



NOAA
FISHERIES

Proposed Atlantic Porbeagle Shark Management Measures

Highly Migratory Species Management Division
NMFS/NOAA



Public Hearing Conference Call and Webinar
July 5, 2016

Overview

- The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Recommendation 15-06
- Need for Action
- Proposed Rule
- Request for Public Comments

ICCAT

- ICCAT is responsible for the conservation of tunas and tuna-like species (swordfish, billfish) in the Atlantic Ocean.
- ICCAT recommendations are binding on Contracting Parties.
- Recommendation 15-06: Recommendation by ICCAT on Porbeagle Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries
 - Adopted in November 2015
 - Requires, among other things, fishing vessels “to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, porbeagle sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries when brought alive alongside for taking on board the vessel”

Need for Action

- U.S. Atlantic tuna and tuna-like species are managed under dual authority of Magnuson-Steven Act and Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA)
- This proposed action is necessary to:
 - Implement ICCAT Recommendation 15-06 in the U.S. Atlantic tuna, swordfish, and billfish fisheries
 - Reduce fishing mortality of porbeagle sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries
 - Assist in the rebuilding of porbeagle shark stocks which are currently overfished

Proposed Rule

- NMFS proposes requiring fishermen to release unharmed, to the extent practicable, porbeagle sharks that are alive at the time of haulback, when caught in association with ICCAT fisheries
- **Would impact:**
 - Commercial fishermen with pelagic longline gear onboard the vessel
 - Recreational fishermen that hold an HMS recreational permit **and** retain tunas, swordfish, or billfish
 - HMS recreational permits include:
 1. HMS Angling category permit
 2. HMS Charter/Headboat permit
 3. HMS General category permit when participating in an HMS registered tournament
- **Would not impact:**
 - Commercial fishermen with gillnet or bottom longline gear onboard
 - HMS recreational fishermen who retain sharks and **do not** retain tunas, swordfish, or billfish

Request for Public Comments

- Comment period closes on July 15, 2016
 - **Please identify comments with NOAA-NMFS-2016-0066**
 - **Please submit comments to:** <http://www.regulations.gov>
Keyword – “NOAA-NMFS-2016-0066”
 - **Comments can also be submitted by mail:** Attn: Margo Schulze-Haugen, NMFS/SF1, 1315 East-West Highway, National Marine Fisheries Service, SSMC3, Silver Spring, MD 20910
 - For more information go to: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/> or contact Larry Redd, Carrie Soltanoff, or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at (301) 427-8503
 - **Additional Questions?**