

**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Highly
Migratory
Species

HMS Advisory Panel: Priorities and Next Steps



September 11, 2014
Bethesda, Maryland

Comments from Overview

- Interest in ESA update for dusky sharks
- Interest in monitoring bigeye and yellowfin dealer reports for reflection of heavy effort
- Interest in list from International Affairs about foreign national compliance with U.S. shark fishing standards

USCG and NMFS Enforcement Updates

USCG Update

- Would like species-specific information to be reported for illegally-harvested sharks

NMFS OLE Update

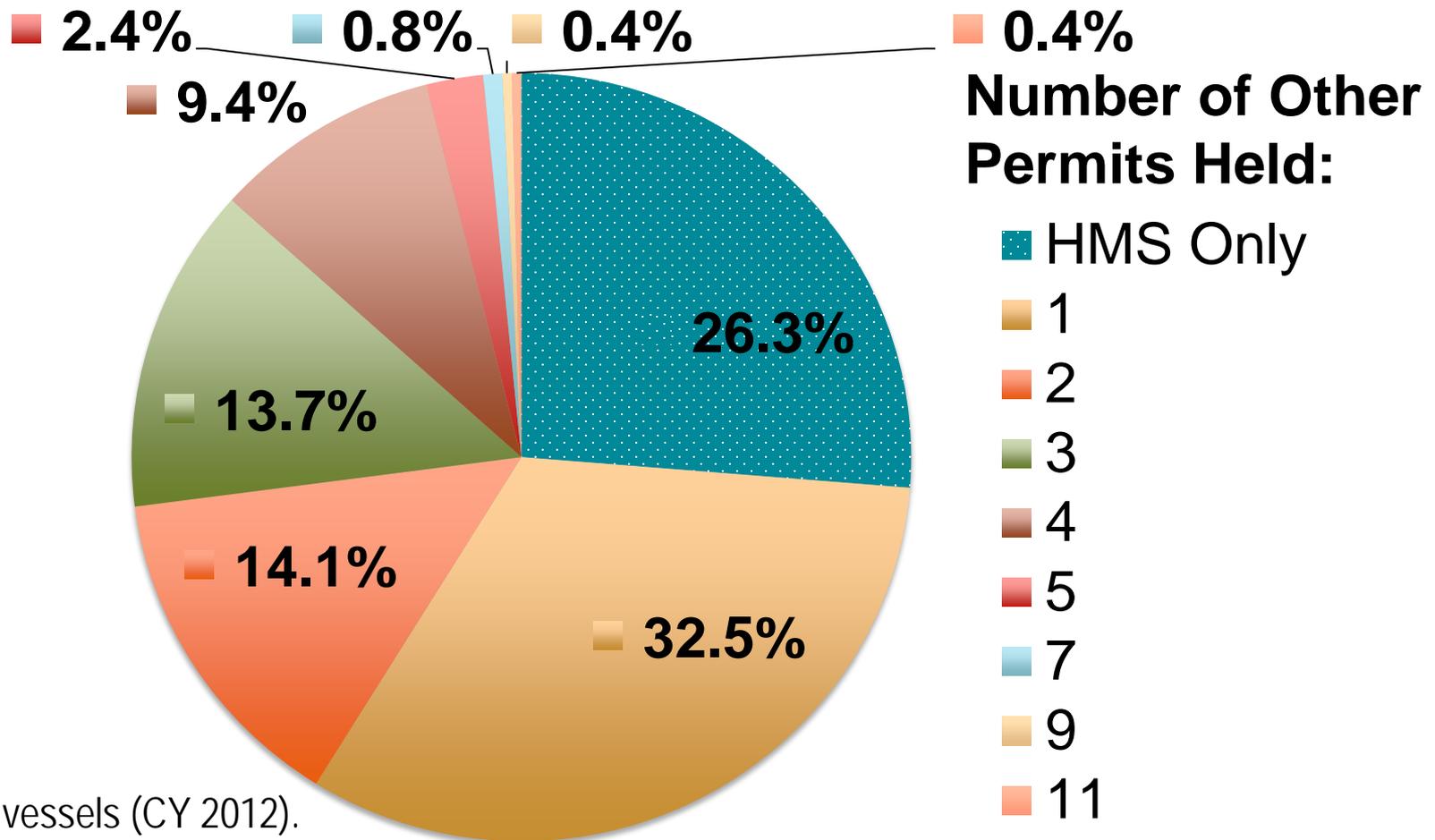
- Concern about divers spearfishing sharks in Northeast
- Recommendations to dedicate more monitoring effort to social media
- Concern about disparity between recreational and commercial fisheries enforcement
- Concern about landing swordfish in the U.S. caught outside the U.S. EEZ, counting against U.S. quota

Amendment 7

- Some not happy; some satisfied
- Requests for details – EM, IBQ system, closures, transfers, Reserve category
- General Category – fish in April and May
- Reallocation concerns
- IBQ concerns
 - enough quota?
 - Ideas not in FEIS
 - Strong concerns about impacts on PLL fishery

Amendment 7

How many HMS PLL Vessels are equipped to fish for other species?



255 permitted vessels (CY 2012).

Amendment 7

- Impacts of June 1 start date for purse seine
- Questions regarding EM for purse seine fishery
- Market effects of the reserve category transfer to PLL
- Will the PLL Fleet Survive?

Recreational Fishing Policy

- What will a National Policy accomplish?
- Should evaluate whether current management strategies appropriate?
- Need for a clear definition of recreational fishing and its components
- More directed outreach and education for anglers
- Social media concerns (enforcement)
- Continuing challenges – CHB management, black market sales of SWO
- National Policy specifically needs a CHB component. Perhaps a separate policy for CHB?

International Port Inspection, Transshipment, & Unique Vessel Identifiers – Proposed Rule

- Clarification of who is involved, terminology, financial implications
- Vessels on 20 meter list, < 100 gross tons
- IMO numbers only issued to vessels >100 gross tons
- HMS is trying to get resolution on this issue
- This rule further demonstrates U.S. compliance with ICCAT recommendations

Amendment 9 – Smoothhound Shark Management Measures – Proposed Rule

- Opposition and support for NMFS' interpretation of the smooth dogfish-specific provision of the SCA (e.g. "fishing for smooth dogfish")
- NMFS should wait until the smoothhound stock assessment is complete before implementing a quota
- Fishermen should be allowed to land all sharks, including smooth dogfish, without fins, provided the fins are dumped at sea; also some support for fins naturally attached for all sharks
- Closing the smoothhound quota at 80% disadvantages fishermen who target the fish later in the year
- Support for limiting shark gillnet VMS requirement to the Southeast U.S. Monitoring Area

Public Comment: Day 1



- Support for Amendment 7, Alternative A 1a
- Logbook compliance difficult when financial data is requested but not yet available
- Concern about cost of A7 implementation

HMS Management-Based Research Priorities

- Interest in input from HMS researchers outside the agency
- Purpose and strategy of priorities is unclear
- Interest in knowing who is already researching these topics within the agency to avoid duplication of effort
- Concern about staffing and funding
- Encourage HMS to use priorities document for reference at ACCSP/Council/Planning Bodies
- Discourage using competitive grant review process as only option; would like to see funding decisions made by a panel composed of constituents, such as AP
- SEFSC should be more involved in these processes

Amendment 6: Shark Quotas, Regions, and Upgrading Restrictions – Progress Updates



- State boundary lines favored over lat/long boundaries
- Issues related to landing sharks in the Caribbean
- Need to continue to resolve landing conditions issue
- Support for subregional quotas, but need to look at different years to calculate the quotas

Amendment 6: Shark Quotas, Regions, and Upgrading Restrictions – Progress Updates

- Issues related to increasing aggregated LCS retention limits or allocating the unused sandbar research quota to all shark directed permit holders
- Re-evaluating conversion factors used to calculate shark landings
- Issues related to choke species and unused portions of shark quotas

HMS Electronic Monitoring / Reporting in HMS Fisheries

- Developing application in Puerto Rico to collect recreational data; sharks could be in format developed by HMS
- The current system of reporting (disjointed states, Federal, etc.) needs to be more cohesive; infrastructure is there
- Recreational issues continue; should have same requirements as commercial
- Federal government should not design applications; leave to private industry; need set of standards that make data available to all stakeholders
- Need to maintain human observers and paper logbooks

HMS Electronic Monitoring / Reporting in HMS Fisheries

- Try to collect effort data in reports as well
- Support for electronic reporting, rather than mailing forms
- Dissatisfaction with A7 electronic monitoring and reporting burden
- All commercial HMS vessels should have a VMS, including General category, and requirement to declare trip information
- Support for electronic utility and as a research tool
- Concern about who will pay for electronic monitoring
- Support for electronic monitoring, but need to re-evaluate the time and paperwork burden

HMS Electronic Monitoring / Reporting in HMS Fisheries

- Need to identify clear strategic approach to technology goals from white paper
- WCPFC has examples of electronic monitoring
- The hardware and software technologies are available, and selection should be careful – develop a system that is necessary for specific needs

Regulatory Comment Period Deadlines & Contacts

- September 12
Recreational Fishing Policy
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/recreational/policy/>
- October 6
A7 Final Environmental Impact Statement
(Brad.McHale@noaa.gov)
- October 14
International Transshipment and Port Inspection
(Rick.A.Pearson@noaa.gov)
- October 14
Shark Specs (Guy.Dubeck@noaa.gov)
- November 14
A9 Smoothhound Shark Management (Steve.Durkee@noaa.gov)

Reminders to AP Members

Please return your
name tags and table tents
to the registration table

Please fill out an **evaluation form** and return
to the registration table

Travel Forms and Receipts* are due
Wednesday, September 17th

Return envelopes will be provided for receipts
and signed travel vouchers

* Hotel charges should not be incurred

