions or  
4 landings of sharks in Puerto Rico reported, and  
5 nobody know really what they are, because of the  
6 way the system is designed, and because of the  
7 education that the fishermen have. And that's  
8 very basic stuff in the Caribbean is needed, and  
9 the characterization of the catch and the  
10 interactions in the Caribbean, something that  
11 basic is very important. And I just want to  
12 stress this point.

13 FACILITATOR LEA: Carrie.

14 MS. KENNEDY: Carrie Kennedy, Maryland  
15 DNR Fishery Service. I think I said a little bit  
16 of this last time, but in terms of making the  
17 document useful, I'm going to use the example of  
18 ACCSP. They have a biological review panel and a  
19 Bycatch Prioritization Committee, and they are  
20 representatives to these committees from NMFS.  
21 And I would think that you would encourage  
22 representatives from NMFS to go to these  
23 committees and use this document when they're  
24 discussing the sampling priorities; that NMFS  
25 would say these are some of our sampling  
26 priorities. But I think that you would want to do  
27 that, you know, not just at ACCSP, but at the  
28 Councils, the Mid-Atlantic regional planning  
29 body, anywhere where there are NOAA Fisheries  
30 representatives and there's a committee or a  
31 council that is coming up with research  
32 priorities, I would think that this is one of the  
33 guiding documents that your staff would be using  
34 to provide input on what the priorities are, so  
35 that when funding is available, there's a  
36 consistent and clear message that you guys have  
37 communicated across the board what the research  
38 priorities are. I would think that that would be  
39 one of the opportunities that you might have to  
40 make this more useful, instead of just creating a  
41 document that lives on the internet and is just  
42 out there.

43 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Thank you, great  
44 ideas.

45 FACILITATOR LEA: Mike and then Bob.

46 MR. SISSEWINE: Yes. This comment  
47 doesn't deal with the basic priorities. I mean, I  
48 think those --- I've said more than enough on.

1 But I think there's some consideration to be  
2 given to, let's say there was money to fund some  
3 of these things. What is the vehicle?

4 And one of my concerns is that it has  
5 become the norm to use a competitive grant  
6 process to fund research. Now, that strikes  
7 people as being, you know, the ideal way to do it  
8 because that's the way the National Science  
9 Foundation does it, or whatever. But you're  
10 talking about applied research; essentially,  
11 taking science into operations. And I'd argue  
12 that the sort of pristine academic way of the  
13 competitive grant is not necessarily, and  
14 probably is not very often the best way to fund  
15 the transition of science to operations. And by  
16 specifically calling this priorities for  
17 management, that's what you're talking about.

18 And this is a broad comment that  
19 applies to this but it applies to a lot of other  
20 things that have happened within the way NOAA  
21 funds scientific activities. The whole  
22 development of cooperative research, which at its  
23 start when I was involved in it and setting of  
24 some of the programs up 20 years ago was  
25 cooperative in the sense that we identified a  
26 problem and got everybody in the room who was  
27 interested to throw their cards on the table as  
28 to how they'd attack it, and came up with a  
29 mutually agreed plan, and then funded the work in  
30 some other vehicle from a grant, usually a  
31 contract, or somebody would go do whatever.

32 That, to me, is more the model that  
33 should be used when you're trying to transition  
34 science to operations. The competitive grant  
35 process, essentially, is that. It's not  
36 cooperative, it's competitive. It takes -- it  
37 puts the competition in the ideas, and often  
38 whoever gets funded may have a good idea, but  
39 there's relatively little buy-in by people on the  
40 other side of the table that have to use the  
41 results.

42 So, I'm really making a broad comment,  
43 but it would apply to this if there was funding,  
44 that in addition to thinking about the  
45 priorities, the actual vehicle for putting teams  
46 of people together cooperatively to do the work  
47 may be just as important as the subject matter in  
48 terms of it actually translating into results.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Yes. Thanks, Mike.  
3 So, you've touched on two things that are largely  
4 outside the Division's control, which is how the  
5 Agency funds science, and the funding available  
6 to the Agency for science. So, I will be happy to  
7 pass those along back up the chain. I make  
8 absolutely no guarantees that I will be able to  
9 effect any sort of change.

10 FACILITATOR LEA: Bob.

11 MR. HUETER: Sorry to keep adding  
12 comment after comment, but Bob Hueter, Mote  
13 Marine Lab. I have to say I really appreciate  
14 what Mike just said, and it was absolutely music  
15 to my ears, my scientist ears. And, you know, I  
16 thought I was the only one who thought that way,  
17 that sometimes competitive peer review isn't the  
18 best system for getting things done, at least.  
19 So, I would really echo what he said.

20 And it's a good segue into what I was  
21 thinking of saying, which is that HMS Research,  
22 almost by definition, is usually expensive  
23 research. These are animals that don't sit in one  
24 spot, they move around, and a lot of it is high  
25 seas stuff. You get into boats, and ships, and  
26 costs go really up quickly.

27 Back when Congressional earmarks were  
28 not a dirty word, as you know, we got a lot done  
29 in the 2000s with that vehicle. Of course, when  
30 you have access to that, then the responsibility  
31 is to very good work that produces results, and I  
32 think for sharks we did during those years, those  
33 wonderful years of cooperative work with the  
34 Agency, and in my case with four different  
35 research institutions. But that vehicle is no  
36 longer in play. We cannot get funding that way.

37 And you're right, we have seen a  
38 little bit more success through the established  
39 programs that NMFS has, like CRP and BREP. MARFIN  
40 is a little bit more -- I think they still carry  
41 a little bit of a chip on their shoulder about  
42 headquarters taking care of sharks. But it's not  
43 enough, and those funds are -- when you apply to  
44 those places, you're competing against a lot of  
45 other priorities, a document that would be 10  
46 times this size if it was written out.

47 So, I'm going to say something I said  
48 before, just to make sure it's on the record, and

1 that is that I think that these priorities would  
2 mean something if the Agency established a new  
3 funding program specifically for HMS. I would  
4 suggest starting with at least \$5 million in the  
5 program considering that we have to cover the  
6 gamut of HMS. And I would like to see the  
7 decisions, the funding decisions made with a  
8 group composed of people like this in this room.

9 I'd like to see input from the  
10 commercial fishermen; I'd like to see input from  
11 the recreational fishermen, from the  
12 environmental group, and obviously the research  
13 community, and make this a process like Mike is  
14 describing where it's let's get some things done,  
15 and let's work together to figure out the best  
16 way to do it, as opposed to some secretive  
17 process, competitive peer review where reviewers  
18 torpedo other people's grants by giving them a  
19 low score, and that's the end of that, which is  
20 the world that we all live in.

21 So, I say it again, we need an HMS  
22 research fund that needs to be administered here,  
23 but I think it needs to involve this community of  
24 people in figuring out what is going to get  
25 funded. And then maybe we can stop hearing at  
26 least some of the complaints about you're not  
27 looking at this, you're not looking at that,  
28 we're seeing all this stuff on the water. You  
29 guys don't know what you're talking about. Well,  
30 let's work together to -- so that we all know  
31 what we're talking about.

32 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Sorry. I was  
33 saying I think that's a nice idea. That would be  
34 great.

35 FACILITATOR LEA: John.

36 MR. GRAVES: Thank you. I thought I  
37 was going to be quiet because at this meeting  
38 it's my chance to listen as opposed to running it  
39 at the Advisory Committee. But for the past 20  
40 years, the ICCAT Advisory Committee, you know, I  
41 worked hard with the species working groups to  
42 get them to focus on their species, and to come  
43 up with research and management recommendations.

44 We don't prioritize them, but we do  
45 reach consensus on those recommendations. And  
46 for 20 years, I have had a meeting with the AA,  
47 and I just had my meeting with Eileen last week  
48 and, of course, Margo, you were there. And, you

1 know, Eileen was my seventh AA that I have  
2 briefed. And, of course, with Eileen I didn't  
3 even have a chance to talk about the funding  
4 issue because she's new. I'll wait until the  
5 second year to do that.

6 But, you know, we've gone through -- I  
7 mean, you talk about, Bob, having representatives  
8 from the commercial, recreational, and  
9 environmental constituencies, that's what we  
10 build. We come up with that, and we have  
11 developed year by year, you know, these  
12 recommendations and we put them there.

13 It's great to have a plan. It's like  
14 having a blueprint for a \$5 million house and  
15 you've got 50 cents. You know, it's just not  
16 going to happen. So, funding is the big issue.  
17 And as Bob alluded to, earmarks have been the way  
18 that a lot of pelagic research has been funded  
19 over the past several years. And the three major  
20 earmarks that we're doing that, the Pelagic  
21 Fisheries Research Program in Hawaii died really  
22 with the MUI. You had Molly's program up in New  
23 England that died, and then we had also the Shark  
24 Consortium. So, that leaves a very limited  
25 number of funding agencies available, so you've  
26 got MARFIN, SK, the cooperative research program.  
27 We do now have the Bluefin Tuna Research Program  
28 that's been going on for about four years, so  
29 that's some directed money, but that's really  
30 just a drop in the bucket for what's there.

31 So, as I look at another research  
32 plan, it's great, but it's how are going to  
33 actually turn this in to do something that we can  
34 actually do something with, because we have an  
35 awful lot of lists of research topics for these  
36 species. And you'll have one internally, you  
37 have this, you have the ICCAT Advisory Committee,  
38 that's great, but how do we get the boots on the  
39 ground to do the work to fund it?

40 And, in fact, the cooperative research  
41 programs that Mike was talking about, the CMER  
42 programs and things, those have basically become  
43 unfunded, so a lot of funding that used to be  
44 available isn't.

45 And then just as long as I have the  
46 floor, there's one other topic here that I just  
47 want to bring up, and that has to do with  
48 communication. And at the ICCAT Advisory

1 Committee during our Spring Species Working Group  
2 we generally have a briefing from NMFS about the  
3 research that's going on for pelagic species.  
4 Great, but it's a very NMFS-centric view. In  
5 fact, it was so NMFS-centric that some of the  
6 committee members and technical advisors were  
7 incensed that this was being presented to the  
8 committee as the work that's being done in the  
9 U.S. on pelagic species when, in fact, more work  
10 was being done by committee members that were  
11 sitting there than was being done by NMFS as  
12 being presented. And that's when we ended up  
13 starting having our open-mic science night on the  
14 Spring Species Working Group, which has turned  
15 out some very nice presentations.

16 But I just see that this --- like  
17 Carrie alluded to, the communication between the  
18 Councils, the communication between NMFS and the  
19 researchers really isn't out there. For instance,  
20 a lot of pelagic research is presented at the  
21 annual tuna conference out in California. I  
22 haven't seen anybody from the Southwest Science  
23 Center there -- I mean, Southeast Science Center,  
24 excuse me. A lot of people from the Southwest  
25 but, you know, why aren't they there?

26 And this lack of communication --- and  
27 if you were to ask me, you know, who's the point  
28 person at NMFS for swordfish research? Who's the  
29 point for bluefin tuna research? And if those  
30 people are points on that, why aren't they  
31 involved in some of these bodies, you know? Why  
32 aren't they here? Why aren't we hearing from  
33 them? And maybe the Agency doesn't have the  
34 money, or do they just not have the expertise any  
35 more? I mean, a lot of us are getting older and  
36 people who were doing the research are retired,  
37 maybe they haven't been backfilled, but there  
38 seems to be a real lack of communication that is  
39 hindering this process.

40 So, I mean, I appreciate your efforts  
41 to generate another list but, you know, the  
42 communication between the people on the list and  
43 finding funding is probably more important than  
44 just making another list, but I do appreciate the  
45 effort.

46 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Well, I will pass  
47 -- a lot of those comments seem to be very  
48 focused on the Southeast Research Science Center

1 and I will pass those along to Dr. Ponwith.

2 FACILITATOR LEA: Rusty.

3 MR. HUDSON: Yes, thank you. Rusty  
4 Hudson, commercial. Scientific and Statistical  
5 Committee, we have five councils involved in the  
6 shark FMP. We have SSCs for all five councils,  
7 but any time we're producing any science, shark  
8 especially, in the Southeast Science Center it  
9 doesn't have that benefit of that vetting.

10 I don't know if this Agency or this  
11 HMS division can create a quasi-SSC that we can  
12 work with. We're able to now submit written  
13 comments to our South Atlantic Council SSC a week  
14 before the meeting. We're able to have oral  
15 comments with our scientists at the beginning and  
16 the end of the meeting. They also engage us in  
17 sidebar now. It's been going on for over a year,  
18 and that's a great leap forward in us trying to  
19 have a better faith in the science that's being  
20 produced.

21 I would highly suggest that that would  
22 be a good way to get the confidence of the people  
23 that's involved in HMS to have some kind of SSC  
24 for this secretarial plan. I mean, you're  
25 virtually a quasi-council, but not under the same  
26 kind of rules. So, they vote, you all don't, but  
27 you're still creating fishery management plans,  
28 so if you could look into doing something like  
29 that, get back to us, let us know if you can  
30 handle sharks, tuna, swordfish, billfish, all the  
31 above, that would be a good day.

32 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Yes, thanks for  
33 that. That was also something that I think we  
34 talked about quite a bit in the spring. And what  
35 I can say is that it is being looked at. There  
36 are some legal questions on whether that would  
37 work given the structure of the current Magnusson  
38 Act, and delegation of authority, and what SSCs  
39 are as under council functions. There's a lot of  
40 interplay there that's very legal, statutory,  
41 beyond my expertise, but I think it is being  
42 discussed and looked at.

43 MR. HUDSON: One thing you could do,  
44 let's say, for instance, how we're doing the  
45 smoothdog right now. Submit that to the affected  
46 councils that have those particular species as a  
47 priority. I mean, some of us in some areas are  
48 de minimus status like with that shark, or some

1 other sharks like porbeagle and stuff like that,  
2 but some of the stuff really could be vetted  
3 through those existing SSCs. Just as an idea; I  
4 don't know if you can look into that angle, but  
5 being that you've got five councils that form  
6 this shark FMP, and I'm not certain how all the  
7 rest of it works. I assume all five councils,  
8 you know, tuna, swordfish, billfish, so ---

9 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: So, you're  
10 specifically talking about sharing the assessment  
11 with the council SSCs or the amendment?

12 MR. HUDSON: Talking about any kind of  
13 things that are amendments, are scientific  
14 results, everything through the SSC. So, I would  
15 suggest, you know, that would be a good first  
16 step, is to take it to them so that we can kind  
17 of get more transparency and really engage them.  
18 Those people are already on stipends, so that  
19 makes that easy, so you don't have to spend any  
20 money. You just have to make a protocol change  
21 somehow and engage the same councils that you're  
22 already handling.

23 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Just a point of  
24 clarification. We already consult with the  
25 councils, all five Atlantic Regional Fishery  
26 Management Councils, not necessarily the SSC.  
27 That is a sub-body of those councils, as well as  
28 the two Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions,  
29 so that's already something that we do, just as a  
30 point of clarification.

31 MR. HUDSON: Well, that said, yes, our  
32 --- we have on the agenda the HMS stuff for next  
33 week. I will be in attendance there, so will  
34 other people, but that's not the same as being  
35 at an SSC dedicated for two or three days, and  
36 where you really get into the devils in the  
37 details. And that's what we keep running into.

38 We ran out of time with a lot of stuff  
39 here for this meeting that I'm sure there's  
40 people around this table would have liked to have  
41 gone into greater detail on the different  
42 amendments and stuff like even right now, how  
43 we're going on with research and stuff like that,  
44 suggestions. So, thank you.

45 FACILITATOR LEA: All right. It looks  
46 like we are almost out of time, but we have time  
47 for a couple of more comments. Lisa, and then  
48 Terri.

1 MS. GREGG: I was just going to ask.  
2 Margo, was the NS-1 discussion that we took off  
3 the agenda, was that going to have any discussion  
4 about, you know, it may have been some of the  
5 legal things you were talking about, like the  
6 structure of the SSCs and how they --- what their  
7 role is in the council process. But it's really  
8 the National Standards, I'm not sure if it's 1 or  
9 2, that get into those processes. Was it 1? I  
10 mean, was that going to be part of the NS-1  
11 discussion at all?

12 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: No, that's more  
13 of a broader national view addressing updates and  
14 potential changes to the National Standard 1  
15 guidelines for over-fishing in ACLs. It wasn't a  
16 specific HMS thing. Is that what your question  
17 was?

18 MS. GREGG: I know that NS-1 isn't  
19 HMS-specific, but if --- but it does talk about  
20 the scientific process with the councils, and  
21 like you were saying, SSCs and that kind of  
22 thing. So, I didn't know if that was --- those  
23 were the comments that Florida Fish and Wildlife  
24 Commission provided like four years ago on  
25 National Standard 1 was trying to bring HMS into  
26 the council processes. So, I don't know where  
27 NS-1 stands at this point. I was kind of hoping  
28 to find out.

29 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Yes, so that's --  
30 - we had hoped that would be out. It's not yet,  
31 so I can't really share what it is, but it's kind  
32 of trying to take on board a lot of the recent  
33 discussions in different venues that affect the  
34 National Standard 1 guidelines, and come up with  
35 a proposal. It would be -- have been a better  
36 proposed rule. But, again, I --- it was not  
37 specific to HMS, and I don't think there was much  
38 in that, but I honestly don't know.

39 FACILITATOR LEA: Terri.

40 MS. BEIDEMAN: I'm going to jump in  
41 just a little bit on what Rusty had to say. I  
42 think that more science and more review by, you  
43 know, a variety of folks and different angles is  
44 a good thing, and that we want to have a  
45 committee here that does that. And, in fact, you  
46 know, we have quite a few government personnel  
47 here, mostly managers. Perhaps it would be very  
48 helpful to have the scientists that --- and I

1 know I see them at the IAC, but I do not see them  
2 here. And the science that we manage our fish by  
3 is complicated, it might be helpful to have the  
4 scientists that are involved in it attend this  
5 meeting and, you know, have the opportunity for  
6 them to ask questions on or off line to us, and  
7 back and forth. And, you know, it's always been  
8 kind of, you know, question certain individuals  
9 that work and control a lot of how the management  
10 of the fishery goes by the science, but the  
11 fishermen never see, you know.

12 So, you know, suggestion: maybe  
13 include having some opportunity for them to be  
14 here while you're working on this SSC idea. I  
15 know that they do come up here for the other  
16 meeting, so thanks.

17 FACILITATOR LEA: And we haven't heard  
18 from Pat on this one, so we'll give you the last  
19 word on this one, then we're going to move to  
20 Amendment 6.

21 MR. AUGUSTINE: Thank you. I'll try  
22 to keep it brief. Mike brought up some good  
23 points about where we could do our research which  
24 was important, and John followed that up with the  
25 fact that they do have existing committees that  
26 do prime research activities. No one brought up  
27 the suggestion that we take a look at the funding  
28 for the HMS division to see if you could, in  
29 fact, identify three, or four, or five million  
30 dollars to transfer and identify strictly for the  
31 research activity. No one talked about research  
32 set-aside.

33 I would hope that in our reaching out  
34 for funding we end up not going in that  
35 direction. And as most of you know, research  
36 set-aside with the Mid-Atlantic and ASMOC has  
37 been a bust. It's been misused, abused, and I  
38 can't imagine what other words to use, but it's  
39 become a legal vehicle for stealing. And the  
40 product was so available, I mean, summer  
41 flounder, black sea bass for the marketplace and  
42 tracking of the catching and selling of that was  
43 so bad, that we had a lot of folks became very,  
44 very rich very quickly as a result.

45 When Enforcement finally got involved,  
46 we had some 70 odd people being indicted on Long  
47 Island for having misused the system, so if we  
48 think in the long term as we move into funding

1 sources, that we stay away from anything that was  
2 a research set-aside, setting aside either tuna,  
3 billfish, or sharks as a saleable item that you  
4 could actually bid on so that you could generate  
5 funding for it. And believe me, there are people  
6 that are thinking along those lines. If you can  
7 do it for other species of fish to generate  
8 funding to do grants, to do research because the  
9 government funding is not available, I'm sure  
10 that folks are thinking about well, why can't we  
11 do it with HMS? It hasn't been voiced yet, but I  
12 hope we don't go in that direction.

13 But I do believe that if you look at  
14 your own budget, not yours specifically, but all  
15 of HMS and see if you can't eke out a few hundred  
16 thousand dollars here, or a few more there, or  
17 come up with a couple of million dollars. You  
18 know, John pointed out there is a list of  
19 research needs that are absolutely essential that  
20 be looked at in the very short term. Both David  
21 has mentioned it, and so has Bob, but why not  
22 look at that list, identify two or three  
23 priorities, embed them in a part of your policy,  
24 identify specific funding for it within the HMS  
25 division and get the ball rolling.

26 I think once a fund of sorts has been  
27 set aside from the overall budget from HMS, maybe  
28 it's possible then to move up the ladder to  
29 Eileen or whoever it happens to be to get more  
30 funding. But somewhere along the line, money has  
31 to be generated. I would hope this policy become  
32 similar to the Rec policy. Both are well-  
33 meaning, there is no question about it, but if  
34 it's just another document that says a lot of  
35 nice things as to what we'd like to do when we  
36 grow up, when we have funding, it becomes just  
37 another gold piece of paper.

38 And then the final thing, who is it  
39 for? Is it for the HMS staff to say this is what  
40 our goals are, or we want them to be, or is it  
41 for the general public? What kind of a tool is  
42 it going to be, Margo? And I guess maybe that  
43 answer would be helpful. How will you use this  
44 document? Will you use it as an internal  
45 document to drive funding? Will you use it as an  
46 internal document for goals within the HMS  
47 division and your staff? Will you use it as a  
48 goal piece or policy to present to NOAA? I'm not

1 sure what --- where that fits in there. You  
2 might want to clarify that more.

3 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: So, I think I've  
4 said this. So, this was an intent for us to  
5 identify those needs that we had that we thought  
6 would help us as we manage the fisheries. It  
7 would be lovely if you've all found it useful in  
8 your work, as well, but if you don't, then you  
9 don't. It was still a useful exercise for us.

10 We continue to talk about internally  
11 HMS research needs with the science side of the  
12 House. The HMS Management Division is salaries,  
13 travel for you all, and the permit budget so that  
14 we can issue 35,000 permits. You will not find a  
15 couple of million dollars in our budget without  
16 having maybe me here and nothing else happening,  
17 so there's not a lot of loose change lying  
18 around.

19 I will be happy to share that with you  
20 all, and you can see, but we will very quickly  
21 have either no permits issued, or no one getting  
22 actions done. Fisheries closed, permits issued,  
23 management actions done, and it's just not there.

24 So, I completely agree. I'd love to  
25 generate some new money. Maybe I should use that  
26 color printer we bought and start printing dollar  
27 bills, but I don't know how else to generate  
28 that.

29 MR. AUGUSTINE: Well, I didn't want to  
30 put you on the defensive, and that wasn't the  
31 intent of my question. I wanted it on the record  
32 for everyone to realize that's where the source  
33 of your funding is coming from, and that someone  
34 else has to step forward, whether it's this group  
35 or another group to identify and push. Whether  
36 it's a Congressman that Dewey has talked about in  
37 his getting the issue addressed. Maybe that's  
38 where it lies, but the fact of the matter is,  
39 it's obvious you're not going to get more money  
40 unless you raise fees for permits, and still is  
41 not sufficient to do what you want to do.

42 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Let me clarify  
43 that. The monies that are collected go to  
44 Treasury. They do not come back to us.

45 MR. AUGUSTINE: I know.

46 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: So, it's not a  
47 supplement to our budget.

48 MR. AUGUSTINE: So, keep your job, and

1 keep your staff. You're all doing a great job.  
2 And I wasn't picking on you, I was trying to  
3 clarify where we might possibly find some money.

4 I think we sit around the table C-I  
5 sat through ASMFC in the Mid-Atlantic when we  
6 talked about research set-aside, and it was very,  
7 very well received when we first set it up. We  
8 thought golly gee whiz, this will be a great way  
9 to pay for all of our research. And as the plan  
10 unfolded it became clearer and clearer we had to  
11 have an enforcement issue to address, and all the  
12 states agreed yes, we're going to do that. And  
13 as time went on, the system fell apart, where it  
14 was originally designed for commercial, it went  
15 into recreational, party boat-charter boat guys.  
16 If it hadn't been expanded, we had a lot of party  
17 boat-charter boat people that typically would  
18 have been put out of business because of the  
19 shortness of some of the seasons. So, it was  
20 used as a tool, an economic driver, if you will.

21 I could see the same thing happening  
22 with this, maybe on a limited basis. I'll use  
23 the word swordfish; maybe because we have a very  
24 large population of swordfish we ought to look at  
25 what we can do with funding --- raising some  
26 funding through paying for that research with  
27 setting aside some swordfish that may be sold  
28 commercially.

29 I'm not sure how to do it, but it just  
30 seems to me we've got to think outside the box on  
31 this one. It's obvious your hands and everybody  
32 else's hands are tied. We definitely need to do  
33 research, but we sit here wringing our hands  
34 saying well, how do we do it? And I think we've  
35 got to look at maybe that as a possibility, as a  
36 way to raise that money. But short of that,  
37 we're going to have the same conversation this  
38 year, next year, the following year. John will  
39 say the same thing every year, and that's where  
40 we are. So, let's hope we can come up with some  
41 money to support that funding.

42 MR. GRAVES: Just a short one, John.

43 FACILITATOR LEA: I guess, we're going  
44 to give John the last word, and then we're going  
45 to try to move to 6.

46 MR. GRAVES: Pat, that's a good idea,  
47 but research set-asides only work where you're  
48 under a quota system, and for most of the HMS

1 species that we have, we're not under quotas.  
2 Swordfish, we don't even catch our quota, so I  
3 don't think that there's going to be any long  
4 liner out there that's going to want to buy extra  
5 swordfish quota when they're not catching their  
6 quota as it is.

7 (Off microphone comment)

8 MR. GRAVES: He's got --- there's room  
9 in our quota. He's just got to buy the permits.

10 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: All right. So,  
11 I want to thank you all for this. I think, Pat,  
12 actually your last comment is a great segue where  
13 we have been talking about this for some time. I  
14 think these issues are big, they're bigger than  
15 the Division, and that's why we ended up with  
16 this document as something that we could produce.  
17 So, if folks want another couple of weeks, that's  
18 great. I don't know that we would move on  
19 finalizing it maybe before the end of the month,  
20 but I wouldn't expect tremendous change in what  
21 we finalize than what's here. I think we can  
22 talk a little bit more about funding. I think we  
23 can talk a little bit more about purpose, but in  
24 terms of the big picture stuff, we never thought  
25 this would do it. We wanted to have something  
26 that we had to put into the process, and I think  
27 it will be very similar to this. But please send  
28 us your thoughts, we do appreciate it, certainly  
29 always good to get this kind of feedback on the  
30 record, and I will take it back, absolutely.

31 FACILITATOR LEA: All right, great.  
32 Thank you, all, and we're going to move on to  
33 discussing Amendment 6. Guy DuBeck is going to  
34 go over the presentation, so we'll give you a  
35 minute to load up your PowerPoint or PDF.

36 Also, I feel like I'm hearing some  
37 sort of resonance from maybe one of the mics back  
38 there. I'm told that if you turn the volume down  
39 it can help a little bit to reduce that, so if  
40 you're hearing that near any of the mics that  
41 might be helpful.

42 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: I wanted to  
43 mention, too, a great thank you to Bill Gerencer  
44 for the bagels, so we've had cookies and bagels.  
45 Thank you very much. Please make sure to get  
46 some before they're gone, and they're in the back  
47 underneath the happy face.

48 MR. DuBECK: Good morning, everybody.

1 So, I'm going to give an update on Amendment 6.  
2 The last AP we gave the pre-draft of Amendment 6,  
3 and based on the comments on the pre-draft we're  
4 going to discuss some of the potential management  
5 options we're considering.

6 So, here's quick outline of the  
7 presentation. The next one is the current issues  
8 facing the Fishery, which we've discussed in the  
9 past few years, and was also in the pre-draft.  
10 Here are the major objectives for Amendment 6  
11 which have not changed since the pre-draft.

12 So, last year we did the assessments  
13 for bonnethead and sharpnose sharks. On the  
14 first day of the assessment, scientists indicated  
15 that there was genetic information that the  
16 bonnethead and sharpnose sharks should be split  
17 into different stocks. At that point, there was  
18 two options that could occur. The first one is,  
19 we could stop the assessment and not provide any  
20 updated scientific advice on the stocks, or we  
21 can continue and provide management with advice  
22 on potential status of the stocks.

23 So, it was decided to continue since  
24 the last assessment was over five years old.  
25 Based on the results and the peer review  
26 comments, we decided to split the bonnethead  
27 shark into two stocks, Mid-Atlantic and Gulf of  
28 Mexico, with both of them being unknown status.  
29 And then the Atlantic sharpnose sharks we decided  
30 to split into the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico  
31 stocks, and both of them having a not overfish,  
32 and no overfishing occurring status. Based on  
33 this, we are considering establishing small  
34 coastal TACs to modify the commercial non-  
35 blacknose small coastal quotas in Amendment 6.

36 So, here's a list of the potential  
37 management options we're going to be discussing  
38 today. We're going to be soliciting opinions and  
39 advice on these range of options, and we'd like  
40 to hear your opinions on whether these are good  
41 options, or we should be considering other things  
42 at this point.

43 So, the first one we're going to talk  
44 about is the small coastal TACs and quotas.  
45 First year is the Atlantic small coastals.  
46 Currently, right now the base quota for the  
47 Atlantic non-blacknose small coastal quota is  
48 176.1 metric tons. We are considering the

1 following options based on the assessment  
2 results.

3 The first one, the first TAC is based  
4 on the bonnethead assessment. We have a TAC of  
5 177 metric tons, and a lower commercial quota of  
6 128 metric tons, and this is, again, based on the  
7 bonnethead assessment results. Since bonnethead  
8 is unknown we could take a more conservative  
9 approach and use these projections for the small  
10 coastal fishery.

11 The next two options are --- the TACs  
12 and quotas -- are pretty much, what we do is  
13 account for all the sources of mortality for the  
14 small coastal fishery, and then add in the  
15 different commercial quotas to determine these  
16 TACs.

17 In Option 2, we could take --- we  
18 could maintain the current quota of 176 metric  
19 tons. In Option 3, we could actually increase  
20 the commercial quota to 264 metric tons, which  
21 would be maintaining the current catch levels,  
22 because right now the small coastal fishery has  
23 been getting the base quota plus 50 percent  
24 underharvest, and that's where we'd get 264  
25 metric tons.

26 In the Gulf of Mexico, we have a base  
27 quota of 45.5 metric tons. These are the options  
28 we are considering. Again, for the TACs, we were  
29 considering adding all the sources of mortality  
30 for the small coastal fishery, and plus the  
31 potential commercial quotas to get these TACs.

32 The first one is to, again, maintain  
33 the current base quota. Option 2 we are  
34 considering is increasing the current base quota  
35 to 68.3 metric tons. That would be maintaining  
36 the current levels of catch. That's, again, the  
37 base quota plus 50 percent of the underharvest.

38 Option 3 would be to increase the  
39 quota to 178.5 metric tons. That actually would  
40 be doubling the landings from 2013.

41 Now I'm going to move on to permit  
42 stacking. You know, we've discussed permit  
43 stacking before many times in the pre-draft.  
44 Here's kind of some of the comments we've  
45 received. And based on these comments, we're  
46 considering these options.

47 We are considering to implement permit  
48 stacking for directed permit holders only. We

1 can either not do permit stacking which would be  
2 in a --- so it would be just status quo of one  
3 directed permit per vessel and one trip limit.

4 Another option we do have two trip ---  
5 two permits for every vessel, and that would be  
6 a trip limit of 72 large coastal sharks, or the  
7 third option would be for three permits and three  
8 trip limits.

9 So, now we're going to move on to the  
10 commercial shark retention limits. This is a new  
11 --- something new here based on the comments  
12 received in the pre-draft. We felt C- we thought  
13 that it would be interesting to look at,  
14 especially since a lot of the comments we  
15 received on the pre-draft was saying that we  
16 should look at the retention limit for every  
17 shark directed permit as an alternative to permit  
18 stacking.

19 As you know, the current trip limit  
20 for large coastal sharks is established in  
21 Amendment 2 based on part of how many sandbar  
22 sharks would be discarded dead from the number of  
23 shark trips that were expected to interact with  
24 sandbar sharks. And as, again, in the pre-draft  
25 we talked about how the Sandbar Research Fishery  
26 has not fully harvested the sandbar quota, so a  
27 portion of the remaining sandbar research quota  
28 could be used to count for discards if the  
29 aggregated large coastal retention limit is  
30 increased.

31 And based on these comments, we're  
32 considering these options. So, here you'll see  
33 is that the different retention limits are on the  
34 lefthand side, and then the right-hand side would  
35 be the revised sandbar shark research quota. So,  
36 the current option is to do nothing and keep  
37 everything as it is right now.

38 Option 2 would be increase the trip  
39 limit to 55 large coastal per trip, so that would  
40 be about one-half times the current trip limit.  
41 And if we did do this, we'd reduce the sandbar  
42 research quota to 75 metric tons, or we can  
43 increase it to 72 large coastals, or 108. And  
44 then the research quota would be adjusted  
45 quarterly.

46 So, the next bunch of slides we're  
47 going to talk about how the biggest part here is  
48 the regional and sub-regional quotas. There's a

1 couple of parts to this. The first section we're  
2 going to talk about is just the Atlantic region.

3 So, pretty much the comments we  
4 received on the pre-draft were, they thought that  
5 some regions could account for the regional  
6 differences and allow different opening dates.  
7 South Atlantic fishermen for the large coastal  
8 fishery prefer opening earlier in the year, while  
9 North Atlantic fishermen would prefer opening  
10 later in the year as sharks are more available  
11 later in the year in their region. But then  
12 there's also potential for unequal distribution  
13 of the sub-regional quotas if historical landings  
14 are used. And, also, we got comments that we  
15 should have flexibility to move quotas between  
16 regions. So, based on these comments, we're  
17 considering a number of options for the Atlantic  
18 and the Gulf of Mexico.

19 So, again, in the Atlantic region  
20 we're considering establishing sub-regional  
21 quotas, potentially modifying the quota linkages.  
22 And then also prohibiting the harvest of  
23 blacknose sharks in the Atlantic region, or a  
24 portion of the Atlantic sub-regions.

25 So, we're considering splitting the  
26 Atlantic region into sub-regions for the large  
27 coastal and small coastal fisheries, and are  
28 considering these two options. We actually split  
29 the Atlantic along the 33 degrees, which is ---  
30 let's see, it's kind of a dark line. And then --  
31 - or the 34 degree line, which is more the purple  
32 dashed line.

33 Based on the locations of the sub-  
34 region splits, there are a variety of factors  
35 that we need to consider when calculating the  
36 sub-regional quotas. The first factor we need to  
37 consider is the different closures. You know,  
38 the small coastal fishery has closed early in  
39 2010, 2013, and again in this current year. And  
40 has reduced fishing opportunities for fishermen  
41 in the North Atlantic area. And then for the  
42 aggregated large coastal fishery we've opened now  
43 on July 15th, and that has reduced the fishing  
44 opportunities for fishermen in the South Atlantic  
45 area. If we used average landings, the closures  
46 could affect the sub-regional quota splits.

47 Next one is differences in landing  
48 conditions. ACCSP dealer reports indicate

1 differences in how fishermen landed sharks. Some  
2 are reported with the heads on verse others  
3 reported with the heads off. Observer data and  
4 port agents indicate sharks are landed with their  
5 heads off everywhere. And then, also, in our  
6 eDealer reporting form, there's not a code for  
7 heads on. But, again, you know, the landings  
8 condition weight would also impact the sub-  
9 regional quota split. So, what do we do? Do we  
10 use average landings for each sub-region, or do  
11 we use a different method? And we look forward  
12 to your thoughts on what we should do.

13 So, now the next couple of slides are  
14 going to go into the Atlantic quota splits for  
15 the different management groups along the 33 and  
16 34 degree latitude. The tables are going to be  
17 the same with the potential options up top, and  
18 then talking about the potential quotas, and also  
19 at the end there we have potential quota  
20 linkages.

21 For the large coastal fishery for the  
22 aggregated large coastal and hammerhead we used  
23 the average landings to calculate potential  
24 options, and we used data from 2008 through 2013.  
25 I'm not going to go through every --- all the  
26 numbers here, but I just want to bring attention  
27 to certain things on different slides. So, right  
28 now we are considering maintaining the quota  
29 linkages with the hammerhead and the large  
30 coastal fishery.

31 For the hammerhead quota, you'll see  
32 that the regional split, there is no difference  
33 between the regional split options because there  
34 was no landings caught in the catch areas between  
35 the two options. And, again, we're going to  
36 maintain that quota linkage.

37 On to the blacknose small coastal  
38 quota. For the small coastal fishery in the next  
39 couple of options, we used data from 2010 through  
40 2013, which was all the data past Amendment 3  
41 where we changed the small coastal fishery.

42 I just want to point out that --- and  
43 you see in the right-hand column -- we are  
44 considering prohibiting the harvest and landings  
45 of blacknose sharks in the North Atlantic region  
46 due to the small quota split based on the average  
47 landings.

48 So, then the next couple of slides,

1 the next three slides are going to be talking  
2 about the Atlantic small coastal quota options  
3 that I talked about earlier. The first option  
4 which had a decreased quota of 120 metric tons.  
5 Based on the average landings and the potential  
6 option sub-regional split, here's what the  
7 potential quotas could be. And, again, we would  
8 be removing the quota linkage for the North  
9 Atlantic region.

10 For Option 2 would be maintaining the  
11 current base quota of 176 metric tons. And,  
12 again, we would be removing the quota linkage for  
13 the North Atlantic.

14 And the last option here for the  
15 Atlantic small coastal is, again, the increased  
16 commercial quota, and also we would, due to the  
17 small blacknose quota, remove the linkage. So,  
18 that was for the Atlantic region, and now we're  
19 going to move on to the Gulf of Mexico region.

20 So, we are considering implementing  
21 sub-regional quotas in the Gulf of Mexico and,  
22 again, adjusting the quota linkages. Here we're  
23 looking at potentially considering prohibiting  
24 the harvest of hammerhead sharks in the Gulf of  
25 Mexico, or a portion of the sub-regions. We have  
26 similar questions about the use of average  
27 landings for the Gulf of Mexico, as in the  
28 Atlantic region.

29 So, again, here we're considering  
30 splitting the Gulf of Mexico along the 88 degree  
31 longitude line, which would circumvent the  
32 National Wildlife Refuge. And then another  
33 option would be split around the 89 degree  
34 longitude line.

35 So, again, these are similar tables.  
36 For the Gulf of Mexico large coastal quota,  
37 again, we used years from 2008 through 2013 for  
38 the large coastal fishery. For the potential  
39 options, we are considering removing the  
40 hammerhead linkage with the large coastal fishery  
41 in the Western Gulf due to the small hammerhead  
42 quota which is on this slide. Based on the  
43 average landings, the Western Gulf of Mexico has  
44 historically landed very few hammerhead sharks,  
45 so we are actually considering prohibiting the  
46 harvest and landings of hammerhead sharks in the  
47 Western Gulf. And then, again, removing the  
48 linkage between the large coastal fishery.

1                   Here's the quota breakdown for the  
2 Gulf of Mexico blacktip quota. You know, there  
3 is no --- this table is slightly different  
4 because there is no direct quota linkage to the  
5 other large coastal sharks, and we are not  
6 considering adding one at this point. And also  
7 note that we are --- as you remember in the pre-  
8 draft -- we are not considering doing sub-  
9 regional quota splits for the small coastal  
10 fishery. And, also, we didn't receive any  
11 comments on that in the pre-draft.

12                   So, the next potential option we're  
13 considering is retention limits for the  
14 Caribbean. So, this is a little change from the  
15 pre-draft. The pre-draft we were looking at  
16 establishing Caribbean region; now we're  
17 considering establishing a Caribbean retention  
18 limit. You know, we are considering applying the  
19 current Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit  
20 retention limit for sharks of zero to all  
21 commercial shark permit holders in the Caribbean  
22 area. Currently, right now there are no directed  
23 or incidental permit holders. There's very few  
24 landings in the Caribbean region, and then there  
25 is the current ESA listing scalloped hammerhead  
26 sharks in the U.S. Caribbean.

27                   And, also, I want to point out that  
28 we've gotten quite a few recent phone calls about  
29 the --- fishermen indicating they would like to  
30 land sharks in the Caribbean area. Again, we  
31 look forward to your thoughts on this issue.

32                   The last one is about modifying the  
33 retention, I mean, upgrading restrictions. This  
34 was, again, in the pre-draft, but it was a part  
35 of permit stacking. We felt we wanted to move it  
36 out and talk about this as a separate option  
37 here. The first couple of bullets are the  
38 current upgrading restriction for the shark-  
39 directed permit holders. We are considering  
40 removing the upgrade restriction to maintain  
41 consistency with the Northeast multi-species  
42 permits, and also increase flexibility for the  
43 shark permit holder since it's really the  
44 retention limits that are the restricting option  
45 for the permit holders.

46                   So, on top of getting comments from  
47 the AP on everything, we'd particularly like some  
48 comments on whether we should use historical

1 average landings to determine sub-regional  
2 quotas. And then about the regional differences  
3 in landing conditions of sharks. And, also, you  
4 know, the latitude and longitude lines are  
5 appropriate to use for the different sub-regional  
6 splits. And, also, the retention limit of zero  
7 for Caribbean shark permit holders.

8 So, here's kind of the next steps.  
9 So, we're going to consider the comments from the  
10 AP, then develop FMP and proposed rule. Hoping  
11 to have public hearings out, you know, the end of  
12 the year, beginning of 2015, and hopefully have  
13 this effective in 2015.

14 If you have any questions or comments,  
15 feel free to put them to us.

16 FACILITATOR LEA: All right. It looks  
17 like we have about an hour, a little less than an  
18 hour for questions and comments. I saw Jason,  
19 and then Marcos, and then Sonja. Jason.

20 MR. ADRIANCE: Thanks, Jason Adriance.  
21 Thank you.

22 A couple of comments. On your  
23 latitude line, were those in the Gulf in the sub-  
24 regions, were those chosen simply because they're  
25 even numbers, or they match the statistical  
26 zones?

27 MR. DuBECK: No, they're not even  
28 numbers. They're actually the catch areas that  
29 are established in the dealer systems already.

30 MR. ADRIANCE: Okay. All right.

31 MR. DuBECK: So, it wouldn't be  
32 changing anything for the dealers; it's already  
33 established.

34 MR. ADRIANCE: Okay. I think the  
35 Mississippi-Louisiana border would probably be a  
36 better line -- or Mississippi-Alabama, I'm sorry.

37 And then in relation to those sub-  
38 quotas, I've mentioned this in the past and this  
39 has caused us some issues in Louisiana is with  
40 bull sharks being in that aggregated LCS. When  
41 you end up closing --- ours is such a mixed  
42 fishery that you're going to run into a lot of  
43 dead discard of aggregated LCS if blacktip  
44 remains open and the aggregated LCS is closed.  
45 So, the possibility of pulling bull sharks out of  
46 that would be nice, if that's something you can  
47 look at. That's pretty much all I had.

48 FACILITATOR LEA: Marcos.

1                   MR. HANKE: Yes. About some of the  
2 issues that you touched in the Caribbean, there  
3 is a big discussion internally on the local  
4 government to clarify some issues about adopting  
5 the HMS to the state water, and to fill all those  
6 loopholes and the confusions that was created  
7 internally there. I'm working already with Randy  
8 about that. I want to ask to do follow-up on  
9 that, and we really need the help and guidance on  
10 that.

11                   But then about the quotas, the way I  
12 understand our status right now there is no shark  
13 fishing in Puerto Rico available, you know. The  
14 fact is that if you use HMS rules, and  
15 regulations, and the quotas, and when you close  
16 and everything, the people in Puerto Rico cannot  
17 fish for sharks.

18                   That's something that should be  
19 addressed. Some quotas should be set apart, and  
20 I recommend that through the Caribbean, a  
21 specific permit -- have a limit on the size of  
22 the boat and all the characteristics that's  
23 already in there. The quota should be focused on  
24 that permit because that permit is designed, and  
25 I was very involved on building up the rationale  
26 for that permit, and the quota should be linked  
27 to that permit. That's my recommendation.

28                   And another important data is that in  
29 Puerto Rico, fishermen in general, commercial  
30 fishermen in general, they don't have the  
31 expertise to identify the fish. They don't have  
32 the culture aspect about the shark fishing or  
33 anything like that. Maybe a single individual,  
34 but in terms of the industry, I'm talking about  
35 characterizing the industry, that's the way it  
36 is. And the most prolific and the shark that is  
37 most abundant on the Caribbean is the reef shark,  
38 and they are everywhere, I mean in quantities  
39 that you cannot imagine. And I understand this is  
40 how --- precaution that we have to have once we  
41 open for any species of shark, but Caribbean  
42 behave different than the Continent, everything  
43 are linked by a shallow water platform and so on.  
44 And as far as I know, if you compare the  
45 Caribbean sharpnose and the movement, the way  
46 they behave is a little different than the large  
47 pelagics and the other sharks that move a lot.  
48 All of this should be taken in consideration for

1 maybe to include them on those small quotas to  
2 allow some shark fishing in Puerto Rico, and use  
3 this effort to create science for those guys that  
4 start to enjoy the benefit of finally have some  
5 shark available for them to fish legally, and  
6 everything running smooth, for those data to be  
7 covered in science. That's my point.

8 FACILITATOR LEA: Sonja.

9 MS. FORDHAM: Thank you. Sonja Fordham,  
10 Shark Advocates. I just have now five questions.  
11 Do you want all of them at once, or would you  
12 like --- yes? Okay.

13 I just had a --- if you could provide  
14 just a little bit more information of how we got  
15 to unknown for bonnethead and what the plan is to  
16 have status again in terms of evaluating the  
17 stock status on bonnetheads? And, also, I just  
18 had a question about the future for the  
19 assessment of hammerhead sharks, when we might  
20 have some update on their status?

21 Next, just about the Caribbean. I'd  
22 just like a little bit more explanation about the  
23 current Commercial Caribbean Small Boat Permit  
24 retention limit of zero, just what that means in  
25 terms of what they can catch in the Caribbean.  
26 That wording, for me, it's hard to understand.  
27 It's like you have a permit, but it looks like  
28 you're trying to say that they can't catch any  
29 sharks. I just need clarification, and what the  
30 universe is there, who it applies to.

31 It would be nice to know a little bit  
32 more about --- the questions about fishing for  
33 sharks in the Caribbean, if they were specific to  
34 species, like either the sharks that we were just  
35 discussing, or the scalloped hammerheads that are  
36 now listed. Any more information about what  
37 they're interested in fishing in the Caribbean.

38 And then, finally, based on the last  
39 comment have there been any workshops, NMFS  
40 workshops, ID outreach in the Caribbean, and do  
41 you have any planned? Those are just all --- a  
42 little bit more information would be helpful.  
43 Thank you.

44 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: So, on the  
45 Caribbean Small Boat Permits, that was the permit  
46 that was created in Amendment 4, if you remember  
47 that. It was designed to better reflect some of  
48 the realities in the Caribbean with the smaller

1 boats, shorter trips, often kind of direct  
2 retail, so the fisherman is also the dealer and  
3 accommodating those practices.

4 At that time, as well, we created the  
5 regulatory structure so that sharks would be able  
6 to be landed under that permit when the  
7 assessment information indicated it was  
8 warranted. So, what that meant is the regulations  
9 have a provision for shark landings, but right  
10 now the retention limit is set to zero. And  
11 there's, I believe, no other commercial permits  
12 in that area so, effectively, there's not fishing  
13 under the permits we have.

14 I think that's part of the reason,  
15 also, we have not had a shark ID workshop in the  
16 Caribbean because there haven't been the permit  
17 holders that are required to take it. That's,  
18 obviously, for dealers.

19 And then other questions, hammerhead  
20 assessment I don't believe is on the current  
21 schedule looking at Karol. Yes, let's let Karol  
22 take that one, and maybe bonnethead assessment.

23 MS. BREWSTER-GEISZ: Thanks. So, the  
24 hammerhead assessment, we have a SEDAR Steering  
25 Committee coming up at the beginning of October,  
26 and we are going to ask for scalloped hammerhead  
27 assessment for 2018. So, that hopefully will be  
28 approved.

29 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Karol, can you  
30 talk a little bit about the assessment schedules  
31 that we have now with international and domestic,  
32 and what that all means?

33 MS. BREWSTER-GEISZ: Yes. So, as Rusty  
34 has pointed out before, we only have two  
35 assessment scientists now in the Southeast, and  
36 we have a lot of shark species to be assessed,  
37 some of them to be assessed through SEDAR which  
38 the process seems to take a while. And we're  
39 looking at about a year and a half for every  
40 benchmark that we do, which we are fast becoming  
41 the need to do a benchmark for pretty much every  
42 species because we're so far behind.

43 And then we also have the  
44 international ones, like blue shark and porbeagle  
45 which also need to be weaved in there, and those  
46 tend to be done every other year. So, at the  
47 moment we have worked out a schedule at the  
48 Southeast Science Center that on an even year we

1 will do two shark assessments, two domestic  
2 through the SEDAR process shark assessments, and  
3 then in the odd year is when they do the  
4 international one. So, we'll start the domestic  
5 ones at the beginning of the even year, go  
6 around, that will be done midway through the odd  
7 year, and then do the international one, and then  
8 we go back to a domestic. So, it's going to take  
9 a while to get through the list.

10 We definitely have in 2016 Atlantic  
11 blacktips. We are also going to ask to do an  
12 update for Gulf of Mexico blacktip at that point.  
13 And then in 2018 we are asking for scalloped  
14 hammerhead and dusky sharks. So, that's all we  
15 have planned so far for the domestic.

16 MS. FORDHAM: And bonnethead?

17 MS. BREWSTER-GEISZ: Okay. So, you  
18 want me to get into bonnethead now. So, the  
19 bonnethead and the sharpnose, as we explained  
20 when we went to the last assessment at the first  
21 day of the data workshop, the scientists got  
22 together and said we can't assess these two  
23 species as one overall stock. Both bonnethead and  
24 sharpnose clearly have genetic information  
25 showing the two different stocks between the  
26 Atlantic and the Gulf. Based on advice mainly  
27 from me, they decided to at least go forth and  
28 give us some information.

29 At the 2007 assessment for sharpnose,  
30 the scientists had already suggested there might  
31 be a split, so the data that they used in the  
32 2007, they had split the data because 2007 was a  
33 benchmark, so they had split it. So, when we went  
34 forward this time doing a standard assessment,  
35 they could still split the data because they had  
36 already done it once before, and they could  
37 figure out how to do it again. They could not  
38 split the data for the bonnethead in a standard  
39 assessment. They didn't have the timing for it,  
40 they didn't have the people, the ability to split  
41 all of the different data streams between the  
42 Atlantic and the Gulf.

43 So, when they went forth and finished  
44 the assessment with the sharpnose, they were able  
45 to put Atlantic biology with Atlantic data  
46 streams, and Gulf biology with Gulf data streams.  
47 Scientists were happy, the peer reviewers were  
48 happy, it all worked out. That's why we have

1 actual status for sharpnose of no overfishing,  
2 not overfished.

3 For bonnethead they were not. They  
4 were able to split the biology, but when they  
5 compared the Atlantic biology it was on the  
6 overall data, so Gulf data, Atlantic data  
7 combined, and the same for the Gulf. So, when  
8 that came back to the scientists, they looked at  
9 it and said okay, overall it looks not  
10 overfishing, not overfished, but we have some  
11 real concerns because looking at the Atlantic  
12 biology with everything it looks like that could  
13 be overfished, overfishing. So, they weren't  
14 quite sure what it was showing.

15 When it went to the peer reviewers,  
16 they pretty much hands down not a good  
17 assessment. So, we decided to call that unknown  
18 status for bonnethead in both Gulf and Atlantic.

19 (Off microphone comment)

20 MS. BREWSTER-GEISZ: It won't be  
21 resolved until we do benchmarks for all four of  
22 those stocks. That's the next plan, is to get  
23 Atlantic sharpnose Atlantic stock benchmark,  
24 Atlantic sharpnose Gulf stock benchmark, and then  
25 Atlantic stock bonnethead and Gulf stock  
26 bonnethead. All four new benchmarks, so we've  
27 increased the number of assessments we are  
28 required to do.

29 (Off microphone comment)

30 FACILITATOR LEA: Yes, you want to  
31 speak specifically to this, Bob?

32 MR. HUETER: Just a real quick question  
33 to Karol. Karol, is there any possibility when  
34 the scalloped hammerhead is assessed, that we do  
35 the great hammerhead the same time, do those two  
36 together because of identification issues and  
37 other considerations? I would really urge that.

38 MS. BREWSTER-GEISZ: I will ask. I have  
39 already asked Enrique what are we going to do  
40 about the cryptic hammerhead, what are we going  
41 to do about the ESA listing where it's split with  
42 Caribbean being separate, so I don't know. I  
43 don't know all the ins and outs of the data and  
44 the genetics they're already seeing with  
45 hammerheads, and whether or not we can throw  
46 great in there, but I understand your concern  
47 with that. Was there another assessment question  
48 you had? No.

1 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you. All right.  
2 So, Anna, and then --- oh, you had --- oh, I'm  
3 sorry. Okay.

4 (Off microphone comment)

5 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Is the inquiry  
6 about the Caribbean? What about it? I don't C-

7 MS. FORDHAM: Just a little bit more  
8 information about what ---

9 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: I think you heard  
10 from Marcos.

11 MS. FORDHAM: Oh, that they --- okay,  
12 so it's not specific to hammerheads, it's more  
13 about reef sharks and sharpnose?

14 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Yes.

15 MS. FORDHAM: Okay, thank you.

16 FACILITATOR LEA: So, we have Anna,  
17 then Randy, Rusty, Dave, and then back to Marcos  
18 if there's no one else. Anna? It takes a minute  
19 for them to warm up, so if you maybe are about to  
20 talk and haven't talked yet maybe turn it on and  
21 then it'll warm up and it will be ready when it's  
22 your turn.

23 MS. BECKWITH: Okay, this one works.  
24 That'll work, thanks.

25 My question is in reference to the  
26 comments requested for the historic average  
27 landings to determine the sub-regional quotas.  
28 For the small coastal sharks, I guess I need a  
29 little clarification on what you're thinking for  
30 historic average landings. I know that in 2010  
31 there was a change in reporting codes, so I'm  
32 wondering are you guys able to go back further  
33 than 2010? Is it a concern with those reporting  
34 codes? And then I'll have a follow-up depending  
35 on the answer to that.

36 MR. DuBECK: So, we can go back further  
37 than 2010. We were just using 2010 because that's  
38 when the small coastal fishery changed where we  
39 brought blacknose out and it became, you know,  
40 those quota linkages so we created the new  
41 complexes. But we can go back further if you  
42 prefer to look at that.

43 MS. BECKWITH: So, recognizing the  
44 closures that happened in 2010 and 2013, is there  
45 consideration to just utilize 2011 and 2012 to  
46 have kind of a current sense of the fishery but  
47 not take into consideration those closures that  
48 would disadvantage some fishermen?

1 MR. DuBECK: That's an option. That's  
2 why we're asking what we should use, should we  
3 use entire years, which years?

4 MS. BECKWITH: We would certainly  
5 support the use of 2011 and 2012 data, and not  
6 consideration of that 2010 and 2013 years that  
7 had the early closures.

8 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you. Randy.

9 MR. GREGORY: Can you hear me now? So,  
10 I had some of the same concerns and we sent you  
11 guys a letter. I hadn't really heard anything  
12 back yet other than we're working on it, so I  
13 hope you are. We also brought up the differences  
14 in landing condition, and I still don't see a  
15 solution to that, since you are back asking us  
16 for more information. But we saw lots of  
17 different, you know, and we talked to a bunch of  
18 different people in the Southeast and we saw all  
19 kinds of different landing conditions. And if one  
20 state's got landings with heads on, one state has  
21 landings with head off and tail on, and another  
22 state's landing are reported in quarters then  
23 that's a difference. Even though it may be a  
24 small difference it's still a difference and  
25 those need to be equaled out.

26 We sent you an answer to Slide 18  
27 which is the boundary for north and south. I  
28 spoke with folks, spoke with Wally from South  
29 Carolina. We just want to make sure that whatever  
30 we come up with is fair and manageable, so I  
31 think we put you all --- we gave you something  
32 that was right on the state line. It wasn't nice  
33 and pretty with numbers, but that was what I want  
34 to make sure you all did get what we sent you for  
35 what we thought would be a line.

36 Again, you know, we were greatly --  
37 our catches will greatly be reduced in small  
38 coastal sharks in 2010 to 2013, so we would like  
39 to use the full complete years. And that's about  
40 it; the full complete years of, what is it, 2011  
41 and 2012 for the small coastal sharks.

42 My other question is in the draft it  
43 looked like the sandbar shark, that you were  
44 using --- it looked like there was a possibility  
45 of having sand shark available to the commercial  
46 fishery, and now it looks like in this  
47 presentation the sandbar sharks will be used in -  
48 -- as discards for increasing the limits on other

1 sharks. So, I was just wondering how --- what the  
2 change was on that, and what your rationale was?

3 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Well, so on the  
4 sandbar shark, if you recall the discussion at  
5 the Advisory Panel meeting where we discussed the  
6 pre-draft there was fairly consistent comment  
7 that kind of giving back that quota to commercial  
8 fishermen given how low those numbers would be  
9 wasn't really worth it, is maybe not the best way  
10 to say it, but --- so we had taken that AP and  
11 put on board and had been looking at a different  
12 approach of increasing the trip limit, and then  
13 reducing what's available to the research fishery  
14 as a different way of --- and of providing some  
15 more access, but also taking the AP input.

16 MR. GREGORY: Okay. I just didn't see  
17 that explanation. And maybe a little bit of  
18 explanation to that in the presentation would  
19 have been a little helpful.

20 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: But, you know, can  
21 I follow-up on the boundary? I think one of the  
22 things we need to think about is complications to  
23 reporting if the management boundaries don't  
24 align well with the reporting boundaries, so we  
25 were trying to find the reporting boundaries that  
26 were close to where some of the kind of the break  
27 points in the fisheries were. So, hearing to use  
28 a state line, state borders instead, then will  
29 mean that we'll be in the middle of a reporting  
30 area. And is that preferable, and are there no  
31 concerns with that?

32 MR. GREGORY: No, that was --- I just  
33 wanted it to be something fair and equitable. You  
34 all asked us where we thought a line should be.  
35 We sent you a line as a recommendation, and it  
36 looked a little bit different to me. That was my  
37 only comment. I just wanted to know what the  
38 rationale was for where it --- what those  
39 possibilities are. I'm not sure what it will mean  
40 to us. It doesn't look like it's that big a  
41 difference, but if there was something else going  
42 on I didn't know about.

43 MS. BREWSTER-GEISZ: So, going back to  
44 the landing condition, I think that's something  
45 we really want a lot of discussion about with the  
46 fishermen in the different states. So, when you  
47 look at the data, Randy pointed out to us some of  
48 the data is reported heads off in some states, in

1 other states it's reported heads on. And we've  
2 gone back and we looked, we've looked at observer  
3 reports, we've asked port agents, as far as we  
4 can tell no place are sharks landed with their  
5 heads on, that is just doesn't happen. And we  
6 have it in eDealer, we don't even have a code for  
7 heads on in the database. What we found is that  
8 for the older systems heads on was the first  
9 drop-down box, the older electronic systems. And  
10 we're wondering if that's what happened, so we  
11 really would like some feedback from fishermen,  
12 is this --- the data being reported correctly? Is  
13 that what we should be using? Do we need to take  
14 into consideration the different weights of the  
15 heads when we're looking at the average landings?  
16 So, that's really where we're going with that.

17 MR. GREGORY: You've looked at it as  
18 well as I've looked at it. There's just all kinds  
19 of things out there that don't make a whole lot  
20 of sense. And one of the things that we're  
21 worried about is just you know how those numbers  
22 get multiplied, and there's a multiplication  
23 factor to get it back to whole weight or get it  
24 to dressed weight. We just make to make sure that  
25 we're comparing apples to apples and oranges to  
26 oranges.

27 That's our major concern. And after  
28 talking with the other, I call them trip ticket  
29 folks in the different states on what --- and, of  
30 course, those folks aren't at the fish houses and  
31 stuff, but we do believe that there are some  
32 differences. We just want to get it ironed out.

33 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you. Rusty.

34 MR. HUDSON: Rusty Hudson, commercial.  
35 Could you put it on Slide 38 for me, please? I  
36 need a clarification. Can you explain to me the  
37 dates as far as what I'm looking at? I see  
38 everything is 2015. I see proposed rules, I see  
39 final rules, and then I see effective date, but  
40 one says winter of 2015, the other says summer of  
41 2015. What's the actual dates?

42 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: When they're done.  
43 I don't have actual dates, and we have a lot  
44 going on. I don't know if you --- the Division  
45 has a very full plate right now, so we actually  
46 had a lot of discussion about how definitive we  
47 could be, and this was about as far as we felt  
48 comfortable. We know this is C-there are issues

1 that folks would really like us to address in  
2 this amendment so we're working hard, but there's  
3 a lot of other things going on.

4 MR. HUDSON: That's not really the  
5 question. The question, the proposed rules  
6 hearings in the winter of 2015; whereas, you'd  
7 have an effective date for summer of 2015. It's  
8 like flip flopped around or something there.

9 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Well, winter --  
10 January of 2015 would be winter. I think I'm not  
11 understanding. Right. So, January 2015 is winter  
12 of 2015, so that's what we're thinking.

13 (Off microphone comment)

14 MR. HUDSON: I think early 2015 would  
15 have fit better instead of winter.

16 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Okay.

17 MR. HUDSON: Now, with that said, I  
18 like Randy, you know, there were certain things  
19 in the draft that's no longer in this version.  
20 And part of it, of course, is sandbar. And we  
21 have an explosion of sandbar. I'm sure you're  
22 hearing a testimonial from a lot of people about  
23 that, but it sounded to me like when you were  
24 discussing the science, Karol, that we're looking  
25 at some time after 2018 before we do sandbar  
26 again. So, that's pretty sad because that's  
27 almost a 10-year period between the last  
28 assessment by the time we get it all done and get  
29 it all engaged on a management level because it  
30 looks like there are certain --- the analysts are  
31 wanting to go from nine months to a year and half  
32 to do stuff, takes one analyst to do a full  
33 benchmark.

34 Now, with that said, I understand  
35 some of that process, the data and stuff, and I'm  
36 worried that we're not getting the data that we  
37 need from just the research fishery. And,  
38 likewise, I was hoping to see some kind of, you  
39 know, small amount of sandbars that could have  
40 been taken incidental to whatever large coastal  
41 non-sandbars that they were targeting. But I'll  
42 just, you know, submit our comments, but we ---  
43 there's a lot of people were hoping for that.

44 Now, back to the choke species or the  
45 linkage, why do you even need to link our  
46 blacknose in the new southern region that you all  
47 are talking about on the east coast when you can  
48 simply just shut them down? And in that way,

1 you'll have --- you know, you'll have the same  
2 discards. You got discards going on with an  
3 unknown status for blacknose over in the Gulf. A  
4 lot of that's driven by shrimp boats, but I still  
5 wonder about the annual breeding when everything  
6 else on the biology of the shark is the same as  
7 our side, virtually, but ours is every other year  
8 on the breeding. So, you know, it just doesn't  
9 quite make sense to me, but I know they don't  
10 interact and crossover.

11 But now we're running into a backlog  
12 of unknown statuses with Atlantic blacktip. We  
13 have the situation with the bonnethead, and we  
14 have the situation with the Gulf blacknose. I  
15 mean, it's starting to back up, and you only have  
16 the two analysts on reconvene right now on the  
17 job. And they're trying up everything with  
18 smoothhounds, which when it came to the landings  
19 were mostly, you know, dominated here in the Mid-  
20 Atlantic, but when you get to the bycatch it  
21 seemed like it was a shrimp boat thing, again.  
22 But this big boy total excluder with the 2-inch  
23 bars is going to solve a lot of problems once  
24 that gets implemented.

25 But with all that said, we left  
26 360,000 pounds of small coastal on the table this  
27 year because of this 80 percent rule which should  
28 be 95 percent since you're using electronic  
29 monitoring now. Got a couple of years under your  
30 belt almost, and that --- we use 95 percent for  
31 basically on a council level. We'd love to see  
32 you get there.

33 And with regards to the non-sandbar,  
34 of course, we would like to see any increases ---

35 I mean, not the non-sandbar, but the non-  
36 blacknose small coastal, and we'd like to see  
37 some increases there.

38 Now, going back to Gulf blacktip, if  
39 I remember right, we could have gone all the way  
40 to a 4 million pound allocation, but we're at a  
41 half a million pound allocation over there. And,  
42 yet, there shutdown is 73 percent over here at  
43 this moment.

44 Now, Roy, on a council level will  
45 actually re-examine, talk with the people at the  
46 Miami Science Center, and if there is definitely  
47 no overestimates based on whatever, they can  
48 actually reopen some of this. Something that you

1 all can consider doing.

2 I understand David's dilemma, and we  
3 did shift some small coastal shark last year I  
4 guess it was, but this year we couldn't do it,  
5 and now he's closed down. So, we have only a  
6 large coastal fishery that's open on the east  
7 coast, and you have not that many boats that are  
8 able to fish because of the depressed economics  
9 that's being caused by this media campaign as if  
10 we're finning, we're the problem here in America,  
11 and yet we have to set an example just to destroy  
12 the fishery nymphs encouraged into existence 30  
13 years ago. So, I have a profound problem with the  
14 way this is going.

15 You should have in here a way to deal  
16 with the Gulf blacktip to increase that  
17 allocation. Even if you just double it to a  
18 million pounds, that would be great. And I'm sure  
19 Louisiana would probably appreciate that, because  
20 that's where a great deal of that action goes on,  
21 and then we can have some fresh meat. It's a  
22 domestic market, and once we can stabilize that  
23 market again, that's a good day.

24 Porbeagle sharks is another one that  
25 when it was assessed in 2010, they didn't know  
26 where the nursery ground was. Six months later  
27 they come out with all these sack-tag results and  
28 it turns out it's the Sargasso Sea where that  
29 cold water animal is coming all the way down  
30 offshore of the Bahamas and stuff like that.

31 So, in essence, there's a lot of  
32 things that's backing up here. Just like John  
33 Carmichael who runs the SEDAR thing, and Karol  
34 has to deal with him on setting these dates,  
35 we're looking at --- we need to do two sharks a  
36 year. We need full benchmarks, and if you're  
37 going to fold in the great hammerhead with that  
38 scalloped hammerhead in 2018, if you look at the  
39 database that Chris Hayes brought up in both of  
40 those documents he came out with, they had a lot  
41 of duplicative stuff in there that was wrong. And  
42 I brought it out in some of my comments. So,  
43 that's going to have to be re-examined.

44 So, when we get into doing an  
45 assessment, the devil is always the data. And  
46 some of those details like recreational, I'm  
47 already exposing big problems, so that goes on,  
48 and you've got to recalibration workshop getting

1 ready to happen again for that because it has  
2 problems. And I understand it's mostly in the  
3 Gulf of Mexico.

4 But, ultimately, I think that you  
5 could do more for this business, and be able to  
6 stabilize it, but right now the way you're going  
7 continuing this linkage, I'm not worried as much  
8 about the hammerhead linkage at this moment, but  
9 I am worried about the small coastal shark. It  
10 was a strong market where we could export to  
11 Canada, we could export around all over the U.S.,  
12 you don't have a fin value there of any  
13 consequence that's driving that fishery. It's  
14 driven by meat, the exact same thing that we  
15 developed back in the '80s. And at that time, the  
16 price of fins never went up until Dung Sha Ping  
17 opened up everything in 1987, and from that point  
18 on when the management plan effort started in  
19 '88-89, then you saw that price of fins start  
20 going up, but you also saw the mercury thing come  
21 down, and you saw us lose half of our market in  
22 '91. But about '93 we got the plan on line.

23 FACILITATOR LEA: Can I ask you to kind  
24 of wrap-up, because we only have about 15, 20  
25 minutes left, and we've still queue of about five  
26 more people.

27 MR. HUDSON: Okay. Well, the bottom  
28 line is, is that there's a lot more you could  
29 have done, but you're not getting it done in this  
30 action. So, yes, by next summer you might get  
31 something out there. It just doesn't seem like  
32 it's really helping the fishermen. If you can  
33 increase allocations, that's a good start. And if  
34 you're going to be decreasing stuff based on  
35 unknown statuses, or suspect statuses like the  
36 blacknose on our side, I do not believe the  
37 status situation. I don't think you have as big a  
38 problem over here as is being made out to be. You  
39 should eliminate that linkage. And that is the  
40 best advice I can give you.

41 Get rid of the 80 percent. Those type  
42 of things are things that will help us, and that  
43 keeps us putting fresh food on the table for  
44 people. These are virtually day fisheries, two-  
45 day fisheries, they're very good for the  
46 marketplace. So, thank you very much.

47 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you. Dave,  
48 you're next in the queue.

1 MR. STILLER: David, commercial  
2 fisherman, Alabama. I had a question for Guy. Is  
3 the bonnethead ---

4 FACILITATOR LEA: We can't hear you.

5 MR. STILLER: Is the bonnethead --- it  
6 says it's unknown, the status is unknown. Is that  
7 going to be another choke species like the  
8 blacknose, or do you all plan on doing something  
9 different with that?

10 MR. DuBECK: No. What that is, that's  
11 --- since the bonnethead would still stay within  
12 the small coastal, non-blacknose small coastal  
13 quota the --- any under-harvest would not be  
14 carried forward like it currently is.

15 MR. STILLER: Any under-harvest, so  
16 any remaining quota you couldn't roll it over to  
17 the next year. That seems like everything ends up  
18 --- there always is the unknown somewhere, where  
19 nothing gets rolled over. You don't get any extra  
20 the next year.

21 Sometimes we don't --- we don't need  
22 extra the next year, but at times we do. And it  
23 would be nice to have it when we do need it. You  
24 all seen it happen a few times over and over.  
25 Anyway, I was just wondering if that was going to  
26 be a choke species like the blacknose. We really  
27 don't need any more choke species; blacknose and  
28 things have been a thorn in our flesh for a  
29 while. And like Rusty said, there's 200 or we  
30 have 379, something like that, thousand pounds of  
31 quota left on the east coast that could have been  
32 transferred. Some of it could have been  
33 transferred, like I'll transfer the 68,000 pounds  
34 I believe last year, or 68 metric tons, might  
35 have been metric tons, but whatever, you all  
36 transferred quite a bit over to the Gulf from the  
37 Atlantic last year. And that was helpful, it was  
38 great, and we didn't even chase the quota last  
39 year, I don't believe, in the Gulf, but wish they  
40 could have done something like that this year  
41 before, you know --- or somebody would have gave  
42 us a call and let us know what was coming down  
43 the pike, instead of five days before the season  
44 is over. Oops, you're stuck. Anyway, I'll get to  
45 something else real quick.

46 Oh, on the --- I do support the line,  
47 the division in the Gulf, eastern and western  
48 Gulf at the Alabama-Mississippi. And that would

1 be fine. Other lines didn't make any sense to me  
2 or other people that looked at it with me.

3 And then as for the blacknose --- I'm  
4 sorry. I was going to ask somebody --- I asked  
5 Karol and Guy about it, but I was going to ask on  
6 the record, like how are they converting the  
7 whole sharks that the fish are in the eDealer  
8 report, on the law books, whatever, their whole -  
9 -- in there as a whole, how do they convert that  
10 over to the quota? Do they divide it by half, or  
11 divide it by 1.39 like somebody told me  
12 yesterday? Do you all know that one?

13 MR. DuBECK: It's for --- as we talked  
14 yesterday, in the reporting in eDealer it's the  
15 conversion of --- because it comes in as round,  
16 is conversion to 1.39.

17 MR. STILLER: And last week, or right  
18 before we came to this meeting, I cleaned some  
19 sharks just to see --- just trying to figure out  
20 something for myself, it's been a long time since  
21 I did it. I had a 9-pound fish, cleaned it just  
22 the way we always do, ended up being 4.6 pounds,  
23 so that's 50 percent, or right at 50 percent. And  
24 all the other ones that we cleaned, I can't  
25 remember the weights, but I just remember that  
26 one. They were all right on the money, 50  
27 percent. So, I don't know how many years this  
28 has been going on, the 1.39 thing. Even if  
29 everybody cleaned them like they used to, we  
30 leave like a nub on the tail, leave all the belly  
31 we can to try to get the most weight, try to get  
32 everything we can out of that fish. And I used to  
33 --- you know, they were a lot smaller in sandbars  
34 or cut off little shorter, no belly, no nothing,  
35 but still you think --- or a lot of the sharks  
36 were that way, too, blacktips, too. So, it would  
37 be --- actually, you were losing over 50 percent  
38 that way, where we leave them with the big  
39 bellies, and the nub on the tail, and all the  
40 extra, we still ended up right at 50 percent. And  
41 you wouldn't think that belly and the guts, and  
42 the fins and the tail would be 50 percent, but it  
43 sure is. Just makes a big difference, and if  
44 you've got years and years of putting things in  
45 at 1.39 instead of that 50 percent, or instead of  
46 2, get divided by 2.

47 MR. DuBECK: David, to clarify, the  
48 transfer was 68 metric tons, not 68,000 pounds.

1 MR. STILLER: And is there any --- why  
2 couldn't they add that? I guess because --- from  
3 what I understand, and I just want to clarify it  
4 real quick. They couldn't transfer any over, any  
5 of that 370 something thousand pounds is left in  
6 the Atlantic because the blacknose, I mean, the  
7 bonnetheads are unknown?

8 MR. DuBECK: It was the determination  
9 to split the stock, so they're different stocks.

10 MR. STILLER: All right, so they split  
11 the stocks. But there's a lot of quota left on  
12 the table that nobody gets the harvest in  
13 Atlantic or the Gulf. I think somebody --- I  
14 mean, you are doing your jobs, that's fine,  
15 managing the fishery and everything. I understand  
16 that. You know, I get passionate about it so I  
17 just need to chill out sometimes, but I know  
18 you're doing your jobs, doing the best you can,  
19 but as fishermen, whenever you see a fishery just  
20 going to hell in a hurry you all jump on it and  
21 try to fix it as quick as you can. It seems like  
22 now we have all this data with Atlantic sharpnose  
23 being observed in shrimp trawlers for the last  
24 three years and stuff, that --- but nobody can do  
25 anything about --- oh, I guess it's not the  
26 shrimp boats that are killing all these  
27 blacknose, maybe they aren't overfished after  
28 all. But you all can't do anything until 2015 and  
29 2016. We've already dealt with those choke  
30 species blacknose thing for three, four years  
31 now.

32 Just if you're doing your job managing  
33 a fishery, I mean, I thought part of one of those  
34 10 things you all had to do was divvy out the  
35 quota and make sure it gets --- or at least try  
36 to make sure it gets called, or keep people  
37 fishing. Because the fish, trust me there are  
38 plenty of sharks out there, and everybody is  
39 calling me, wanting me to kill them because  
40 nobody can make a living because the sharks are  
41 eating everything they have. You know, shark  
42 fishing, and we can't go harvest any of these  
43 sharks because, you know, it's against the law  
44 now.

45 There's got to be some way, somehow  
46 that you all can keep guys fishing, instead of  
47 having your choke species. We've been told for  
48 three years now well, there's not going to be a

1 choke species, but we get that out, but it's  
2 still there, you know, and it's killing  
3 everybody. I just wonder what are you all going  
4 to do about it?

5 MR. DuBECK: Thanks, David.

6 FACILITATOR LEA: I see Dewey and Jeff  
7 who haven't had a word in yet on this, so I'm  
8 going to call on them, and then I'll go back to  
9 the folks that had a chance to talk.

10 MR. HEMILRIGHT: Dewey Hemilright. I  
11 want to give some comments on the choke species.  
12 National Marine Fisheries HMS has had the  
13 information when they first developed the choke  
14 species that South Florida probably caught 85  
15 percent of the quota of the blacknose, so they've  
16 had that for four or five years in their play  
17 book, and their management tool. So, for the last  
18 three out of the five years, the northern region  
19 up in North Carolina has been closed down because  
20 of management measures that were put in place  
21 three or four years preceding, because they have  
22 the data that would show that the fish were being  
23 caught, the blacknose in South Florida. I mean,  
24 that's --- you know, you had the data and,  
25 hopefully, we're getting around to rectifying  
26 this, and getting it back to where it should be  
27 to be able to catch the quota. That's one thing.

28 Second of all, on your low east  
29 coastal shark retention your Sandbar Research  
30 Fishery, I've always called it the guinea pig  
31 fishery because its standards have changed every  
32 five years. They've never been the same every  
33 year. Their standards of fishing, research, it's  
34 never been a shark research to really show  
35 abundance of going up and down the coast to show  
36 about the sharks. It would be better to give a  
37 sandbar quota or trip limit of five sandbars to  
38 any boat that has the directed shark permit that  
39 fishes up and down the coast so you'd be able to  
40 see the demographics of where the sharks were  
41 being landed or coming from versus turning the  
42 mind set of here, we'll increase your large  
43 coastal shark retention limit non-sandbar, I  
44 believe that's what I'm reading, and since you're  
45 going to catch more fish and maybe sandbars,  
46 here's --- we can take of the dis and you can  
47 discard them. I mean, that's just kind of ---  
48 never mind. But, I mean, the simple thing would

1 be giving a trip limit of 10 to 12 sharks, you'd  
2 be able to see where the fish are caught up and  
3 down the coast.

4 Your Research Fishery, going to the  
5 standards of that, that's something that's vastly  
6 needed for --- to see the abundance of sharks up  
7 and down the coast.

8 I just --- I look at some of the  
9 things here as far as the sub --- the Atlantic  
10 region or the sub-allocation. I mean, maybe the  
11 North Carolina-South Carolina line, whatever,  
12 works there. And when you go to the ACCSPD  
13 reports it's indicated difference in how sharks  
14 are landed, head on, head off. I mean, how many  
15 dealers are you talking about, 10, 5, 4, a  
16 thousand? I mean, this would be a real simple way  
17 to figure it out. I don't see how it's hard to --  
18 - why this is like a stepping stone on head on or  
19 head off, you know.

20 But, basically, anything when we're  
21 leaving quota on the table, especially the small  
22 coastal, and having also to deal with the fins  
23 attached component in the summertime fishery  
24 particularly off North Carolina, is one of  
25 another reasons why it's had to be cut back  
26 because you're having to clean these sharks. You  
27 can't really --- it's really hard to come to the  
28 dock and have dock space in 100 degree weather  
29 and clean a shark, so you watch people just kind  
30 of quit fishing from one aspect. But there's no  
31 reason why when you put in this plan about the  
32 choke species for blacknose, you knew that  
33 Florida caught the fish. You had the data. I  
34 think up to maybe last year, North Carolina did  
35 get up to about 12 percent of the blacknose quota  
36 so, you know, that for like four or five years  
37 had you --- when you initially did that looked at  
38 the data, which you said you did, you know, we  
39 could have still been fishing up in the northern  
40 region, what's proposed to be the northern  
41 region. And that would have helped fishermen a  
42 lot, you know, when you're out there fishing  
43 catching sharpnose. But it's just frustrating to  
44 see leaving quota on the table, especially when --  
45 -- you know, you all are managers here, and you  
46 have the data that's put before you. And that's  
47 enough said. Thank you.

48 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you. Jeff.

1 MR. ODEN: Dewey has pretty much stolen  
2 my thunder, so I'm just essentially going to echo  
3 what he said. But, you know, it's pretty sad that  
4 it's taken this long to finally get around to  
5 this, as he's making that point. You know,  
6 there's a lot of guys up my way, you know, in  
7 Spanish and the fall kind mackerel fisheries that  
8 some are Spanish plus fall, and fall kind  
9 mackerel fisheries that have been impacted  
10 severely by this, you know. And, I mean, it was a  
11 big portion of, you know, their income. And it's  
12 pretty sad that it has taken this long. And,  
13 again, wherever you put the line doesn't matter  
14 to me, just as long as it's south of North  
15 Carolina. Okay? Anyway, that's my point. Thanks.

16 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you. Marcos.

17 MR. HANKE: I think I lost one very  
18 important point about the Caribbean issue, which  
19 is the Government of Puerto Rico adopt HMS all  
20 the way to the shoreline. And the need to fix  
21 some quota for those fishermen will help the  
22 Government of Puerto Rico to stay the way it is  
23 because, otherwise, the political problems and  
24 all the problems with the fishermen that will  
25 create, that is already creating is very big.

26 I am part of the AP, Advisory Panel  
27 for the Secretary of Puerto Rico, of DNR, and I'm  
28 going to take this on my hand to fix it, but I  
29 would like to know or to have some kind of  
30 compromise to have something to say when I sit  
31 down there. When we expect to have an answer  
32 about the quota, which quota, how much, or  
33 anything on that line?

34 MR. DuBECK: Thanks. We like to as we  
35 --- you know, try and have hearings and have this  
36 out sometime later this year, the beginning of  
37 2015.

38 FACILITATOR LEA: Rusty.

39 MR. HUDSON: Rusty Hudson. Something  
40 that I was discussing yesterday, I need to know  
41 if you're still utilizing 1.39 conversion rate as  
42 far as from dressed to whole versus 2.0 which is  
43 the accurate number. I think it's important if  
44 you could drop me an email and let me know if,  
45 indeed, it's being utilized and how, and the back  
46 and forth conversion of that.

47 That 1.39, I can give you the document  
48 from before the shark FMP of the salmon shark off

1 of Alaska that was dressed like a swordfish. We  
2 don't dress our sharks like that, just the way it  
3 is. So, 2.0 is what needs to be done. If we're  
4 losing quota because of these conversions and  
5 stuff like that, we need to correct that problem.  
6 Thank you.

7 FACILITATOR LEA: David, did you have  
8 something else to say, or I'm not sure if you  
9 just didn't turn your card down.

10 MR. STILLER: I did. I've got too much  
11 going through my head. I can't remember what I  
12 was going to say.

13 FACILITATOR LEA: Okay. All right.  
14 Well, I don't see any other cards, so why don't  
15 we go ahead and take about a 10-minute break, so  
16 folks could come back around a little after 11,  
17 maybe 11:05. We'll reconvene then.

18 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
19 went off the record at 10:54 a.m., and resumed at  
20 11:13 a.m.)

21 FACILITATOR LEA: All right. So, we're  
22 next going to move to a discussion of electronic  
23 monitoring, electronic reporting. And Margo is  
24 going to go ahead and present the PowerPoint  
25 presentation for that, and then we'll open it up  
26 to some discussion. Thank you. The standards  
27 discussion was cancelled.

28 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Can you hear me  
29 now? Okay. So, what we're trying to do here is  
30 kind of broach the idea and try and get some  
31 ideas from you all on electronic technologies.  
32 It's kind of looking for the AP for brainstorming  
33 areas we can pursue.

34 Electronic technologies or ET is an  
35 umbrella term for electronic monitoring, as well  
36 as electronic reporting. Electronic monitoring  
37 would be video cameras and all of the equipment  
38 associated with that to record the data, as well  
39 as vessel monitoring systems; although, there is  
40 some difference of opinion on whether VMS is  
41 really electronic monitoring or not, I'm  
42 including it in this just for a full discussion,  
43 versus electronic reporting, which is more  
44 electronic log books, or mobile phone  
45 applications, web-based reporting, things of that  
46 sort that are just the means of getting the  
47 reports in that can really be very broad.

48 And there's a lot of interest in using

1 electronic technologies in either form,  
2 especially in the last couple of years. There's a  
3 real blossoming of different apps for this, and  
4 apps for that, and interest across the Agency in  
5 electronic monitoring, as well, with the idea  
6 that this can reduce costs. Depending on how  
7 things like electronic monitoring are used, that  
8 hasn't always been found, that it is cheaper, but  
9 I think in some instances it has been.

10 It can reduce requirements for at-sea  
11 observers which are quite expensive, although,  
12 you know, there are certainly things that a  
13 camera would not be able to completely replace.  
14 Some of the functions of at-sea observers taking  
15 samples is very difficult for a camera to do.

16 Also, increase timeliness and  
17 efficiencies in data collection programs where  
18 there may be less data entry that's required on -  
19 -- as part of the program. That takes time, that  
20 takes resources. If it comes in electronically  
21 directly from the user, from the reporter, then  
22 it can go right in and you get more of a quality  
23 control function that's needed as opposed to data  
24 entry.

25 And then, also, just increased ease of  
26 reporting. When a lot of our data collection  
27 programs were established, you know, fax machines  
28 were new, and so now everybody has a phone, and  
29 has a lot of capabilities on that device. How can  
30 we make things easier, make things faster, make  
31 things better in our data collection?

32 So, part of what's happening across  
33 the National Marine Fisheries Service including  
34 HMS is we're all looking and developing  
35 implementation plans for electronic technologies  
36 in the relevant fisheries. Looking, you know,  
37 several years out, five to ten year horizon,  
38 where might be places that we can invest and  
39 pursue additional electronic monitoring, or  
40 electronic reporting in our fisheries?

41 So, that's happening right now, and we  
42 since we're in the middle of it thought this  
43 would be a great venue to talk about it with you  
44 all, get some of your ideas on places to pursue,  
45 or maybe places not to.

46 So, across the country we have a  
47 number of electronic monitoring in different  
48 fisheries, most of them have been at a pilot

1 level, so there's been a lot of discussion across  
2 the Agency, some workshops and things where folks  
3 are sharing their knowledge, and what lessons  
4 learned they have.

5 There's also a series of white papers  
6 that the Agency has produced on this. These are  
7 online, and there's a few examples of electronic  
8 reporting. There's a study with Gulf and South  
9 Atlantic Councils for electronic log books in the  
10 charter/headboat fleet. HMS staff are  
11 participating in that. And then a couple of  
12 examples of private data collection, the IGFA  
13 Colombia Florida Fish and Wildlife's catch log,  
14 as well as Harte Research Institute in Texas A&M  
15 iSnapper. There's lots more out there. These were  
16 just some of the ones that came to the front of  
17 my mind that I'd seen.

18 So, in HMS fisheries currently, some  
19 of the electronic monitoring that we already have  
20 includes VMS requirements in pelagic and bottom  
21 longline and shark gillnet fisheries, although  
22 some of those might be under some change. And  
23 these have been implemented to monitor compliance  
24 with closed areas.

25 Our Amendment 7 FEIS for an  
26 alternative to require cameras on pelagic  
27 longline vessels to audit compliance with VMS  
28 daily catch reporting as well as the IBQ, and  
29 then also for an alternative to prior VMS and  
30 daily catch reporting on Purse Seine vessels,  
31 similar reasons.

32 Electronic reporting would be our web-  
33 based reporting of angling category bluefin  
34 catch, swordfish, the white marlin. We have our  
35 smart phone application for really seeing makos.  
36 eDealer would be clearly an electronic reporting  
37 mechanism. All of our dealers are reporting on a  
38 weekly basis. Amendment 7 FEIS, as well, the  
39 preferred alternative to require general harpoon  
40 charter/headboat categories to use a web-based  
41 system to report their bluefin catch. And we are  
42 working on the web-based tournament registration  
43 and reporting.

44 So, you know, we have some things in  
45 place, some thing in development already working  
46 with others, as well. And wanted to talk with you  
47 as we're putting together our implementation plan  
48 for the next five to ten years. Where do you see

1 opportunities for more electronic technologies?  
2 Are there additional electronic monitoring  
3 opportunities, and which fisheries, and what  
4 would that be for, or electronic reporting? You  
5 know, where can we expand the use and the  
6 efficiencies in those fronts, which fisheries,  
7 again, what would the purpose be?

8 We partner with some other groups. If  
9 there's people that are already doing things, you  
10 know, we don't necessarily need to reinvent the  
11 wheel. How can we work together? And then, you  
12 know, do you have other concerns, questions,  
13 things of that sort? So, really this kind of a  
14 brainstorming session with you all as we're  
15 developing our plan.

16 So, the next steps after this are, you  
17 know, do we need to put the plan together? The  
18 next big step for us will be actual  
19 implementation of Amendment 7, again with the  
20 preferred alternatives is something will be  
21 implemented. And then, you know, developing or  
22 pursuing other avenues as resources permit. And  
23 then we'll obviously keep you updated as we go  
24 along.

25 The intention of the implementation  
26 plan is they'll be updated periodically, be kind  
27 of living documents, not a --- what was your  
28 term, Pat? A coffee table book. So, wanted,  
29 again, just to get what some of your thoughts  
30 were and see where you think we should be putting  
31 our energies.

32 FACILITATOR LEA: All right. I see  
33 Marcos, and then Scott.

34 MR. HANKE: Yes. In the Caribbean, on  
35 the council level we are developing an  
36 application for the council and so on, and there  
37 is ideas and look like we will do a --- going to  
38 intend to collect recreational data through the  
39 application. And this is, basically, my idea, and  
40 to have the format or the catch report, you know,  
41 of the list of species that will entirely the  
42 recreational is going to do it, and eventually  
43 try to find a way to validate the data for  
44 scientific purpose. But in case of, let's say  
45 sharks, or billfishes, when the person click on  
46 that, at least in a format that is made by HMS in  
47 which the person fill out that format, and that  
48 can be inserted on every single council around

1 the nation that have the same species or the same  
2 situation. And like something that can be  
3 inserted on the council level as a technology.

4 FACILITATOR LEA: All right. Scott.

5 MR. TAYLOR: This is a subject that has  
6 been near and dear to me for a bunch of different  
7 reasons, that we've been privately working on  
8 electronic reporting for other business  
9 enterprise that we're involved in with the MSC  
10 certification of our fleet. That during that  
11 process we really have found a system that if it  
12 wasn't for regulatory complications, really would  
13 fit the bill for one use for everyone; meaning  
14 that one of the most difficult things that we  
15 have to deal with not only as the fishermen and  
16 as dealers, and with the multiple hats that we  
17 wear, is the redundancy of reporting.

18 It is so complicated, and so onerous  
19 the way that it is right now because you have the  
20 state, you have the federal, you have different  
21 agencies within the federal. All those reports  
22 are generated separately and have to be done.  
23 And, of course, we have the log book reports, the  
24 trip summaries. It is a never-ending siege to  
25 stay up on top of where the paperwork is.

26 The technology is already in place.  
27 It's already there. You have two distinct  
28 separate circumstances. You have your commercial  
29 guys that a phone app or a local app will never  
30 work for because you don't have cellular access  
31 in a lot of the places where the boats are going  
32 to be fishing, and when the reports need to be  
33 done in realtime.

34 Recreational, absolutely. I think that  
35 it would be of help, but the biggest problem has  
36 been not the technology, it's been the lack of  
37 the willingness of the recreational fishermen to  
38 report at any level. And I don't think that --- I  
39 think that would be a hard part for anybody  
40 really to argue. It's always been a challenge  
41 getting recreationally caught fish properly  
42 accounted for.

43 So, certainly the easier the data is  
44 whether or not it's on a phone app or reporting  
45 can be helpful, but the biggest part of that is,  
46 you know, somebody's got to carry a stick,  
47 there's got to be some level of enforcement, and  
48 there's got to be a reason for them to take the

1 effort and report. If they had the same  
2 consequences, if a recreational angler had the  
3 same consequences that we do as commercial guys  
4 to report, I'm sure that they would be as  
5 diligent as we are.

6 But the satellite technology today,  
7 and the cost of the satellite technology that  
8 really can be integrated in with the VMS system,  
9 Margo, is already there. I actually on a  
10 realtime basis monitor what my fleet is landing  
11 in realtime on a daily basis. They have a keypad  
12 device, they key for me what is there, you know,  
13 besides the fact that they keep a daily log, and  
14 it works through C-- essentially, it's accessing  
15 the satellite and it has clear view of where the  
16 satellite is, depending on how many times I want  
17 it to ping, I can set it to ping every 15  
18 minutes. I can set it to ping every three hours.

19 The cost of that overall device right  
20 now, that technology, and we're not talking about  
21 that specific device, but just kind of costs and  
22 the way that things work, probably doesn't amount  
23 to a few hundred dollars a year. So, you know,  
24 it's very similar to the way that the VMS works,  
25 you know, and the amount of --- what the actual  
26 cost of that contract is. So, if you had a device  
27 that essentially locates the vessel, reports  
28 where it is, the fishermen can enter in what he's  
29 catching in realtime, and that that information  
30 can be disseminated by the Agency for log book  
31 reporting and everything else, it would make ---

32 I mean, that's the future from the standpoint of  
33 the commercial guys, you know. You enter the data  
34 at one time, everybody has access to the data  
35 that needs the access to the data, and it's done.  
36 And then, hopefully, fisheries managers have  
37 access to that information and can make decisions  
38 in a realtime dynamic way. So, I mean, if there's  
39 a vision, that's clearly ---

40 FACILITATOR LEA: Can I --- are you  
41 summarizing --- I'm sorry, but we have about five  
42 or six more people in the room, and about 15  
43 minutes.

44 MR. TAYLOR: I'm done.

45 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you. All right.  
46 Next we have Rick, and the Andre.

47 MR. BELLAVANCE: Thanks. Rick  
48 Bellavance, charter boat operator from Point

1 Judith, Rhode Island.

2 I've been involved in a program that  
3 was built to offer charter boats a means to do  
4 their electronic reporting, and a couple of  
5 lessons I learned is from my perspective, anyway,  
6 the federal government should not be involved in  
7 designing applications or software in any way,  
8 shape, or form. Their technologies are behind the  
9 times, and it should be something that's left to  
10 private industry.

11 But what is missing is a set of  
12 standards that these companies can build  
13 applications or programs to, to allow that data  
14 to be transmitted directly into data warehouses.  
15 A lot of the web apps that they have now are ---  
16 the data is gathered, and staff have to keypad  
17 that in or photocopy things and so on, and it's  
18 put into a data warehouse in a second step. But  
19 what I think is missing is that set of standards  
20 that allows all the data to be sent into a  
21 warehouse and then different credentials for  
22 different users can access that data depending on  
23 their needs, or what they're using it for.

24 You can have academia access whatever  
25 they need to, the fishermen can access the data  
26 themselves, or fisheries managers and so on, but  
27 there doesn't seem to be any concerted effort, at  
28 least not that I'm aware of, anyway, that's  
29 trying to make the rules of where these companies  
30 can build all these fancy apps for. You know,  
31 they're all over the place, probably everybody in  
32 this room has used one or seen one, but the data  
33 just goes on to a machine and it sits there. So,  
34 we need a way to make sure that it's all  
35 standardized and formatted in a way that it can  
36 be used by anybody that needs it.

37 And that's the good thing that, in my  
38 opinion, the federal government could do, is  
39 establish those standards. And I think it's  
40 important investment in resources because the  
41 technologies, just like Scott said, are getting  
42 better and better, and you can't even probably  
43 begin to imagine all the different things you  
44 could do. But we do need to have that solid  
45 foundation where all the data is going to go.  
46 That's where I'd probably try to direct some  
47 resources.

48 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you. Andre, and

1 then we have Pam calling from the webinar. Andre.

2 MR. BOUSTANY: Yes. I'd just like to  
3 come out in support of anything that increases  
4 reporting, and increases the timeliness of  
5 reporting. And just a few comments on how you go  
6 about doing that.

7 As you start to implement these new  
8 and different novel reporting requirements, make  
9 sure that you have quite a large period of  
10 overlap between what we're currently doing and  
11 these new novel data streams. It's almost  
12 guaranteed that there's going to be differences  
13 either in reporting rate or other unforeseen  
14 differences, and what the different data streams  
15 will give you, so just make sure that you have  
16 overlap so that those data streams can then be  
17 compared at a later date.

18 So, by that I mean maintain human  
19 observer coverage even when there's electronic  
20 video coverage, as well. And maintain paper log  
21 books even when there's electronic log books. And  
22 I know that sounds like a pain in the ass, and  
23 I'm sure it is, but it --- there's probably going  
24 to be differences that are caused by the  
25 different data streams and how they're perceived,  
26 and just to make them useful to the stock  
27 assessments and other things.

28 And, likewise, with the reporting of  
29 the angling category, I'm all for that. I think  
30 we --- the way we're reporting the angling  
31 category fish is not optimal right now. Just a  
32 comment on that is, if there's any way to also  
33 try to quantify effort, and a lot of the fishing  
34 gear characteristics of how these fish were  
35 caught, so not only that individual fish were  
36 caught, and you tick a box, and add all that up  
37 at the end of the year, but getting data on how  
38 those fish were caught, and trying to quantify  
39 effort, which I think is very difficult. But if  
40 you can think of any ways to do that, that would  
41 be very useful to things like the stock  
42 assessments and other things that go on  
43 downstream of those data coming in.

44 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you. We now  
45 have Pam Dana from the Gulf Council who's on the  
46 webinar, so I'm going to --- Pam? Hi, Pam.

47 MS. DANA: Hi, thank you very much.  
48 This is Pam Dana for the Gulf Council. I also

1 have a charter business. We had this discussion  
2 at the Gulf Council, how do we increase the  
3 electronic reporting, particularly for the  
4 recreational sector, getting the buy-in, et  
5 cetera. For the charter folks we have about 1,100  
6 to 1,300 participants. The charter boat operators  
7 are very much behind getting some kind of  
8 electronic reporting on board, whether that be  
9 iPhones or the iSnapper, et cetera. The  
10 complications have not been in the charter sector  
11 as much as it's kind of barriers or reluctance  
12 coming from those who would pull up the data  
13 afterwards. We've been working on it for a year.

14 On the recreational private side, we  
15 also --- there's a big portion that would be  
16 amenable to have a reporting as one of the  
17 speakers said earlier. And I understand someone  
18 from the South Atlantic as well. She may have  
19 some comments. But, again, the charter that goes  
20 for the Gulf, it's 100 percent behind getting  
21 their electronic reporting. So, thank you.

22 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you. All right.  
23 We now have Mark.

24 MR. SAMPSON: Yes. Mark Sampson. I just  
25 kind of would like to reiterate what has been  
26 said a little bit already, more from the  
27 commercial end. And as far as us recreational  
28 fishermen, particularly the charter guys like  
29 myself, as far as the trip reporting, if we could  
30 get something online, you know. The VTRs that we  
31 have to fill out, which I know is not HMS stuff,  
32 but it's to the Northeast Regional Office or  
33 whatever, it's like every time I sit down to  
34 start filling those things out my blood pressure  
35 just goes up. It's crazy. I mean, there's so much  
36 stuff with every trip, every trip, every trip  
37 we've got to fill it out, plus we're filling them  
38 out, something similar for the state, and for  
39 some other things, too. It does seem that if  
40 there could be one form that just we do it one  
41 time.

42 Maryland has a pretty good online trip  
43 reporting program that when I sit down and fill  
44 them out, it's pretty --- just sort of fill in  
45 the blanks and just click on the fish and all  
46 that, and it's real simple. So, I get done doing  
47 that, then I sit down to do the NOAA, the VTRs by  
48 hand, every one four copies, mail it off at my

1 expense, stamps, all that kind of stuff. It just  
2 seems kind of crazy. Where, again, if it could  
3 just be, as was already mentioned, just one  
4 online trip report. Put all the information in  
5 it. Whoever wants to use that information they  
6 can just grab it, as necessary. It would be a big  
7 assist, and you'd probably, you know, obviously  
8 start getting more compliance than I imagine from  
9 people, if it's just easier and more painless to  
10 use. Thank you.

11 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you very much.  
12 Okay, I'm going to with Martin, and then Bob, and  
13 then Terri, and then Mike.

14 MR. SCANLON: Yes. Lawrence Scanlon,  
15 commercial. I'm a pelagic longliner.

16 The biggest problem I have with  
17 Amendment 7 is these electronic monitoring, all  
18 of this. You know, we're going to be held 100  
19 percent accountable with the implementation of  
20 these cameras, as well as our VMS machines. And  
21 the biggest disappointment I have is that with  
22 the cameras, it pertains to our IBQs, and the  
23 IBQs are set up to protect us in case, you know,  
24 the quota was full. And from my understanding,  
25 that even if I have IBQ available to me  
26 personally, I could still be shut down, so the  
27 advantage of giving me that camera is really nil.  
28 There is no advantage to having the camera. There  
29 is no really advantage to the IBQ.

30 The other thing is, is that VMS  
31 machines should have been put on any boat that's  
32 coming to the dock and selling highly migratory  
33 fish commercial. If you're selling that fish or a  
34 commercial vessel then you should be mandated to  
35 have VMS machines on the boat.

36 The way my VMS machine is set up on  
37 the boat is that I have, and it's almost set up  
38 as if it should be for the general category. I  
39 have to declare two hours before I leave the dock  
40 what my intent is, am I going sword fishing, tuna  
41 fishing, or a combination of both, or if I'm  
42 bottom longlining, or whatever, which is fine.

43 Upon returning to the dock, I also  
44 have to report two hours before time so in case  
45 enforcement wants to meet me there, or whatever,  
46 which makes enforcement's job a lot easier. And  
47 my concern is, is that me being a commercial  
48 longliner, every port that I have been in in this

1 country with the exception of Fairhaven,  
2 Massachusetts where I fish basically five, six  
3 months of the year now, when I come to the dock,  
4 I am always approached by somebody, a general  
5 category boat to participate in illegal bluefin  
6 activity. I'm confronted with, you know --- I'm  
7 propositioned to do something about all the extra  
8 fish, or whatever I'm discarding, if they could  
9 be handled. And if you were to put VMS machines  
10 alone, forget about the cameras, on the general  
11 category boats and they were to have to declare  
12 when they were leaving the dock and what their  
13 intent was, and they would have to declare when  
14 they were coming back in, it would prevent all  
15 these guys from going out there. You know, 10  
16 percent of those guys catch all the fish, so they  
17 get on the fish, and they're catching the fish,  
18 and they make a phone call to their buddy who's  
19 at work and say hey, listen, come on out here.  
20 Come pick them up. He leaves his job at 5:00, he  
21 meets the guy out there at 6:00, and he's back at  
22 the dock at 9:00 with two bluefin, or now four  
23 bluefin.

24 Now, I have a big problem with that.  
25 There's no way of stopping that unless you put  
26 them VMS machines to track them boats on who's  
27 running them fish. Somebody's running them fish.  
28 I know they're running them fish because why  
29 would they be coming and approaching me? I don't  
30 participate in that. I tell them, I says I would  
31 not even think of jeopardizing my permit for  
32 that. I mean, but on the top of that, one fish,  
33 for me to get caught with one illegal bluefin on  
34 my boat is a \$25,000 fine. It does not pay for me  
35 to do that; nor does it pay for me to jeopardize  
36 my permits.

37 I mean, I'm in enough trouble  
38 following the laws that exist, much less if I was  
39 to break a law. My God, I don't know what you  
40 would do to me, probably boil me in oil. But I'm  
41 strongly opposed to them not getting those VMS  
42 machines at least put on their boats to start.

43 I mean, log book, the requirement for  
44 log books to deal with their discards is an  
45 absolute joke. I mean, we've been doing log books  
46 since 19, what, 88 I believe we started with the  
47 log book program. And now that's no good. So, I  
48 mean, that's just almost an insult to say that

1 they're going to account for their discards  
2 through their log books. That's just an absolute  
3 complete insult to the pelagic longline fleet.

4 And the fact of the matter is, is if  
5 they go over their quota, they can also --- they  
6 can easily jeopardize my ability to land other  
7 fish. So, I'm a firm believer that those VMS  
8 machines, if nothing else, should go into any  
9 boat that's landing a fish and selling it, being  
10 required to have a VMS machine with the same  
11 mandatory hail out/hail in standards. Thank you.

12 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you, Martin.  
13 All right. Bob.

14 MR. HUETER: Thank you. Bob Hueter,  
15 Mote Marine Lab.

16 I think that electronic monitoring is  
17 the method of the future, and the future is  
18 already here. At Mote in our fisheries division,  
19 we already have a center for electronic  
20 monitoring that's working with the  
21 grouper/snapper bottom longline fishery in the  
22 Eastern Gulf of Mexico. And we've got electronic  
23 monitoring on seven boats. It's a pilot project,  
24 and it's --- I think we're in our second year  
25 now. And I've been very impressed at how the  
26 fishermen, captains, operators, owners have  
27 embraced this, and really prefer this over  
28 observers, carrying observers.

29 The catch is 100 percent monitored and  
30 recorded, and I believe our people sample about  
31 15 to 20 percent of the recordings to look at  
32 data and compare it with log book data.

33 We're getting ready to, hopefully,  
34 launch a new project early next year with these  
35 seven boats, and use the video monitoring to look  
36 at shark bycatch because these guys are  
37 complaining, came to us, actually, and asked for  
38 help with their shark bycatch problem. They're  
39 having a real problem keeping sharks off their  
40 grouper/snapper hooks, and it's costing them  
41 serious gear, time, and money. So, we're going to  
42 use that.

43 So, I would advocate as soon as  
44 possible deploying electronic monitoring in HMS.  
45 I don't think not doing it is going to C-- is  
46 very wise, because I think it's like one of these  
47 other --- you know, typical kind of C-- in this  
48 electronic age, it's going to come one way or the

1 other so you might as well do it right. And point  
2 out that in addition to it being very effective  
3 monitoring instrument, it is also a pretty  
4 powerful research tool, as well.

5 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you. Terri.

6 MS. BEIDEMAN: Okay. As you can  
7 imagine, there's been quite a lot of discussion  
8 on this issue. And I listened really carefully  
9 during the presentations of the previous day, and  
10 I didn't hear something I thought I would.

11 So, with regard to what's been  
12 proposed in Amendment 7 for the pelagic longline  
13 fleet, who is paying for that? Are the boats  
14 expected to pay for that? I did not hear that  
15 elucidated.

16 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: At this point, the  
17 final Agency decision on anything in Amendment 7  
18 is not final. We are at the FEIS stage. The  
19 final rule and the record of decision will be the  
20 final Agency action. At this point, we have a  
21 series of preferred alternatives, so that is part  
22 of the reason you did not hear a definitive  
23 answer on paying for cameras.

24 MS. BEIDEMAN: Okay. Well, with regard  
25 to electronic reporting, I think there's lots of  
26 opportunity for that, and I don't see the need  
27 for redundancy, you know, as was mentioned  
28 earlier. You know, we are stuck with reporting  
29 artifacts, essentially, deadlines for log books  
30 that used to apply, and they were very, very  
31 important when we were counting the beans down in  
32 Miami when Jean Kramer and Andy Bertolino were  
33 counting up our swordfish quota, and we needed  
34 log book information there instantly almost. But  
35 now we have eDealer. And we don't really need --  
36 - we don't count the beans there. I mean, nobody  
37 looks, and there's other things on the log sheet.  
38 But, you know, we still have the deadlines that  
39 are arbitrary now. And I would argue that if we  
40 are required to report things electronically,  
41 that there's a paperwork reduction issue with  
42 having to re, re, re, report.

43 And I have very big concerns about the  
44 costs for all of this. And this is surveillance,  
45 you can call it monitoring if you like, but it is  
46 surveillance, no different than any other  
47 surveillance out there. I think it's unfair. I  
48 think that this fleet, in particular, is left --

1 the residue of what we once were are the cream of  
2 the crop, and it's, you know, guilty until you're  
3 proven innocent? I don't think we deserve that,  
4 but if I had the decision making, I would be  
5 deciding differently.

6 So, I'm just going to say that there's  
7 only so much money that people can make nowadays  
8 in these fisheries, and it may be very well  
9 possible that these technologies --- and I would  
10 agree with the standards, and I would agree with  
11 things are moving very fast. Your technologies  
12 implementation plan is no doubt going to be  
13 obsolete as soon as it comes out of the printer.  
14 So, you know, good try.

15 That's my caution, is, you know, it's  
16 all well and good, and I'm not sure that the  
17 technology is ready for prime time. And I know  
18 plenty of people that are in the know that say  
19 the same, so those are my comments on that.

20 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you, Terri.  
21 Mike, and then Shana. Do we have public comment?  
22 Anyone here for public comment? Okay, so Mike,  
23 Shana, and then we can end with Marcos.

24 MR. SISSEWINE: Okay, I'll be brief.  
25 In terms of electronic reporting, I think it's  
26 very clear that the time is now. It is the way it  
27 should be done from now on, and I do agree with  
28 other people's points that we need to get rid of  
29 redundant paper systems. In fact, some of what we  
30 collected on paper probably was never used even  
31 before, and it certainly won't be now, so quickly  
32 move to electronic reporting in every dimension  
33 it's feasible, it is the way business should be  
34 done.

35 Electronic monitoring is more of a  
36 challenge technologically, but it clearly is the  
37 future. I'm concerned about the --- strategically  
38 what's the best way to advance to really making  
39 it the reality at as many fisheries as is  
40 possible.

41 I've read the White Paper. Or I've at  
42 least scanned the White Paper, and it's a useful  
43 document. It's well done, and it certainly does  
44 give a good inventory of many, many projects  
45 going on, and it identifies some critical issues.  
46 But I have yet to see really a clear strategic  
47 approach where there are the critical roadblocks  
48 to broadly applying electronic monitoring

1 identified and a focused program of appropriate  
2 scale to solve those problems to lead to the  
3 breakthroughs.

4 I'm concerned that there's still in  
5 this area seems to be not only within the  
6 National Marine Fishery Service, but broadly  
7 worldwide a lot of small pilot projects that may  
8 not have the impact of a few big projects that  
9 focus on critical bottlenecks, or critical  
10 issues. So, I would encourage going on from a  
11 very good White Paper and other work that's been  
12 done to really a focus on some of the critical  
13 technical issues that would really lead to  
14 breakthroughs and make for very broad application  
15 of technologies.

16 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you, Mike. All  
17 right, so Shana, and then we'll go back to Scott.

18 MS. MILLER: Thanks. I just wanted to  
19 echo the general support around the room, Bob,  
20 Andre, Mike for moving forward with the plans on  
21 the table and developing new plans, as well, in  
22 the other fisheries beyond the longline fishery.  
23 And if you haven't looked at WCPFC's efforts on  
24 the eMonitoring and eReporting, they're much  
25 further ahead than ICAD is. There was a meeting  
26 last week, last month rather, where several  
27 reports of pilot programs were presented. There  
28 was a 150-page document outlining an  
29 implementation plan for eMonitoring and  
30 eReporting in WCPO tuna fisheries, and including  
31 a whole section on stakeholder concerns and  
32 addressing those concerns.

33 You know, for years we only had  
34 Archipelago really as a provider of eMonitoring  
35 tools. Now we have SATLINK and others, so the  
36 prices are coming down. You know, the time is  
37 right to really move this forward in the  
38 Atlantic, as well. And if you want me to send you  
39 a link to any of those reports, I'm happy to do  
40 that. Thanks.

41 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you, Shana.  
42 All right, Scott.

43 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, I'm sorry. I don't  
44 --- I'm not sure who it was that spoke earlier  
45 about the private sector. It was you, I'm sorry,  
46 Rick, but I want to echo that 100 percent, that  
47 the IT firms that are out there that could  
48 develop essentially the software to work with

1 hardware to accomplish everything that we need to  
2 accomplish, the first step in this process needs  
3 to be clearly delineate what you want.

4 And once you decide what it is you  
5 want, you put that out for private contract, then  
6 we need to vet the actual hardware so that you  
7 don't wind up with another Sky Mate debacle  
8 that's out there. Okay? Because the hardware, and  
9 the software, and the technology is all there to  
10 do what you want to do. And I guarantee you that  
11 there's going to be more firms jumping at the  
12 opportunity to submit proposals for this contract  
13 than I got fingers and toes. You know, and that  
14 we would be able to come up with a product that  
15 would be all-encompassing, that might deal with  
16 all these other issues. And while there's always  
17 the need for a level of redundancy of paperwork,  
18 of hard paper, and whether or not you put a new  
19 software system in your business, you always run  
20 a parallel, that the goal here will be to  
21 eliminate all that, and to develop a system one  
22 time that's going to accomplish essentially all  
23 the needs, not only for HMS, but for the  
24 recreational sector. Maybe different hardware,  
25 maybe different slate application, you know,  
26 maybe the recreational will go on a phone and the  
27 software will go on to a combination VMS system  
28 that is satellite linked.

29 And my final comment is about a  
30 thought about --- a comment that was made about  
31 effort. We really don't know what the effort is,  
32 and the majority of the effort that takes place  
33 out there is from the recreational sector. So, it  
34 would be a simple matter to put a recreational  
35 fisherman in a position that if he was going to  
36 retain an HMS species through the app, to declare  
37 his desire to go out and fish.

38 Then it's a simple matter of  
39 enforcement. I mean, then you've got a tangible  
40 way to enforce that if that vessel wasn't  
41 declared out in an HMS fishery for the day, not  
42 that he's going to be precluded from retaining  
43 what the retention limit is, but that if he gets  
44 stopped by an enforcement officer on the way in  
45 and he didn't declare out, then he wouldn't be  
46 entitled to retain.

47 And part of the challenges of making  
48 this stuff work is ultimately being able to have

1 a mechanism to be able to enforce. So, I mean, it  
2 really can be that simple. I'm going fishing  
3 today. I'm declaring out. It could be a phone  
4 app, whatever it is. He comes in, he gets a tuna,  
5 it's different in every state, whether it's  
6 Florida, whether it's a bluefin tag in Maryland I  
7 think that you're required to have. I don't know  
8 if every state is required at recreational, the  
9 rec guys would know that. I know when they come  
10 in, they're required to get a tag for the fish in  
11 some of the states. But it would be a simple  
12 matter if they got a fish on the boat, whether or  
13 not they declared out. Then you'd have your  
14 effort numbers, you'd essentially have  
15 everything, you know, that you need.

16 But, again, I think that --- I know  
17 that we need to move this process quickly. I'm  
18 not still sure, and this is really a question for  
19 you, Margo, on where we are with the Sky Mate  
20 stuff that's there. I think Pat, is Pat  
21 O'Shaugnessy still here? Oh, sorry. But they've  
22 been great with us in working through some of  
23 these VMS issues, but we still don't have the  
24 problem solved, you know, 100 percent. So here we  
25 are two years later with equipment that we  
26 universally know that there was a fundamental  
27 problem with and so I would encourage that we try  
28 to --- that we get this one right, that whatever  
29 it is that we're going to do, let's make it work  
30 for everybody concerned, and get it right.

31 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Yes. I mean, so  
32 the National VMS rule that's published I think on  
33 Tuesday, is what the Agency is doing to address  
34 the VMS issues. I can fill you in on that more,  
35 if you want.

36 MR. TAYLOR: Just one quick follow-up  
37 question. Will --- the equipment that is not  
38 working that we want to get off --- that we're  
39 going to get off the boats before it's a problem  
40 one way or another, how is that --- can you  
41 explain how that's going to work now that the  
42 rule publishes?

43 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: So, what the rule  
44 does, is proposes standards and procedures for  
45 type approval, I think review of type approvals,  
46 and then decertification if standards are not  
47 maintained. So, there's not an immediate move to  
48 kind of take units off boats.

1                   If a vendor is not --- is disapproved,  
2 ultimately, at that point there would be  
3 instructions to the fishermen that have those  
4 units on what is type approved, what they can do  
5 to get new units that are type approved, and  
6 things of that sort. So, does that answer your  
7 question?

8                   MR. TAYLOR: I was looking for, I  
9 guess, a little bit more specific answer as it  
10 pertained to the Sky Mate issues that all of us  
11 were having out there. Has that vendor addressed  
12 those issues in a way that they're now compliant  
13 according to the new rule making? Do we know?

14                   MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: I'm going to  
15 maybe ask that you talk to Pat about that. He's  
16 much more familiar with their status. I do know  
17 that some additional satellites were deployed,  
18 but I think maybe all of the issues have not been  
19 completely resolved. Pat, make sure to state your  
20 name.

21                   MR. O'SHAUGNESSY: Hi, Pat  
22 O'Shaugnessy, the Southeast VMS Program Manager  
23 in St. Pete, Florida.

24                   There's a number of things with the  
25 Sky Mate issue. Certainly, the rule that  
26 published on Tuesday provides a mechanism for  
27 the Office of Law Enforcement to evaluate the  
28 performance of all VMS vendors, not any one  
29 particular one, but all VMS vendors.

30                   Sky Mate, some of the latency issues  
31 that we've worked with you on is reporting July  
32 14 Sky Mate launched 16, or six new satellites,  
33 and they have 11 more scheduled to be launched in  
34 the fourth quarter of this year. Our hope is the  
35 launch of those 17 additional satellites will  
36 help alleviate some of those issues, and the  
37 effort that was undertaken by having a new type  
38 approval process where we can evaluate the  
39 vendors will provide us another mechanism if that  
40 does not fix all of the problems that we're  
41 seeing latency-wise. We'll have the mechanism to  
42 hold vendors accountable to ensure they meet the  
43 standards. That we did not have until this rule  
44 was published.

45                   FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you. Did you  
46 have one more follow-up question?

47                   MR. TAYLOR: Just, again, that I want  
48 to really, really impress as we go down this road

1 here that we have a proper way to vet the  
2 hardware that's being put there, you know, on the  
3 boat. I had no idea when I purchased that system  
4 through the grant program that I was getting a  
5 Dell laptop with ports silica enclosed on them,  
6 and that their tech people were going to tell us  
7 that what did I expect, not to have problems  
8 because it was in a wet environment. So, you  
9 know, that that kind of thing, you know, really  
10 the Agency or whoever it is that's going to  
11 approve those hardwares and these systems, really  
12 we need to look at that stuff very hard so that  
13 we're not dealing with a problem after-the-fact.

14 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you. All  
15 right. So, again, I'll ask if there's any public  
16 comment. Didn't look like there was any. Dewey.

17 (Off microphone comment)

18 FACILITATOR LEA: Oh, I'm sorry, for  
19 this topic, for the electronic monitoring. I'm  
20 sorry, I missed your card. Go ahead, Dewey.

21 MR. HEMILRIGHT: Yes, Dewey  
22 Hemilright. I wanted to echo the same comments  
23 that having to deal with Sky Mate and these  
24 vessel monitoring systems over probably the last  
25 four years, debacles that's happened. I hope  
26 going forward with the cameras and the technology  
27 that it's vetted a heck of a lot better than the  
28 Agency did before, because it's been a nightmare  
29 for us with our vessel monitoring systems, and  
30 things we've had to go through. And it's a shame  
31 that it's taken three years to finally get ---  
32 maybe four years to get some standards in for  
33 the vendors. We've kind of been hung out to dry  
34 as the fishermen that's had to have these  
35 systems, and getting parts from Canada to get  
36 stuff fixed.

37 But I'd also like to thank the vessel  
38 monitoring people that look after working with us  
39 when parts, when we were down, whether we had  
40 sats on call in and different things to work with  
41 to keep us fishing, because it's been a real  
42 nightmare. So, I hope that the equipment,  
43 whenever that time arrives with the video  
44 monitoring and electronic is a lot better set up,  
45 and a lot better ground truth and environmental  
46 friendly, and all the other buzz, because at the  
47 end of the day we fishermen, once it doesn't  
48 work, we're the ones that don't get to go

1 fishing. It's not the Agency or different ones  
2 like that, so it would help a lot to have a lot  
3 more --- seeing what type of equipment we have to  
4 use out there on the ocean. Thank you.

5 FACILITATOR LEA: Thank you, Dewey.  
6 All right. So, now we --- oh, I'm sorry. Rom.

7 MR. WHITAKER: Yes, I'll make it  
8 quick, and I've said it before, but --- and I  
9 think our state is real close to coming up with  
10 an electronic logbook. But whatever, I want to  
11 just do one, I don't want to do one for South  
12 Atlantic, one for HMS, one for North Carolina.  
13 Let's make sure --- my preference is to report to  
14 the state, and let it go from there, but let's  
15 just make sure we get all those bases covered  
16 before we come out with something that's not  
17 going to take care of everything we need to.  
18 Thank you.

19 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Yes, thanks for  
20 that. And that's certainly the approach that we  
21 took on when we developed the electronic dealer  
22 reporting system, or eDealer. We worked very hard  
23 with the existing electronic reporting systems to  
24 kind of get the HMS elements that we needed that  
25 weren't always there into those systems so we  
26 weren't reinventing the wheel. And it took a lot  
27 of work, honestly. You would be surprised at how  
28 people disagree on basic data collection, but we  
29 did.

30 FACILITATOR LEA: All right. So, I  
31 think that wraps up that.

32 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: That wraps up  
33 that, yes. If we don't have public comment, we're  
34 ready to ---

35 FACILITATOR LEA: Wrap-ups. All right.  
36 I'm told we'll need a couple of minutes to get  
37 the wrap-up going, so if you can bear with us  
38 while we get organized for a minute, and we'll  
39 move to the wrap-up, and then send you on your  
40 way.

41 I'm happy to report it looked like the  
42 storm system that was coming out of West Virginia  
43 was breaking up over the mountains there, so  
44 hopefully your flights home, those of you that  
45 are flying will have smooth sailing.

46 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: So, maybe while  
47 we're waiting, thinking about spring meeting  
48 dates. Do folks know that far out? Obviously,

1 councils have their schedules set and we work  
2 hard to avoid those, but do folks know of any big  
3 meetings that we should be avoiding for next  
4 spring? Jeff.

5 MR. ODEN: I don't know if you noticed  
6 but we're having a super moon out there right now  
7 and, you know, would you do your best to plan  
8 around that for even the next --- the spring  
9 meeting, you know. I mean, that's kind of  
10 important to us, or hopefully so. There's  
11 swordfish and whatnot, so anyhow.

12 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Yes, we --- the  
13 spring we have more flexibility. To get a  
14 September fall meeting in between some of our  
15 internal constraints and missing councils,  
16 there's like one week in September. And I don't  
17 know if you noticed but we didn't have NMFS  
18 leadership here because they're all at the State  
19 Directors meeting in California, so I hear you,  
20 but we may have some choices if we want to  
21 overlap with council meetings, if that's how it  
22 worked out.

23 MR. ODEN: Can I ask another question  
24 unrelated, and I'm kind of in a hurry to leave. I  
25 think Rom and myself, but it's --- can it be  
26 unrelated, or do you want me to ---

27 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: We've got time,  
28 so ---

29 MR. ODEN: My question is, and I know  
30 you understand that we're getting ready to do  
31 some seismic testing off our coast. And, anyhow,  
32 have they approved that permit that was applied  
33 for?

34 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: So, I don't know.  
35 It wasn't, I don't think, us that was doing it.  
36 It certainly wasn't me. I did hear about it over  
37 the summer off New Jersey, heard about it just  
38 this week, some concerns from North Carolina.

39 MR. ODEN: I thought I sent --- I  
40 emailed you earlier on ---

41 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: You emailed me?

42 MR. ODEN: I did.

43 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Okay.

44 MR. ODEN: On that particular issue  
45 and I mean, it was posted and, I mean, NMFS is  
46 obviously, you know, it sounded like they were  
47 going to go ahead and give them the permit to do  
48 this. And having been on three TRT teams, you

1 know, it seems pretty inconsistent for the Agency  
2 to allow, you know, them to go and do this  
3 testing which is going to impact, you know,  
4 severely, marine mammals in these areas, and not  
5 to mention the way it was listed, it also may  
6 have an impact on us as fishermen. And I've been  
7 wondering, you know, exactly what was coming?

8 It's supposed to start on the 15th and  
9 go through the 31st of October. And, you know,  
10 it's pretty disconcerting to a lot of us, you  
11 know, especially having sat in a room for 10  
12 hours arguing over one-half of one PVR when  
13 they're going to go out there and blow the ear  
14 drums out of a lot of pilot whales. It doesn't  
15 make a lot of sense. Anyhow, I just wanted to  
16 comment on that.

17 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Yes. So, I can  
18 get back to you on that. I don't know what's  
19 going on with it, so I guess Randy does. But, I  
20 mean, I can check in and see if permits were  
21 issued, but that would have been Office of  
22 Protected Resources, so I'm not in that loop.  
23 But, Randy?

24 MR. GREGORY: Well, we were --- we had  
25 a lot of concerns. There's a lot of --- going to  
26 be lot of impacts on HMS fisheries off our coast  
27 during this testing, and we raised those  
28 concerns. Not only is there, you know,  
29 recreational white marlin bite, but these are ---  
30 they're towing all this stuff. It would  
31 definitely impact anybody that's got a longline  
32 set out there. Most of this stuff is, you know,  
33 fairly deep. And they just kind of wishy-washed  
34 all the fish issues out. You know, they  
35 discounted them for the most part. So, we were  
36 very concerned with fish issues, as well as  
37 protected species issues, and it -- you know, we  
38 got this permit request back in the middle of  
39 August, and I think they wanted to start on  
40 September the 15th. So, it is an issue; please,  
41 if you can find out what part of your Agency's  
42 got it to make sure to let them know there are  
43 fisheries issues, as well as protected resources.

44 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Yes. Maybe when  
45 this is done you can give me a little more  
46 detail. I'm not even sure I know who to ask in  
47 the Agency.

48 MR. GREGORY: I'll email you that

1 tomorrow. Michelle Duval, if you're listening,  
2 you can email Margo right now.

3 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Okay. All right.  
4 Okay, so the last thing before you all can go  
5 home. So, this is the --- what we've taken to  
6 doing the last several, I guess years now, where  
7 this is a live-fire wrap-up. This is an old  
8 picture, although I think there's a new one in  
9 here.

10 So, this is our attempt to summarize,  
11 not repeat but summarize any major comments that  
12 we've heard from you during this meeting,  
13 including just a few minutes ago. It is not  
14 intended to repeat all the things, that's why we  
15 have the transcripts. But just some things so  
16 that we know -- you know that we heard you, is  
17 what we're trying to do with this.

18 I have not seen any of it, so I'll be  
19 reading it and seeing it with you. I think what  
20 we're looking for is if we have completely missed  
21 a major issue, if we have mischaracterized  
22 something, you know, those would be the things we  
23 want to correct. We're not trying to get every  
24 thought down.

25 So, comments from the overview.  
26 Interest in the ESA update for dusky sharks,  
27 interest in monitoring bigeye and yellowfin  
28 dealer reports in the international affairs  
29 report on foreign and national compliance with  
30 U.S. shark fishing standards. So, I will also try  
31 and make sure that when this is released that we  
32 let --- maybe send it out over the listserv or  
33 send it to the AP so you all can see it.

34 From Coast Guard, looking for species-  
35 specific information to be reported for illegally  
36 harvested sharks. I think there was some interest  
37 in having at least the sex of the animals, as  
38 well.

39 From OLE, concerned about divers  
40 spearfishing sharks in the Northeast.  
41 Recommendations to take a monitoring effort to  
42 social media. Concern about disparity between  
43 recreational-commercial enforcement, and about  
44 landing swordfish in the U.S. caught outside the  
45 US EEZ counting against the U.S. quota.

46 Amendment 7, some not happy, perhaps  
47 a little bit of an understatement. Some  
48 satisfied. Requests for details, absolutely hear

1 that, working on that. We'll let you know as soon  
2 as we can. Interest for general category folks to  
3 fish in April and May. Randy, this one=s for you.  
4 Got you up on the slide here. A lot of  
5 reallocation concerns, fair amount of IBQ  
6 concerns, as well. Is there enough quota? How  
7 will it work? What's the market look like? That  
8 the details are not in the FEIS at this point,  
9 and strong concerns about impacts, the future  
10 viability of the pelagic longline fishery.

11 This is in response to Terri, one of  
12 your questions. How many PLL vessels are equipped  
13 to fish for other species by permit? This is  
14 number of other permits held. The bluish is HMS  
15 only, and then I think it increases by a number  
16 of other permits. So, fair number of folks have  
17 multiple permits. But, again, this is permits,  
18 doesn't necessarily translate to fishing, but at  
19 least it's an answer.

20 Concerns about the impact of June 1  
21 start date for Purse Seine and some of the other  
22 categories, particularly harpoon. Questions about  
23 the electronic monitoring for the Purse Seine  
24 fishery, market effects of reserved category  
25 transfer, again, concern about how that will play  
26 out. And then the big question I think is on the  
27 board in the back, will the longline fleet  
28 survive? The answer is, I think so.

29 Recreational fishing policy, what will  
30 it do? Should we evaluate current management  
31 strategies --- should evaluate whether current  
32 management strategies are appropriate, need for a  
33 clear definition of recreational fishing and its  
34 components, more directed outreach and education  
35 for anglers. I know some of you find that's kind  
36 of missing topic.

37 Social media concerns with  
38 enforcement, and then continuing challenges to  
39 headboat management, black market sales of  
40 swordfish. And then that the National Policy  
41 should have a specific charter/headboat  
42 component, perhaps a separate policy.

43 For our international port inspection  
44 and transshipment and unique vessel identifier  
45 proposed rule, like some clarification who's  
46 involved, terminology, some of the financial  
47 implications with the International Maritime  
48 Organization number. We're working to resolve the

1 question of whether boats that are less than 100  
2 gross tons can get a number, and that will impact  
3 how we develop the permitting forms. We're, like  
4 I said, working on to resolve this. And this is,  
5 you know, another demonstration to ensure  
6 compliance with ICCAT recommendations.

7 For Amendment 9, both opposition and  
8 support for NMFS interpretation of the smooth  
9 dogfish-specific provision of the act. Several  
10 concerns that we should wait until the stock  
11 assessment is complete before implementing a  
12 quota. Fishermen should be allowed to land all  
13 sharks, including smooth dogfish without fins  
14 provided the fins are dumped at sea. And that  
15 closing smooth dogfish quota to 80 percent  
16 disadvantages fishermen who target fish later in  
17 the year, and then support for limiting the shark  
18 element VMS requirements to the Southeast U.S.  
19 monitoring area. I think this might be a new one.  
20 So, that's it.

21 So, public comments, support for  
22 Amendment 7 Ala, log book compliance is difficult  
23 when the cost earnings are involved but not  
24 available. And then concerns about the cost of  
25 implementation.

26 From this morning, HMS management-  
27 based research priorities, interest in input from  
28 HMS researchers outside the Agency, that the  
29 purpose and strategies in the document is  
30 unclear. Interest in knowing who is already  
31 researching topics to avoid duplication of  
32 effort. A lot of concerns about staffing and  
33 funding. Encouraging HMS Division to use the  
34 priorities document as a reference when going to  
35 other planning bodies. Discourage using  
36 competitive grant process as the only option.  
37 We'd like to see funding decisions made by a  
38 panel composed of constituents with  
39 representation that's on the panel. And desire  
40 that the Southeast Fishery Science Center would  
41 be more involved in these processes.

42 And there's a new one, Amendment 6,  
43 state boundary lines favored over land line  
44 boundaries, issues related to shark -- landing  
45 sharks in the Caribbean, need to continue to  
46 resolve the landing condition issue, and then  
47 support for subregional quotas but need to look  
48 at different years to calculate the quotas given

1 different closures. Issues related to increasing  
2 the aggregated large coastal retention limits,  
3 allocating unused sandbar research quota,  
4 reevaluating conversion factors, calculate shark  
5 landings and then issues related to choke species  
6 and unused shark quotas.

7 So, just a few minutes ago, electronic  
8 monitoring and reporting, developing application  
9 in Puerto Rico to collect rec data could be used  
10 as a format by HMS. Current system of reporting  
11 needs to be more cohesive. Recreational issues  
12 continue, should have same requirements as  
13 commercial folks, the federal government should  
14 not be in software design, leave that to the  
15 private industry, but U.S. Government could  
16 provide standards that would make data available.  
17 A need to maintain human observers and paper  
18 logbooks. Try to collect effort data,  
19 particularly rec folks, support for electronic  
20 monitoring rather than mailing paper,  
21 dissatisfaction with A7 EM and ER burden.  
22 Statements that all commercial vessels should  
23 have VMS, including General Category and have  
24 trip declarations, support for electronic  
25 utility, and as a research tool, concern about  
26 who'll pay for all of it. And then support for  
27 electronic monitoring, but need to reevaluate  
28 time and paperwork burden. Need to identify clear  
29 strategic approach, WCPFC has examples, and we  
30 need good software and hardware for it all to  
31 work.

32 All right. So, this Friday comments on  
33 the National Recreational Policy with Russ'  
34 email. October 6th would be the A7 FEIS comments.  
35 October 14th we have two, the International  
36 Transshipment Port Inspection, and then shark  
37 specs comment periods will close. And then  
38 November 14th, Amendment 9 comment period closes.

39 So, please return name tags, tent  
40 cards, because we will reuse them. We really do  
41 look at all of the evaluation forms, so please be  
42 fair but blunt. And then if you could get your  
43 receipts back to us by the 17th, we've provided  
44 return envelopes. Note that you should not be  
45 charged for the hotel. If you are, that's a  
46 problem, let us know. And that's it.

47 Before I say goodbye, I want to give  
48 a huge round of thanks to the HMS staff that have

1 pulled off this meeting and all of the materials,  
2 and everything that went into all of them. You've  
3 been very busy, and I appreciate everything.

4 (Applause)

5 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: So, with that,  
6 thank you very much. I appreciate all of the  
7 discussion. You've given us a lot to think about.  
8 We have a lot to do, and we'll be in touch on  
9 some things either individually or with all of  
10 you. And I hope you have a great trip home. Safe  
11 travels.

12 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
13 went off the record at 12:17 p.m.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

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Fall 2014 Advisory Panel Meeting

Before: NOAA

Date: 09-11-14

Place: Bethesda, MD

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under  
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Court Reporter

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