



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

HMS Management Overview

September 10, 2014

# Goal of Presentation

- Brief update of recent actions
- Updates on previous Advisory Panel recommendations
- Defer issues to be discussed later in meeting:
  - Bluefin tuna Amendment 7 Final Environmental Impact Statement
  - HMS recreational issues
  - Smoothhound sharks Draft Amendment 9
  - Shark Management Draft Amendment 6 progress
  - HMS Management-Based Research Priorities
  - International Port Inspection/Transshipment/UVI proposed rule

# Rulemaking/Operations Update

## Since the April 2014 AP meeting:

- Published four proposed rules for 2014 swordfish specifications, Draft Amendment 9, 2015 shark specifications, & International Port Inspection/Transshipment/UVI
- Published two final rules on 2014 bluefin & swordfish specifications
- Announced Availability of the Final EIS for Amendment 7
- Oversaw 13 workshops

## In 2014, so far:

- Issued 38 EFPs, SRPs, & LOAs
- Issued 5 shark research fishery permits; some changes this year
- Registered 262 HMS tournaments
- ~4,780 people receiving Atlantic HMS News

# Bluefin Tuna 2014 Quota Specifications

Proposed rule: April 4, 2014 (79 FR 18870)

Final rule: July 7, 2014 (79 FR 38255)

- Allocated the full 2014 baseline quotas to all directed categories, including the Purse Seine category, and the Reserve category
- Used an updated estimate of bluefin tuna dead discards of 140.8 mt that could be expected in 2014
- Accounted for half of the dead discard estimate up front in the specifications process, as proposed
- Allocated 99.2 mt to the Longline category, not including the 25-mt allocation for the Northeast Distant Gear Restricted Area

# Bluefin Tuna 2014 Inseason Actions

## Retention Limits:

General category (large medium/giant):

- January 1 - March 21 = 2; June 1 – August 31 = 4; Sept 1- Dec 31 = 4

Angling category daily retention limits

- Private vessels: 1 school + 1 large school/small medium
- HMS CHB: 2 school + 1 large school/small medium

## Closures:

General category “January” fishery: March 21

Angling category Trophy South fishery: April 11

## Transfer:

15 mt from Reserve category to Harpoon category: August 8

# Bluefin Tuna Purse Seine EFP

- Federal Register notice published June 30, 2014, to solicit comments on an application from a purse seine vessel operator for exemption from the annual incidental purse seine retention limit for large medium bluefin tuna (73" to less than 81")
- Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) issued with specific terms and conditions for August 1, 2014, to December 31, 2014
- The purpose is to gather data regarding the discards of bluefin tuna measuring 73" to less than 81" in the purse seine fishery

# 2014 Swordfish Specifications

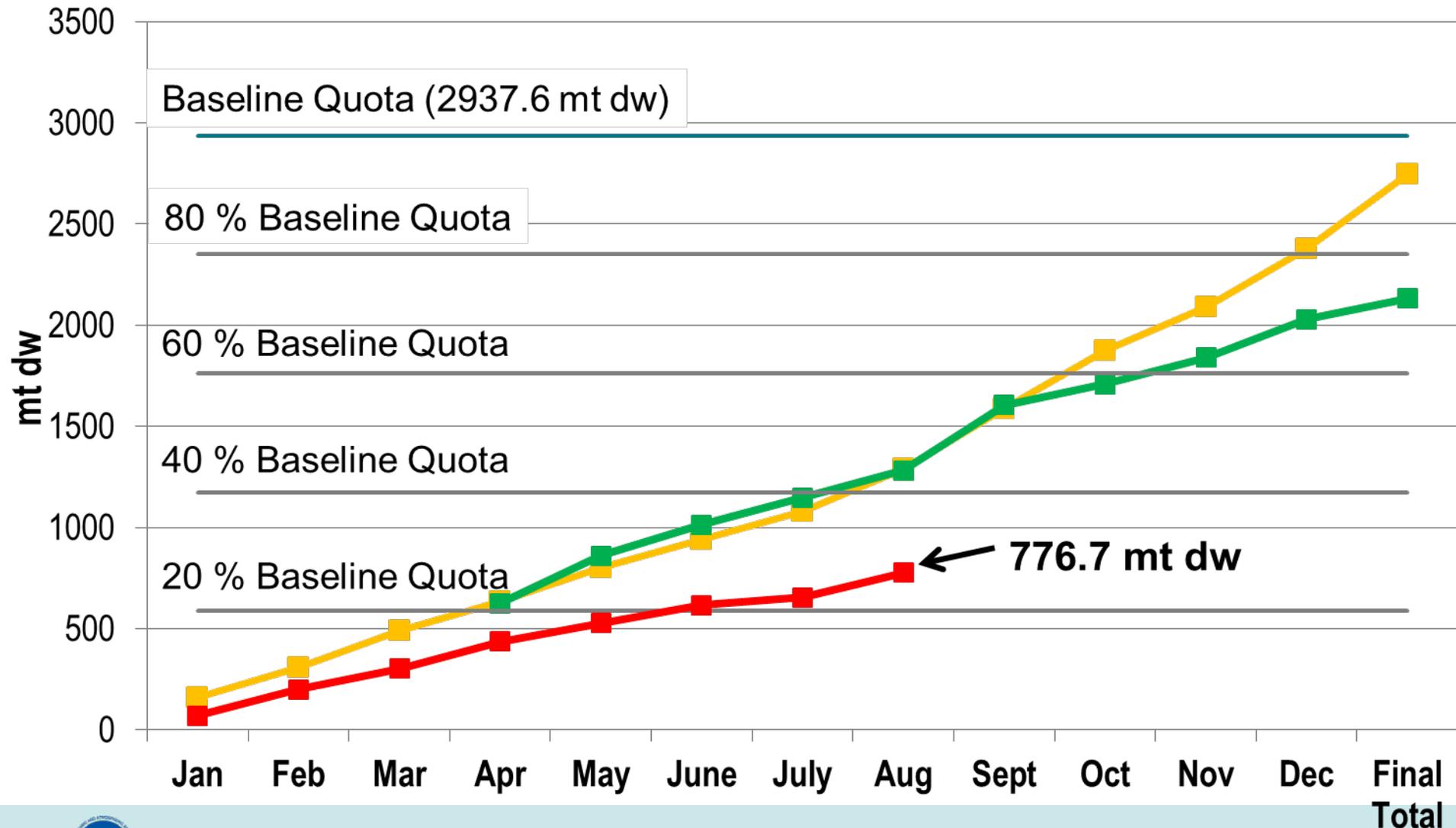
Final rule on swordfish quotas published on August 22

| SWO Specs              | 2013          | 2014           |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| North Atl SWO Base     | 2,937.6 mt dw | 2,937.6 mt dw  |
| North Atl SWO Adjusted | 3,559.2 mt dw | 3,653.2 mt dw* |
| South Atl SWO Base     | 75.2 mt dw    | 75.2 mt dw     |
| South Atl SWO Adjusted | 75.2 mt dw    | 75.1 mt dw     |

\* The 2014 NSW0 adjusted quota increased because ICCAT eliminated the 150 mt transfer to Morocco and implemented a 25 mt transfer to Mauritania

# North Atlantic Swordfish Landings

2012 2013 2014



# Shark 2015 Specifications

- Proposed rule will publish this week
- It proposes to:
  - Open all shark management groups, except the aggregated LCS and hammerhead shark management groups in the Atlantic region, on or about January 1, 2015
  - Open the aggregated LCS and hammerhead shark management groups in the Atlantic region on June 1, 2015
  - Adjust the Gulf of Mexico blacktip shark management group quota based on underharvest in 2014
  - Adjust the Gulf of Mexico aggregated LCS and Atlantic blacknose shark management group quotas based on overharvests from 2013 and 2014
  - Continue to adjust the regional blacknose shark management group quotas over a five-year timeframe based on an overharvest in 2012
  - The comment period will close October 14, 2014

# Shark Inseason Actions

## 2014 Inseason Actions:

- Closed the Gulf of Mexico Aggregated LCS and Hammerhead Shark Fisheries on May (79 FR 28849)
- Closed the Gulf of Mexico Blacktip Shark Fishery on June 2 (79 FR 31227)
- Closed the Atlantic Blacknose and Non-Blacknose SCS Fisheries on July 28 (79 FR 43267)
- Closed the Gulf of Mexico Blacknose and Non-Blacknose SCS Shark Fisheries on September 9 (79 FR 53344)

# Amendment 5b – Dusky Sharks

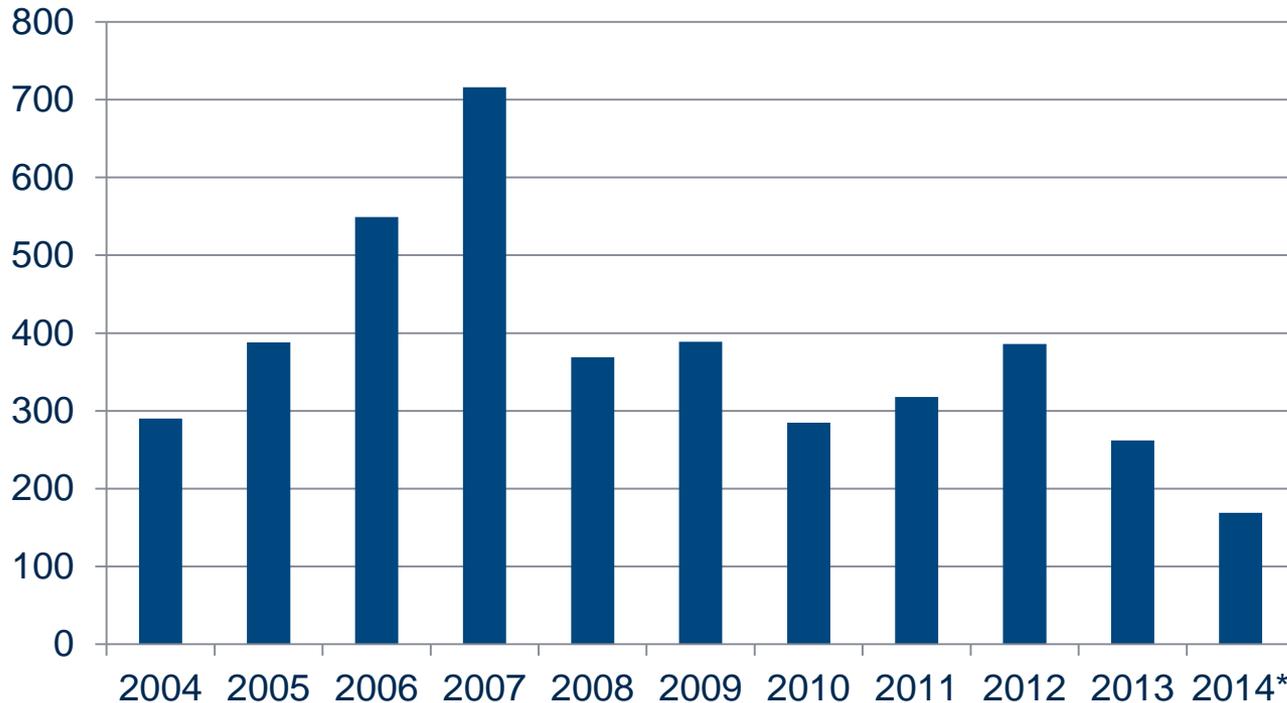


- Predraft completed in Spring 2014
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Rule under development
- Office of Management and Budget has deemed this rulemaking as significant

# Essential Fish Habitat 5-Year Review

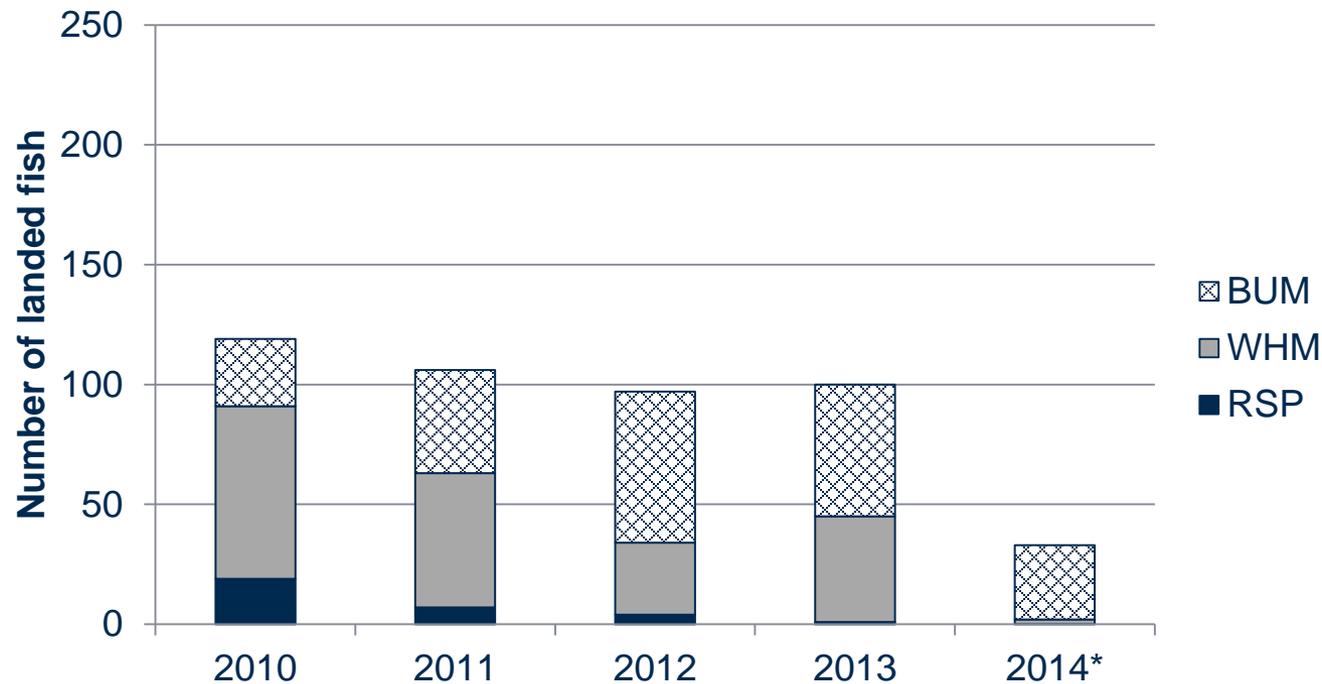
- Received/evaluating new information that should be considered in review of current Atlantic HMS Essential Fish Habitat:
  - Peer-reviewed publications
  - Technical reports
  - Unpublished data
  - Other sources of information
- Drafting 5-Year Review Document
- Anticipate publishing DRAFT for public comment Winter 2014/2015

# Recreational Swordfish Landings



| Year | Non-tournament Landings (number) |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 2004 | 290                              |
| 2005 | 388                              |
| 2006 | 549                              |
| 2007 | 716                              |
| 2008 | 369                              |
| 2009 | 389                              |
| 2010 | 285                              |
| 2011 | 318                              |
| 2012 | 386                              |
| 2013 | 262                              |
| 2014 | 169                              |

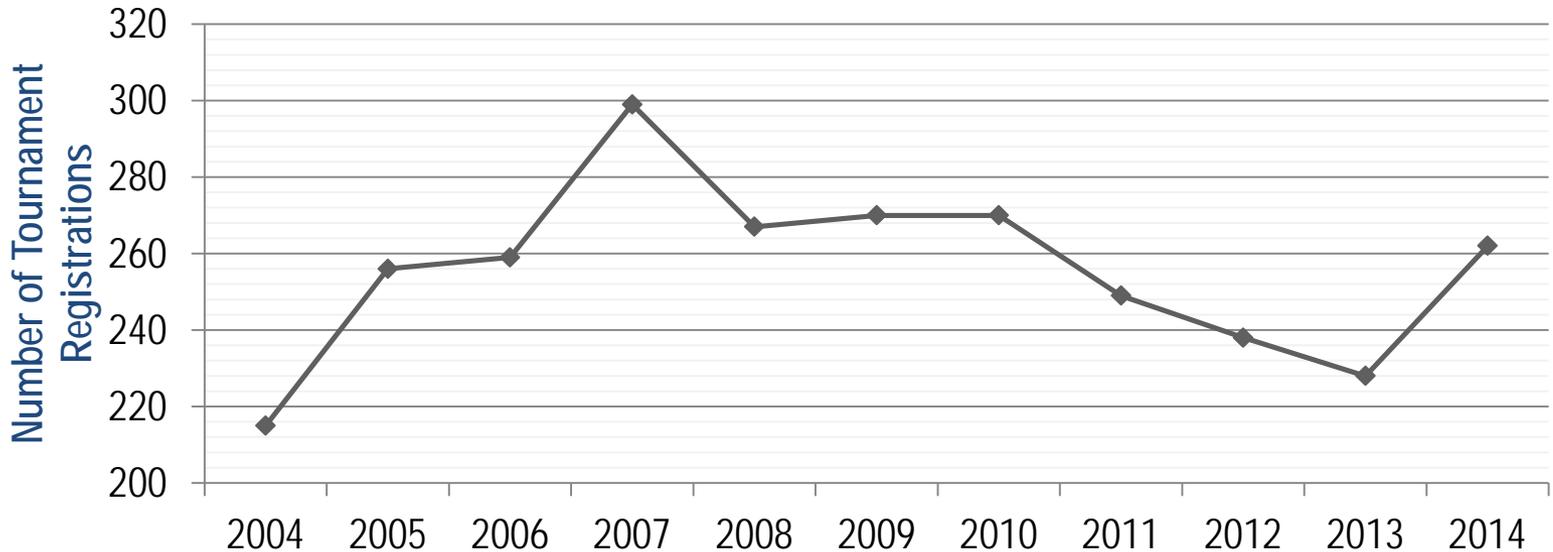
# Recreational Billfish Landings



|                      | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014* |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Blue Marlin          | 28   | 43   | 63   | 55   | 31    |
| White Marlin         | 72   | 56   | 30   | 44   | 2     |
| Roundscale Spearfish | 19   | 7    | 4    | 1    | 0     |
| Sailfish             | 185  | 166  | 159  | 169  | 81    |

\* Preliminary; HMS Q2 Landings Report, Recreational (non-tournament) Database

# Tournaments Update



## Program Restructuring – Final Goal: Online Registration and Reporting

- Step 1 underway: Merging HMS and Recreational Billfish Survey databases
- Step 2: Technical guidance and planning

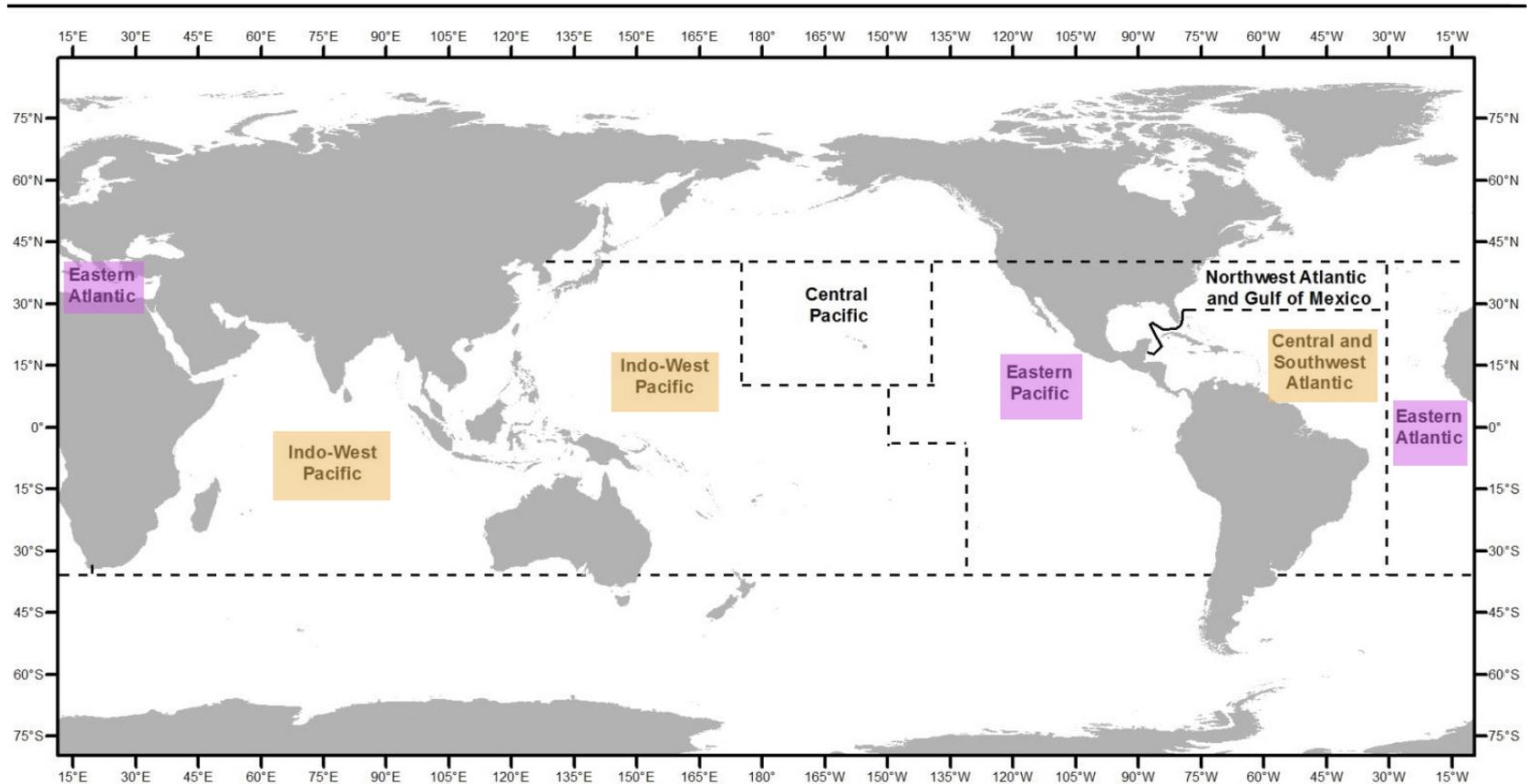
## IGFA Tournament Operator Meeting

- At IGFA headquarters, Dania Beach, FL
- September 25, 2014

# ESA Update – Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks

Final rule to list four distinct population segments of scalloped hammerhead sharks under the Endangered Species Act became effective on September 2, 2014

## Scalloped Hammerhead Shark DPS Boundaries



NMFS will reinitiate ESA consultation on scalloped hammerhead shark soon

# ESA Update - Corals

- On August 27, 2014, NMFS published a final rule to list 20 coral species as threatened under the ESA
- 7 of these species are distributed in U.S. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean waters
- NMFS staff are currently assessing the overlap of these coral species with HMS fishing activity
- NMFS will reinitiate ESA consultation on these coral species, as appropriate, soon

# ESA Update – Pelagic Longline

## Pelagic Longline Biological Opinion

- NMFS has requested re-initiation of Section 7 consultation under ESA
- While the mortality rate measure needs to be re-evaluated, overall ability of the RPA to avoid jeopardy was not affected
- During consultation, NMFS will increase education efforts with PLL fishery through protected species handling & release workshops and other outreach, including HMS Advisory Panel, to further reduce sea turtle interactions,
- Through these education efforts, NMFS encourages PLL fishers to:
  - Use whole finfish for bait
  - Avoid threading baits on hooks (putting hook through bait more than once)
  - Use larger hooks (>18/0) as much as possible
  - Avoid fishing with PLL in water  $\geq 68^{\circ}$  F when possible

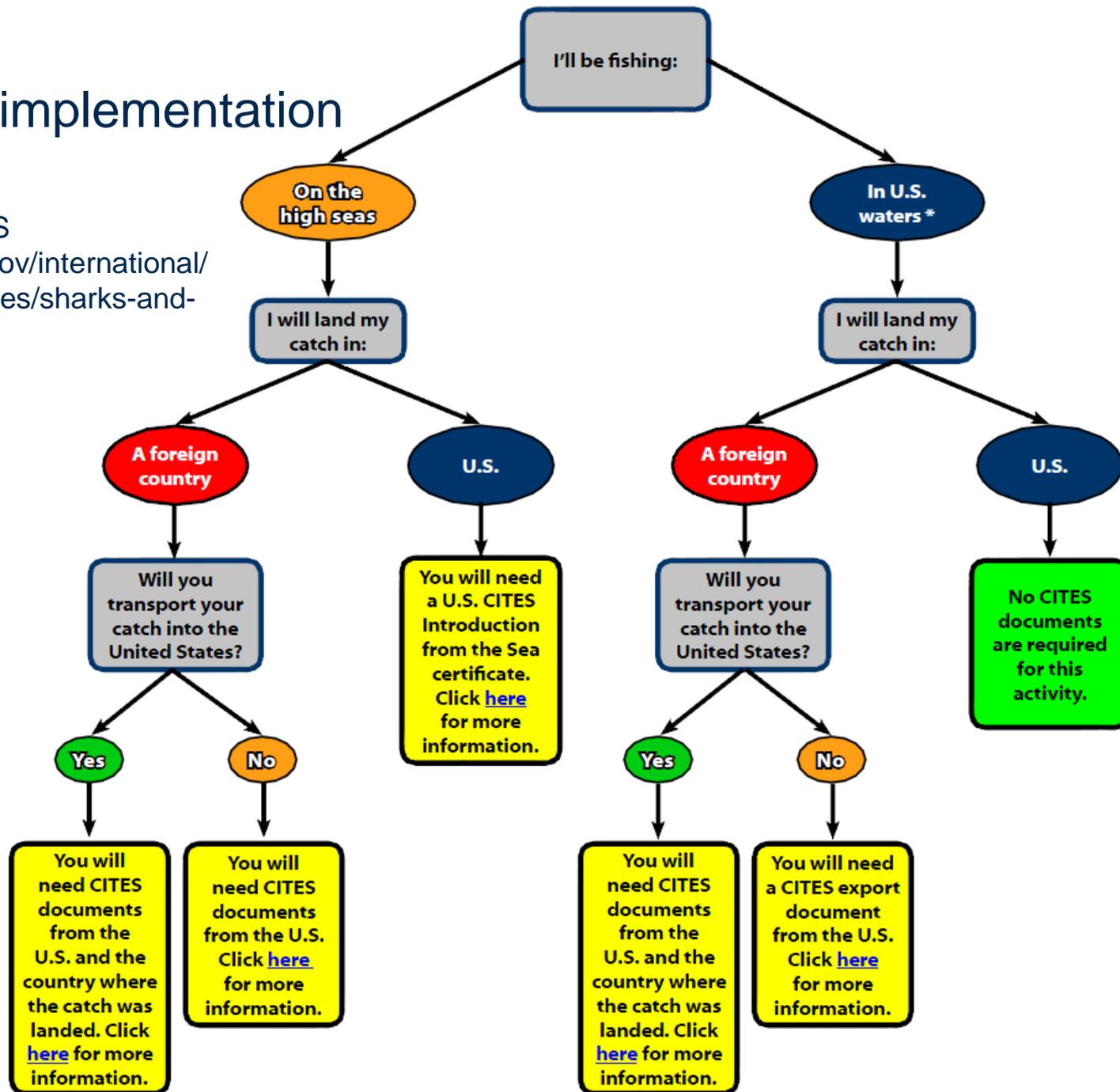
# Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

- The CITES Appendix II listing for porbeagle; oceanic whitetip; and great, smooth, and scalloped hammerhead sharks is effective September 14, 2014
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the lead agency with responsibility for implementing CITES under authority of the Endangered Species Act
- A CITES-listed species may be imported, exported or re-exported from a CITES member State only if the appropriate documentation has been obtained and presented for clearance at the port of entry or exit
- For more information about the CITES process and documentation requirements please go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website:
  - <http://www.fws.gov/international/permits/by-species/sharks-and-rays.html>

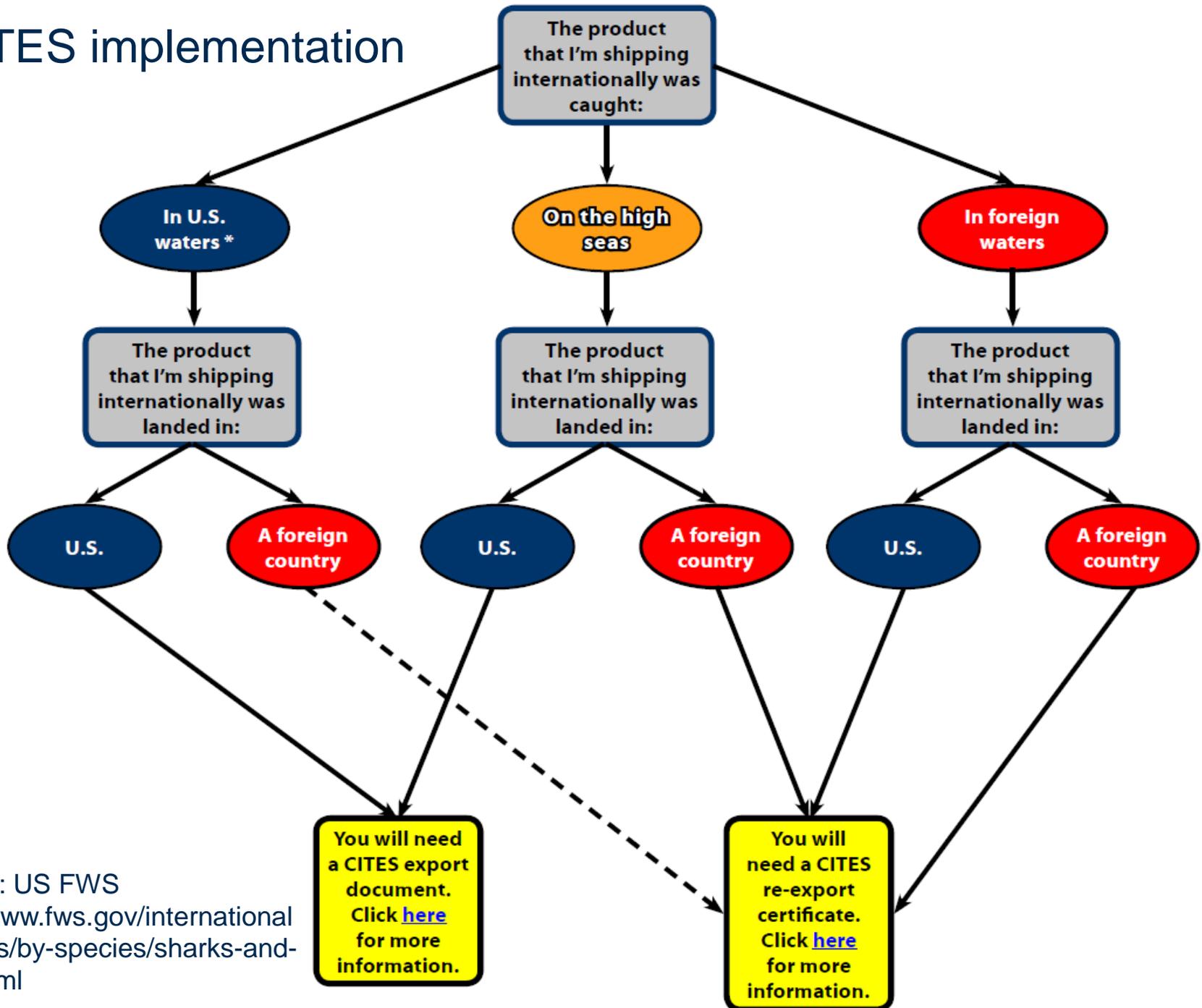
# CITES implementation

Source: US FWS

<http://www.fws.gov/international/permits/by-species/sharks-and-rays.html>



# CITES implementation



Source: US FWS  
<http://www.fws.gov/international/permits/by-species/sharks-and-rays.html>

# Compendium Update

**Objective:** Summarize the history and rationale behind existing management measures for Atlantic HMS

## Organization:

- Subdivided into 15 sections -
  - (1) Introduction;
  - (2) Stock Status and Status Determination Criteria;
  - (3) General Provisions;
  - (4) Essential Fish Habitat;
  - (5) Protected Resources;
  - (6) Gear Type by Descriptions and Specific Management Measures;
  - (7) Commercial Management Measures by Species Complex;
  - (8) Recreational Management Measures by Species Complex;
  - (9) Charter/Headboat Management Measures by Species Complex;
  - (10) Dealers;
  - (11) Tournaments;
  - (12) Permits for Specially Authorized Activities;
  - (13) International Considerations;
  - (14) Enforcement Provisions;
  - (15) Appendices

Please e-mail [Alexis.Jackson@noaa.gov](mailto:Alexis.Jackson@noaa.gov) with comments on organization and content

# Operations/Other

- Continued coordination with Councils & Commissions; ASMFC for sharks
- Louisiana greenstick gear study continuing in FY15
- ICCAT submissions: BFT monthly landings, BET/YFT vessel lists, changes to HMS permitted vessels monthly
- ICCAT electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (e-BCD) system in progress; provisions part of International Trade Data System proposed rule - should publish soon
- Caribbean Council closures – Abrir la Sierra, Bajo de Sico, Tourmaline Bank
- Atlantic HMS Electronic Dealer Reporting system- ~486 HMS dealers submit all landings data or weekly negative reports; weekly compliance monitoring; generates monthly shark and swordfish commercial landings reports.
- No current litigation



# Other National Rules

- **National Vessel Monitoring System Proposed Rule**
  - Would codify type-approval standards, specifications, procedures, and responsibilities applicable to commercial Enhanced Mobile Transceiver Unit vendors and mobile communications service providers
- **Billfish Conservation Act of 2012 Proposed Rule**
  - Would codify the prohibition of possessing billfish (marlins, spearfish, sailfish) for sale including exemptions for Hawaii or Pacific Insular Areas per the Act
- **Shark Conservation Act of 2010 Proposed Rule**
  - Would implement national fins-attached requirement in all shark fisheries, with a limited exception for smooth dogfish to be implemented via Amendment 9

# Looking Ahead – 2014

- **ICCAT support** – Fall Advisory Committee meeting in October, Annual meeting in November
  - Measures for bluefin tuna, sharks?, trade?
- **Upcoming Proposed Rules:**
  - Dusky shark Amendment 5b
  - Shark management Amendment 6
- **Upcoming Final Rules:**
  - Bluefin Tuna Amendment 7
  - International Port Inspection/Transshipment/UVI
  - 2015 Shark specifications

# Communication Goal: No Surprises

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

# Conclusion/Looking Forward

*In conclusion,*

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

*Looking forward,*

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

# Questions?

Thank you!