

## **2013 Shark Research Fishery Permit Holders' Meeting**

### **NWX-DOC CONFERENCING**

**Moderator: Delisse Ortiz  
March 18, 2013  
1:00 pm CT**

**Coordinator:** Welcome and thank you for standing by. At this time all participants are in a listen-only mode. During the question and answer session, please press star one on your touchtone phone. Today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. And now I will turn the meeting over to Mrs. Delisse Ortiz. Ma'am you may begin.

**Delisse Ortiz:** Thank you (Pat). Welcome everybody who has called in. My name is Delisse Ortiz and I'm with the HMS Management Division. We also have (Karyl Brewster-Geisz) from HMS, (Guy Dubeck) and then (Simon Gulack) from the Southeast Fishery Science Center.

Again thank you for calling in. The structure of the call is going to consist of me basically going through the terms and the conditions of the permit just to make sure that everybody's on the same page. And I would really like to go through all the conditions and requirements of a permit and then follow up with questions and answers, okay, just to make sure that we can go through

everything. And then there'll be ample time for you guys to ask whatever questions you may have, okay.

So first of all for those of you who didn't participate in last year's research fishery. It's quite different. We have basically split the sandbar and the non-sandbar large coastal shark research fishery quota equally among the participants in the fishery such that each individual has been allocated 15.5 metric tons dress weight or about a 34,000 pound dress weight.

For the non-sandbar research fishery quota, each of you will have 6.7 metric tons dress weight or about 15,000 pounds dress weight. And that's in terms of how the quota structure is developed. The program again is still the same. The permit will authorize you to have all non-prohibited species of shark including sandbar sharks only again when the NIMH's approve of server is on board and the shark research fishery is open.

Once you conduct a trip, that permit holder cannot go on another trip until the observer program has received a weight out form and can verify that the permit holder has not exceeded either quota portion provided to their vessel. So that's important for us to try and monitor the quota. We don't want, you know, a lot of sort of trips being made and not have the data with us to monitor how we are on the quota.

In the case that either portion of the quota's taken - either the sandbar or the non-sandbar large coastal shore research fisheries are taking. That permit holder may not make another trip for that year.

Now in terms of when you go and take a trip in terms of what you can retain and what you can release. So like I said, all sharks except for prohibited species that are caught and are brought to the vessel bed must be landed. So

the recipe is if they're dead, it doesn't matter what species they are unless it's prohibited species of course. You have to land that and that's very important.

Now if it's caught and brought to the vessel alive, you have two choices. You can either land that species or you can release it alive. All sandbars or non-sandbars large coastal sharks caught that are retained will be counted again against their respective quotas. Keep in mind though that the observer will have sort of first dibs on species that are caught. They have the ability to determine whether they want to tag or sample or what they want to do with that species if it's alive. They might want to tag it and release it or they might want to retain it.

In terms of sets - you'll have one trip per month or two sea days to make two non-concurrent long line sets in each trip. The first set is the feeler set. That set is optional. So again, you don't have to do it. If you do, do it, you're limited to 150 or fewer hooks and a soak time lasting no more than two hours.

The second - once you're done with that and you pick up your unit and you put your second set. That main set is 300 - you're limited to 300 or fewer hooks and it does not have a soak time limit. And just again, make sure that if you do conduct a feeler set, the second set cannot be set until all the units from the feeler set is retrieved.

In terms of the total number of hooks on a vessel, you'll be restricted to having no more than 500 or fewer hooks on board. And you will also be restricted to a regional dusky bycatch cap. Each one of the selected participants is in a specific region. We have a total of six regions - North Carolina region, Georgia, South Carolina region, the East Coast of Florida region, the Florida Keys, West Coast of Florida and Gulf of Mexico region.

Each one of these regions has a dusky shark bycatch cap of five dusky sharks which means that no more than five dusky shark interactions are allowed in any of those designated regions through the entire year. And again, it doesn't matter if it's dead or alive. It means any type of interaction with a dusky shark.

Once you're in the region and that dusky shark bycatch cap is exceeded for that region - meaning you catch more than five - no permit holder may make a trip in that region for the remainder of the year, okay.

In addition, in terms of the number of trips that you're allocated. If in terms of the shark research fishery, every, you know, the idea is to get research data and to get a sample that is spatially distributed over time. So the idea is that we want to try and get samples every month. That's why each individual's allocated a trip every month.

If you failed to do your required monthly shark research fishery trip, you know, you may choose to do that. You are not guaranteed that trip. That will be at the discretion of the Southeast Fishery Science Center and will depend and where they need the data, what researchers they have and how did they want to distribute effort.

The rest of the restrictions have not changed. Your permit will expire at the end of the year or whenever the quotas are filled - whichever comes first. Your permit is only valid for the vessel and vessel owners. So keep that in mind. You cannot switch to another vessel. You cannot switch owners. And you you can't do any transfers.

Another actually new regulation that your permit will not exempt you from regulation from the use of pelagic long line and bottom long line here in

primary portions which means that in the past we've allowed individuals to go into the North Carolina closed area and this year nobody will be able to fish with bottom long line or pelagic long line here in those areas until they open which would be later in the summer in August.

We will monitor compliance with the quota. If, you know, failure to follow any of the terms and conditions of your permit including failure to carry an observer or abide by any of the research objectives is grounds for permit revocation. Again, the total number of fishing trips authorized will be limited by the scientific and researching agency and again, it's at the discretion of the Southeast Fishery Science Center.

Once we are done with this call, you may start making arrangements with (Simon Gulack) or (Michael Enzenauer) and I apologize if I really did not pronounce that correctly. But you will be able to start scheduling trips right after this call. And now I would like to open it up to questions.

Coordinator: Yes, thank you. If you would like to ask a question at this time, please press star one on your touchtone phone. To withdraw that request, press star two. Again, please press star one to ask a question. One moment please.

And our first question comes from (Christopher Rhoto). Your line is open.

(Christopher Rhoto): Yes. I was just wondering if I make a dealer set the first day - you said two days - I feel my folder up. Can I go back out the next day and make the 300 hook set or whatever? How's that going to work?

Delisse Ortiz: Hi (Kip). Hey.

So the answer is yes, you have two sea days to do your two sets - the feeler set or one set depending on if you want to do a feeler set. That's optional.

(Christopher Rhoto): Okay, so basically you all can put 150 the first day and 300 the next day.

Delisse Ortiz: Yes.

(Christopher Rhoto): Okay, just want to make that clear.

I think that's all I got.

Delisse Ortiz: Alright.

(Christopher Rhoto): Unless somebody else brings something else up I'm knowing about.

Delisse Ortiz: Okay, thanks (Kip).

(Christopher Rhoto): Okay, talk to you all later.

Delisse Ortiz: Okay.

Coordinator: Thank you and again, please press star one to ask a question. One moment.

And at this time, I am showing nothing further.

Delisse Ortiz: Okay.

Delisse Ortiz: So (Simon) do you have anything you want to bring up?

(Simon Gulak): Yes.

(Simon Gulak): Can anyone hear me?

(Delisse Ortiz): Yes, yes.

(Simon Gulak): Okay. I wasn't sure if I was live. Well not unless there are any questions - direct questions. We pretty much already covered that - our first one about him because we knew that's where he'd be wanting to fish. So really it's, you know, most guys have questions now but I can also deal with a few questions when they actually call into schedule trips, so.

Delisse Ortiz: Okay.

(Simon Gulak): I will say for all those listening though that I had - I went and double checked back about the status of the January and February trips that you have not taken yet and well because of the impending sequester, my immediate boss has told me to keep those in hand for now because we don't know and the first rumor was that we were going to have a 10% cut of sea days.

So that would equate to about one trip each. But he doesn't know yet what the actual outcome of that is going to be. So he would rather - he said - hold back on giving the February trip for example until we really know. And then, you know, we'll give it to you when we actually find out the repercussions of this whole sequester.

So apologies to anyone who I think I had already told (Scott Vaeth) the complete opposite and (Charlie Locke) the complete opposite because at the time I was not aware that we were expecting a cut and sea day to this sequester. So that's about all I have to add I think unless we have any questions.

Coordinator: Yes, we did actually get another question in. (Chad Englehart) your line is open.

(Chad Englehart): Yes, good afternoon. I was - about the main set there - the 300 hooks. Does that have to be in one line or can you break that up into two or three different lines not exceeding the 300 total?

(Simon Gulak): We had always expected to be one line just for pure simplicity.

(Chad Englehart): Okay.

(Simon Gulak): Now unless Delisse and (karyl) want to weigh in here. I mean that was the way we had always done it.

Delisse Ortiz: No (Simon) that's correct, yes. It's only one line with 300 or fewer hooks.

(Simon Gulak): And I think the purpose of that is if, you know, if you have a variety of lines spread out all over the place in an enforcement situation, it's very hard for them to prove you really had, you know, 300 hooks in the water at one time. So that's why we just kept it simple which I know there's a variety of - in fact I think (Dave Campo) quite often set small amounts of gear with small amounts of hooks. So it won't just be you that's having to make a change. So I'm sorry about that.

(Karyl Breswter-Geisz): But I am curious about that. This is (Karyl). So do you normally set with just 100 hook lines?

Chad Englehart: At this time of year, yes, in the areas that I fish down south off of Jupiter. I'd have at least two - possibly three - different strings, you know, because - as

we all know - you're not going to find them on usually the first shot all the time.

(Karyl Brewster-Geisz): Okay. That is good to know and keep that in mind.

Chad Englehart: Okay.

(Karyl Brewster-Geisz): Is it for other times of the year too or just this time of year?

Chad Englehart: Well being able to sandbar fish for the past several years obviously but this time of year I'd make my sandbar set up in deep water with two or three different strings and then go in shore and chase the black tips and spinners and what not. And then go back and then pull the offshore strings. I just - I'd always spaced my gear apart. Just I don't like put all my eggs in one basket, you know.

(Karyl Brewster-Geisz): Well thank you.

Chad Englehart: Okay.

Coordinator: And I am showing nothing further at this time again. One moment.

(Christopher Rhoto) your line is open sir.

(Christopher Rhoto): Yes, what the gentlemen just said - I only put 50 hooks on my lines because if we get bite-offs we'll have nothing left. So that - I guess we'll do whatever you all want us but that's how I fish all year long with 50 hooks on the line. I put the line all in one row but...

Delisse Ortiz: How many lines in total?

(Christopher Rhoto): Well right now I'm only fishing with two. It's 100 hooks.

Delisse Ortiz: Okay.

(Christopher Rhoto): But normally, you know, I mean if 50 hooks, you know, I'm not going to fish more than 200 hooks anyway. That would be four lines. It would all be in one line, you know, in one row but one area.

Group: Right.

(Christopher Rhoto): It's just the same gear with me. If I don't close them, you got nothing left. But whatever you all come up with is fine by me.

(Simon Gulak): Okay but I think your style of fishing is - it's worked with the way it's supposed to work. So I don't even have a problem there. It's up to 150 hooks of the feeler and it's up to 300 hooks to the main set. So really you only - the only other thing that's going to matter to you is the feeler set and they're supposed to have a soak time of not more than two hours but, you know, you don't really soak much longer than that anyway. So yes, I don't think you'll have any problems.

(Christopher Rhoto): Okay, Yes, alright (Simon). Call me whenever you're ready to send somebody down.

(Simon Gulak): Alright. I think most people are ready, yes. There's not been much going on in our office at the beginning of this year. So...

Delisse Ortiz: And do you want me to pass on your number or (Simon) do you want to save it because I didn't save it, so?

(Simon Gulak): Well so it wasn't on any of the permit information?

Delisse Ortiz: Oh yes, it is here. It's in the selection letter for folks that are just eager to talk to (Simon).

(Simon Gulak): I think - well I think everyone on board has had to get in touch with me over the last year for the coverage and everything, so. So the only thing that may not be on there is I have a cell phone number that I can be reached at which is 850-387-0701 and it's done all through Google. So if you get a really confusing voicemail message that asks you for your name, just say, you know, what your name is and press star and it'll allow you to leave a voicemail. And I'll be able to get that at any time from a computer or from my phone. So that's why it's strange. That's what I was trying to get across there.

Delisse Ortiz: Thanks (Simon).

Coordinator: Thank you.

Delisse Ortiz: Sorry (Pat). Go ahead.

Coordinator: Oh, I'm sorry. I was just going to say there are no further questions.

(Simon Gulak): Did the one person that was missing make it into the call or...

Coordinator: One moment.

And again, if you did want to ask a question, press star one on your touchtone phone.

(Simon Gulak): Alright, well...

Delisse Ortiz: Thanks everybody for calling in and again, if you have any questions that come up and you want to discuss, feel free to call me or (Simon) depending on the question. And we'll help you out. But otherwise, thanks for calling in.

(Simon Gulak): And so yes, you guys can call straight away although don't call all at once right after this phone call because you won't get through. And I have observatory trips from - well tomorrow I guess. So I look forward to hearing from you.

Delisse Ortiz: So (Pat) we're just waiting for confirmation on whether the last person made it to the call or not.

Coordinator: Right, he - there was someone that came in and then so he was pressing star one. So that's what I was waiting for and then he disconnected and I didn't catch his name. So I wasn't certain who it was.

Karyl Brewster-Geisz: But did the person over on the list call in or...

Coordinator: Well someone called in using the host pass code but I didn't get their name when they were trying to ask their question and record their name. So that's why I don't know who it is.

Woman: Okay.

(Simon Gulak): Well maybe...

Coordinator: Give me a second because it looks like they might be coming back in. Give me one second please. I'll be right back with you.

And we do have (Matt Ruby) on the line with us now and your line is open sir.

(Matt Ruby): Yes, I'm sorry. I've had trouble getting in on the line. I apologize for being late. So I tried - I was on a minute ago but nobody could hear me and I couldn't get the right things to work right. Can you all hear me now?

Group: Yes.

Delisse Ortiz: Did you call in at two or did you listen at all to the conference call or you just got in?

(Matt Ruby): I just got in now but I've been trying to call since two. It kept doing call failed and I couldn't get the number to go through.

Delisse Ortiz: On your cell phone.

(Matt Ruby): Yes, I'm on my cell phone.

Delisse Ortiz: Well thank you for joining us.

(Matt Ruby): Yes, so I do apologize.

Delisse Ortiz: Do you have any questions (Matt) about any of the setup for this year's research fishery?

(Matt Ruby): I just caught a little bit when I was on a little bit and couldn't hear. But, you know, not being in the sandbar part of it before, I just, you know, say that typically, you know, we don't use, you know, more than 100 hooks, you

know, I mean 150, you know, with where, you know, mainly beneficially either out of the Carolinas, you know, out of the coastal area.

Delisse Ortiz: Right.

(Matt Ruby): So I'm not sure what the, you know, the prior conversation - who that was. But it sounded like guys were, you know, not - were in that same hook range.

Delisse Ortiz: Sorry (Simon). Go ahead.

(Simon Gulak): The main question there (Matt) was whether or not people can separate up their 300 hooks into 300 hook strains and we were just clarifying that. Although, you know, obviously in the black fishery a lot of people fished small amounts of gear these days. That's - we expected that, you know, you have one string of up to 300 hooks. So you don't have to set 300. But if you are going to set that many hooks, we expect it to be in one string.

(Matt Ruby): Right, okay I got you there.

You know, I know it's probably, you know, from what I can tell, you know, from guys that fish out of Florida, you know, it's probably a little bit further, you know,. It might start closer, you know, to the beach but then, you know, you end up fishing further offshore, you know. I'm not sure where the sandbars are at. I know, you know, in the winter they're probably further offshore but typically, you know, when we fish that's not as far of a run and, you know, so we typically don't set more than, you know, 100 hooks.

But I understand what you're saying there. So number one, three and three. So yes, that's definitely doable.

(Simon Gulak): Alright. So any other questions or because I mean I guess because you missed the beginning. Delisse had gone over all of the details on the permit. So if there's any particular bit that you have questions about, now is a good time to ask them.

Delisse Ortiz: So an HMS staff just came in and said that (Charlie) was logged as having trouble with star one.

Karyl Brewster-Geisz: Probably because he's calling from a cell phone.

Delisse Ortiz: Yes. So I don't know if we can link him in if he's still on and has questions.

Coordinator: Okay, do - it might be the person that dialed in using the participant pass code because that's the only other person that's in the call that has been trying to queue up I believe. But let me verify one second please.

Delisse Ortiz: Thank you.

Coordinator: And we do have Mr. (Loche) joining on the conference now. Mr. (Loche) your line is open if you'd like to go ahead.

(Loche): Ok, sorry for the noise. I'm out here getting my tail handed to me fishing. I did not have my number. I got the number from (Robby Knapp) so I guess I was a non-participant on the thing. That's why you all couldn't hear me. But the main question I had is Delisse, you've already heard my beef with the whole thing with the duskies.

But the feeler set - if I catch five duskies on my first feeler set, do I have to go in - is my trip terminated or do I get my, you know, that was my main question because as you know, that's going to be an issue with me. So my

main question was if I reach five dusky sharks on my feeler, am I done? Do I have to go in, in other words just so I get to make at least one set?

Delisse Ortiz: If you go out and you catch five dusky sharks then that would be your trip, yes because we would have caught five - I mean not you - I would say that region's cap would have been exceeded. So you could still go fishing if you could go to another region potentially. But again, that's also at a discretion of the Southeast Fishery Science Center because it's a research issue.

They have to make sure that, you know, they distribute the effort how they want. It doesn't go in the sampling that they, you know, foresee doing for the year.

Charlie Locke: Alright, well...

Simon Gulak: Go ahead.

(Simon Gulak): (Charlie) I was just going to step in there. I mean usually the way - I mean I think Delisse, you do completely understand what (Charlie) is the fact that, you know, he could set his - this is feeler set so he still has his whole set, you know, as allowed in his first trip.

But what he's asking there if he knows he's already caught his limit in his feeler set, can he still make his other set anyway just to complete the one first trip and then (Charlie) can be like okay on my first trip of two sets, I got, you know, five dusky sharks and a feeler and, you know, X amount of dusky sharks in the other set and then I know I'm close. That's what he's asking.

(Charlie Locke): Right because if I've got the expense - if I've got the expense and the switching over and everything to go make a trip and I go out there and got the

crew on the boat and I reach them by five, you know, that's my question because I, you know, basically it's like, you know, I know all the data doesn't come in until the end of the trip but if I'm out there and I've got the because I'm telling you all right now that's going to be an issue. I mean you all know it is. You can look at the data.

So that's my question because I mean I'm questioning whether this is even going to be worth my time and effort until probably September when there's more sandbars left over. So I guess my other question would be the spatial data you all are wanting with me with the every month thing and I've talked to (Simon) about this.

You know, I feel like I might go out there really before December - I'm probably going to catch 15 dusky sharks on my feeler if I hit it wrong. And so therefore I'm done for the year. So I'd almost rather take my chances in September when there's more sandbars coming down. We get a storm or something that changes the water up.

So I mean I hope everybody likes this. They got to work with me a little bit because for one, I'm basically shut down for seven months because of the closed area and then I'm going to be kind of cramming everything into the fall. I mean this - you just kind of put me in a difficult spot. I know you asked if I could travel out of the area but that's not really why I got in it, you know. We wanted data in the Mid Atlantic closed area and so, you know, now that's all kind of gone to pass.

So where do I, you know, that's my question is kind of I really don't know what to do about it, you know, and how are you all going to view me because I'm totally different - I feel like - than a lot of people.

Delisse Ortiz: Yes - I mean yes, you're definitely correct. Your case is different than other folks and we do want to work with you and we realize that you won't have access to the closed area. So, you know, again one possibility would be for you to make those trips in the fall and how those trips would be distributed again would be at the discretion of (Simon).

Karyl Brewster-Geisz: Right. So but (Charlie) we don't want you to be fishing at times that you know you're going to catch a dusky shark.

Delisse Ortiz: Right.

Karyl Brewster-Geisz: Dusky shark is an issue. We don't want to force you to fish to catch them.

(Charlie Locke): So you're going to work with me as far as that because I mean I noticed when I read the thing, you know, participant has to make at least one trip a month or, you know, there were consequences for that. So that was my question. It's like, you know, I don't want to get back into the situation I was in last year where I was forced to make a set without a feeler set which I never did and then all of the sudden I had this big no, no.

So that was my thing, you know, hey can I wait until I think, you know, the water has cooled off enough that dusky sharks are way off shore and I won't have to worry about them in September and, you know, save my trip since I'm not going to get them on the front half of the year and maybe double up on the back half. And that's kind of what I asked (Simon) about if that would work. If you all could work with me, it might work. But if I'm forced to make them earlier, I may not, you know, I may not be able to not catch the duskies.

Karyl Brewster-Geisz: Right. So we don't want to force you to make them early. It's up to the discretion of the science center on whether you can make up all of those trips. A lot of that will have to do with the server coverage, available servers and the budget situation.

(Charlie Locke): Okay.

(Simon Gulak): Yes (Charlie) I may as well go over it with all of the participants while we're talking about this situation. So, you know, my aim is to get samples from all months in all areas. That's like what I really want to do. And so in previous years, you know, the problem with it only not having many trips is that not everyone wants to switch over their vessel for one month, you know, one month - one trip a month - sorry - just to make that one set per sandbar and then nothing, you know, for the rest of it.

So, you know, as you'd expect we had a lot of guys who would wait until the end of a month and then do one trip, you know, at the end of the month and one at the beginning of the month so they'd at least have two trips back to back. And then if some guys couldn't do that then they would just be like well, I'm just not going to do my, you know, month trip for this month and (Simon) will give it to me later.

Which, you know, I understand that way of thinking but from my perspective where I need to get, you know, all samples from all months in all areas - that's not good for me. So what we started to bring in was if you, you know, you miss your trip for that month, you don't necessarily get it back, you know, unless of course I think you deserve it.

Well in this case where I think we - it's now been clear that the dusky interactions seems to be a higher priority than me getting my all samples in all

areas. So therefore I think we need to take that into account. So if any of you, you know, think that you have a likelihood of catching dusky sharks in any particular month and you would rather forgo your month trip because of that and wait until there's a more favorable season like in (Charlie)'s example then please let me know.

However obviously this is going to be on your guys' word because I can quite easily see you using that as an excuse to not finish that month. So, you know, I need as, you know, as many months covered as I can. Obviously we want to try and avoid the dusky bycatch cap. So if you think that there's too many dusky sharks out there or if you hear in reports of there being dusky sharks all over a particular area where you normally fish, let me know and we can always - we can put that particular month on hold and I will try my best to make sure that you get that trip later on in the year or during a time when there are less dusky sharks.

However if I think you're abusing it then I will just take that trip from you and I will put it into the pool that I will give back to people who I think deserve it more who have, you know, been trying to work harder with me to try and get as many months out as possible.

Now I think that's about as far as I can do it guys. If anyone else has any comments, let me know. (Charlie) I'm pretty sure that answered your question.

(Charlie Locke): Yes sir.

And I'm done if you all - that was all my questions. Thank you.

Group: Thanks (Charlie).

(Simon Gulak): So the only thing that wasn't answered to me was if (Charlie) does go out in August and gets five duskies in his feeler set and is wondering whether or not he can still make his last set because it's not the end of the trip yet, what is the answer on that one because I'd like to know?

No, I mean obviously really to be responsible, that should terminate the trip right then and there because he's already gone over his five limit but it's still in the middle of a trip and, you know, we wouldn't be making a determination until the end of a complete trip which is both of those sets. So (Karyl) what do we think because this is a great point. And maybe we're going to have to step back and think about it before we make an answer instead of putting you on the spot like this but that's a pretty good question.

(karyl Brewster-Geisz): Yes, I was fixing to say let's think about it. If it were four dusky sharks, that's an easy question. Yes, you've got your answer. But the five is a different question and it might come down to how many other dusky sharks have been caught throughout the fishery.

And if you're starting in September and your very first set is five and every other region has already filled the dusky sharks, well that's a problem.

Delisse Ortiz: Yes and also if you're doing a feeler study catch five, imagine how many you'll catch on 300.

(Simon): Yes. That was a long set.

Delisse Ortiz: Yes.

(Karyl Brewster-Geisz): So I definitely want to keep that in mind and keep thinking about it but I think it sounds like we have time if (Charlie) doesn't think he can go out fishing until September.

(Simon Gulak): Yes, we do.

Coordinator: And this is the operator. We did get a couple more questions in.

Delisse Ortiz: Okay.

Coordinator: Thank you. (Chad Englehart) your line is open.

(Chad Englehart): Yes, I just - my main question is I guess I better call it an IFQ kind of the way it's set up this year - each vessel gets X amount of pounds. What happens because I can tell you right now and I'm pretty sure everybody on the line listening knows that with one trip a month, there's no way we're going to catch what you've given us to catch - the 40 something odd thousand pounds.

What happens at the end of the year when that's not filled? Do we get a - is - I guess what my question is do you want that many sharks caught to achieve your objective or is that kind of just the cap - you don't want to go over that and it's alright if we just catch half of that amount of pounds because I'd like to be able to catch them all obviously like everyone else would but I can't do it on these restraints.

Delisse Ortiz: Right and the - so the answer is like the total - there's been an allocated sandbar and non-sandbar West Coast sharks quota for research purposes. So that's what's there for research purposes and then we took 80% of that and distributed among all of you individuals.

Now the goal is not to catch - I mean it would be nice to use the quota that we have for research purposes to, you know, to study up on sandbars but the goal itself is not to reach that number. The goal is to use that number to gather the data that we need. So I don't know if that answers...

(Chad Englehart): Because this is - I mean this is really - I mean for me in particular--I'm not sure about everybody else. But it's hard to do one trip a month. I mean it's - it makes it real difficult because I fish everywhere from, you know, Daytona all the way around to Louisiana and I can't keep all that stuff on the boat for two days out of the month. And it's tough. I mean I hope you guys do realize that.

(Simon Gulak): Yes and (Chad) let me duck in there. We - the reason we are so constrained is mainly a funding issue previous to this and we had more funding so that we could put towards the research fishery. We could manage more than one trip a month and, you know, we have people like - fisherman like (Scott) for example. He remembers what it was like back when we first started this and we had a lot more flexibility in terms of observe the sea days.

Unfortunately with the last - the way the budget has gone in the last few years - we no longer have previous funding levels that we used to. And I don't really think that's going to change any time soon given the current climate. So that is why you're limited to one trip a month and yes, I totally understand because, you know, I've seen exactly how, you know, different fisheries require complete different vessel setups and, you know, moving that - moving your real from different parts of the boat or however it is.

Yes, I totally get it and which is why, you know, I try and work with you as much as I can as well as trying to fulfill, you know, my goals which is why we started, you know, we ended up doing this thing where, you know, we wait until the end of the month and see you do your ending of the month and

beginning of the month. There's your two months done right there. You know, you don't need to change your vessel setup for at least two trips.

Chad Englehart: I'm going to - I'm going to say it again. I know I've already said it but at least for maybe to put down as a note for the future in our research fishery. I particularly have no problem - whatever these observers get paid - paying them out of my pocket and letting me go fish when I want to fish.

(Simon Gulak): You're not the first person to say that and unfortunately you can't - that botches the data by having one fisherman prepared to do that. we can start talking about that sort of thing when you have all of the fisherman in the entire fishery paying towards observer coverage which happens in the, you know, Northwest and in Alaska and I think it's starting to happen in the Northeast as well where you have an entire fishery participate and the fishery pays X amount of money and X amount of that money goes towards observer coverage in that fishery.

Now the Southeast is still playing catch-up so to speak with those kinds of things. But you're right. I mean it would be nice if it was that easy. But unfortunately by you paying the observer directly, you bring his data into question.

Chad Englehart: I understand. Okay. Well I just wanted because I'm pretty sure - I mean all the other fisheries I'm involved in having the observer coverage is fine and I have no problem with that. it's just that that tends to turn into limiting me when I can and can't go and you guys will get the data you wanted and I would also get the catch I wanted. It seems like we'd both - we'd kill two birds with one stone.

(Simon): We'd get closer to that 36,000.

Chad Englehart: Yes.

(Simon Gulak): Yes which I think - I think to answer your question before - that is a cap that we aimed not to go over. You know, obviously as a fisherman involved in research fishery, you want something of economic incentive and the problem that we had is that because we've gone away from this is now a non-discard fishery for intensive purposes except for perhaps the order of un-prohibited species.

But we are still - we felt that we had found a happy medium with the amount of hooks that we allowed you to set after last year. And we'll be starting where we finished last year. And, you know, if it still seems like you really can't catch what it is then we can also sit down and discuss it if that's necessary. But the problem is that you don't really ever know.

And because we're expecting you to take every shark you catch back, you know, you'd never do it but you might if you got that 200 sandbar there.

((Crosstalk))

(Simon): I'm not going to say that's going to happen but it could, you know, it is possible. So, you know, that will be a larger portion of your quota and that's why - I guess that's why we still have it at 300 hooks.

Whereas I think most people say well I don't mind - I don't really need that many hooks but just give me more sets.

(Chad Englehart): I would - that's my beef, yes.

(Simon Gulak): Yes, exactly. So the problem - the limitation for that is basically observer coverage - amount of observer sea days we have, so.

(Chad Englehart): Okay.

Delisse Ortiz: (Chad) I do appreciate your thoughts and your questions and, you know, we don't say it very often but we definitely appreciate the six of you joining us in the research fishery and thank you very much. We know it's time away from the other fishing you can do. We know it's a hassle. We know it's set up with lots of loops to go through for you to participate but it's - we definitely appreciate it. And we appreciate all the data we're collecting and we are using it.

I think all of us can talk about how much this research changed what went into the sandbar assessment last time and I think it's going to be used a lot in all the following segments as well.

(Chad Englehart): What are the chances of the sandbar ever becoming just part of the large coastal quota again or is that probably never going to happen?

Karyl Brewster-Geisz: Well in terms of the management what we've heard throughout is people want more species-specific management. So now that we've pulled sandbar out, I have trouble seeing that we would put it back into the complex but that doesn't mean that with changes in stock status we wouldn't have a larger quota and move sandbar back into the species that anybody can land.

(Chad Englehart): Okay.

Karyl Brewster-Geisz: Right now we just - we feel that the quota's so small that we couldn't really give everybody the chance to take it at this point.

(Chad Englehart): Right, right.

Karyl Brewster-Geisz: But that doesn't mean that's going to be like that in the future and I certainly hope it gets moved back into the regular quota. It's not that I don't want this fishery to happen. I do. I love the feedback that we're getting so much data. But so thank you and we are appreciative.

(Chad Englehart): Alright, thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you. Again, please press star one to ask a question. Our next question comes from (James Story). Your line is open. Mr. (Story) your line is open. You may go ahead sir.

(James Story): Yes hey, this is (Jim Story). This is what I do for a living for 23 years. My question is I know where to be and when to be where I catch the fish at. I know I do a lot of fishing in South Carolina but right now we fish off of Florida - Fort Pierce. Usually I go down to the Keys but we're limited to 36 head. It just doesn't - it's not as feasible as it is.

So my question is does it matter where we're at on each time of the month to get a person on here for the research?

(Simon Gulak): I think that's a great question (James). Obviously we picked the vessels largely based on the areas that they operate in. So I would prefer it if you would be fishing out of the Georgia/South Carolina region. But obviously, you know, I need to work with you guys too and presumably you'll follow the fish back up north as the water warms back up. Is that what your plan was?

(James Story): Yes Roger - like I said - this is all I do for a living. (Simon) knows that I catch quite a few fish on the West Coast.

(Simon Gulak): Yes, actually I'm looking at some of your data right now (James) from that trip you just had.

Yes, it brings into an even bigger question is the fact that, you know, we're managing the dusky interactions by area. So if you're fishing in an area that, you know, perhaps is not your home port. Any interactions with duskies that you will get will obviously affect the other fisherman that may or may not be fishing in that area.

So in the case of the East Coast of Florida, you would basically be adding to dusky interactions that (Chad) would normally be - that dusky area that he's normally fishing in.

So like I said, like I'd prefer it if you can fish mainly in Georgia/South Carolina mainly also because we haven't had a huge amount of data there in the research.

(James Story): Right, right.

(Simon Gulak): So that's all on me but obviously, you know, I want to work with you guys too, so.

(James Story): Right. We'll be heading up there in about a month and a half. That's when it starts happening up there. But okay, that was my question.

(Simon Gulak): Okay.

(James Story): Thank you.

(Simon Gulak): Thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you and at this time I'm showing nothing further.

Delisse Ortiz: Okay. Well thank you - thanks guys for calling in and I will reiterate what (Carol) says. You know, I know I've spoken to a lot of you guys and I know this is very frustrating. There's a lot of things to work around - especially with, you know, dusky sharks and everything. So, you know, I appreciate your patience and again, we want to work with you to try and make this work as much as possible.

So make sure you give, you know, (Simon) a call not all at once to thank you (Chris). And if you have any questions, you know, just feel free to call us at the office any time.

And with that, I declare this call finished - adjourned. Thank you (Pat).

Coordinator: Thank you and thank you...

Delisse Ortiz: Thanks (Simon).

(Simon Gulak): Alright, thanks everyone. I'll talk to you later.

Coordinator: Thank you for your participation. You may disconnect at this time.

END