



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Regional Implementation Plan

2016-2017



Contents

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Foreward | 5 |
| Atlantic HMS Overview | 6 |
| Setting the Stage | 7 |
| Guiding Principles | 8 |
| Summary | 16 |
| Appendix | 17 |

National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy

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2016-2017

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service**



**NOAA
FISHERIES**



Foreward

Recreational saltwater fisheries for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS)—which include tunas, sharks, swordfish, and billfish—are an important component of our Office of Sustainable Fisheries mission. Annually, millions of recreational HMS fishing trips take place throughout the Atlantic, including the Gulf of Mexico and U.S. Caribbean. Recreational HMS fisheries are economically important; for example, according to *NOAA Fisheries' National Marine Recreational Fishing Expenditure Survey* conducted in 2011 from Maine to North Carolina, \$24.5 million in Atlantic HMS angling trip-related expenditures generated approximately \$33 million in economic output, and that is only a portion of the area where U.S. Atlantic HMS recreational fisheries are taking place. HMS charter vessels, headboats, and private vessels land millions of pounds of fish each year, not including the thousands of fish that are caught and released. The HMS Management Division of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries is responsible for the science-based stewardship of our nation's living HMS marine resources in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and U.S. Caribbean. We are responsible for maintaining healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable and productive fishery resources, and commercial and recreational access to those fishery resources for the long-term use and benefit of the nation.

On a national level, NOAA Fisheries has recently begun refocusing some of our efforts to better support saltwater recreational fishing and recreational fisheries issues. The [National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy](#) was published in 2015 and highlights six key principles intended to guide us in considering the development and promotion of sustainable high-quality saltwater recreational fisheries.

In the Atlantic HMS fisheries, our vision for the future includes preserving thriving fish stocks, healthy fish habitats, vibrant coastal communities, and world-class fisheries. Achieving this goal requires a foundation of trust between NOAA and recreational anglers; therefore, collaboration with the recreational fisheries community is essential. This implementation plan is the next step toward maintaining Atlantic HMS recreational fisheries as a key focus of our activities. While the plan will be a basic roadmap for action, it is a living document that can accommodate new challenges and opportunities as they arise. We intend for this plan, and the activities described here, to embrace a wide range of partners and stakeholders to allow for successful recreational and for-hire fisheries.

This implementation plan is built on engagement with the recreational fishing public. In developing this plan, we reached out to the recreational community for input to help us focus on their issues of greatest concern, as well as suggestions on how best to address those issues. Based on that input, we developed a draft implementation plan that we discussed with the HMS Advisory Panel for further public input. The result is this Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Recreational Fisheries Implementation Plan for 2016 and 2017.

Alan D. Risenhoover, Director
NOAA Fisheries Office of Sustainable Fisheries

ATLANTIC HMS OVERVIEW

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) consist of a number of fish species including tunas, sharks, swordfish, and billfish that live throughout the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico and often migrate long distances crossing domestic and international boundaries. Atlantic HMS fisheries are managed by the Secretary of Commerce, as delegated to NOAA Fisheries, under the dual authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA). The Magnuson-Stevens Act authorizes the Secretary to conserve and manage fishery resources found off the coasts of the United States, while ATCA authorizes the Secretary to promulgate regulations necessary to carry out recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Unlike other recreational fisheries that use the fishery management council process, the Atlantic HMS Management Division of NOAA Fisheries oversees all aspects of recreational and commercial fisheries management, including implementation of regulations and initiation of operational actions, such as permitting, quota implementation and monitoring, and data collection.

Atlantic HMS recreational fisheries provide positive social experiences for recreational fishermen as well as significant positive economic impacts to coastal communities including angler expenditures, recreational charters, tournaments, and shore-side supporting businesses. Atlantic HMS recreational fisheries occur in waters of the western Atlantic Ocean including the Caribbean Sea (Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands) and the Gulf of Mexico. Currently, recreational fishing for Atlantic HMS requires one of two vessel permits: 1) An HMS angling permit or 2) a charter/headboat permit. In 2015, the Atlantic HMS Management Division issued approximately 25,000 Atlantic HMS Angling permits and over 4,000 Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permits. Additionally, there are an average of 260 Atlantic HMS tournaments per year (2003-2015) which play a significant role in the recreational fisheries for several HMS, especially blue and white marlin, sailfish, and yellowfin tuna. According to a [NOAA Fisheries National Marine Recreational Fishing Expenditure Survey](#), in 2011 from Maine to North Carolina alone, \$24.5 million in Atlantic HMS angling trip-related expenditures generated approximately \$33 million in economic output and supported 216 full-time jobs.

The goal of improving recreational fishing opportunities is largely supported through protecting the health of target stocks, which in turn ensures availability of fish. For internationally managed Atlantic HMS, NOAA Fisheries implements harvesting quotas for some species as adopted by ICCAT. Utilization of these quotas by recreational and commercial components of the fisheries can have mutual benefits for recreational and commercial fishermen if the United States maintains its international quota shares. For example, NOAA Fisheries continues efforts to encourage further utilization of the U.S. swordfish quota by maintaining liberal retention limits in the recreational fishery, increasing some commercial swordfish retention limits, and continuing access and flexibility to Atlantic HMS Charter/Headboat permitted vessels that can also sell swordfish. NOAA Fisheries also continues to encourage recreational fishermen to report their swordfish landings so they can be counted toward U.S. landings and reported to ICCAT.

SETTING THE STAGE

This Atlantic HMS Recreational Fisheries Policy Implementation Plan outlines the regional approach for implementing the National Recreational Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy. This regional implementation plan is a continuation of and builds on the previous Atlantic HMS Recreational Action Agenda. It presents categories of project commitments that are binned within the six guiding principles of the National Recreational Fisheries Implementation Plan.

The making of this plan included a solicitation of public input from the Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel, who provided important ideas and feedback about HMS fishery management measures and strategies. The Advisory Panel includes representation from diverse constituencies including private anglers, charter/headboat operators, tournament operators, commercial fishermen, academics, state and council representatives, and non-governmental organizations.

To obtain input on the Atlantic HMS Recreational Fishing Policy Implementation Plan, discussions were held with the Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel during the September 2015 meeting in Silver Spring, Maryland. The Atlantic HMS Management Division regularly seeks out the opinion of constituents to inform the decision-making process and distributes fisheries news bulletins via e-mail through “Atlantic HMS News” and the Atlantic HMS webpage. Information obtained during the development of the 2014-2015 Atlantic HMS Recreational Fisheries Action Agenda was also incorporated into this implementation plan. Members of the public, Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel members, and Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Recreational Fisheries Working Group members have expressed their support for NOAA Fisheries’ efforts to improve collection of catch and fishing effort data, but expressed concern about the potential to underestimate landings of trips originating from private boat docks and marinas. Participants were also greatly interested in efforts to estimate the economic impact of Atlantic HMS fishing tournaments and Atlantic HMS private angling and for-hire trips.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

NOAA Fisheries has made progress to address these and other issues via the analysis and implementation of general economic studies on private Atlantic HMS anglers and the Atlantic HMS for-hire fleet and continues to address these issues via an Atlantic HMS tournament expenditure survey being conducted in 2016, the ongoing Large Pelagics Survey re-design, and [MRIP survey improvements](#). Other accomplishments on items included in the 2014-2015 Action Agenda include implementation of regional recreational “trophy” bluefin tuna sub-quotas that provide enhanced opportunities to harvest bluefin tuna throughout their temporal/geographic range and development of online registration of Atlantic HMS tournaments to the beta-testing stage in anticipation of going live in 2016.

Support ecosystem conservation and management

Atlantic HMS populations are critical to healthy ocean ecosystems. Conservation and management measures sustain healthy populations and help to rebuild them when needed. Data collection programs are necessary to supply quality data to fishery managers and decision-makers so that the most appropriate management measures may be implemented.

Ongoing Responsibilities/Activity:

- ♦ Support and conduct research and stock assessments to better understand the biology and stock health of HMS.
- ♦ Promote best practices for safely handling and releasing fish.



Areas of Enhanced Effort:

- ♦ Seek to better understand climate change and its effects on Atlantic HMS biology.

| Objectives/Strategy | Projects/Deliverables |
|---|--|
| Ongoing Responsibilities/Activity | |
| Support and conduct research and stock assessments to better understand the biology and stock health of HMS. | <p>NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center will support stock assessments of HMS species to provide a better picture of stock health and improve management of the fishery for recreational and commercial uses.</p> <p>NOAA Northeast and Southeast Fisheries Science Centers will support cooperative tagging programs for sharks, tunas, and billfish to provide valuable information about fish movement patterns.</p> <p>NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science center will conduct satellite tagging of dusky sharks to better understand habitat use.</p> |
| Promote best practices for safely handling and releasing fish. | Promote live release of shortfin mako sharks via webpage and phone apps: Educate anglers about the benefits of releasing shortfin mako sharks and collect data from the public on catch and release location through shortfin mako Android and iPhone applications of live release maps. |
| Areas of Enhanced Effort | |
| Seek to better understand climate change and its effects on Atlantic HMS biology. | Actively participate in developing NOAA climate regional action plans to remain cognizant of changes and potential vulnerabilities associated with Atlantic HMS fisheries and their respective management. |

Promote public access to quality recreational fishing opportunities

Recreational fisheries for Atlantic HMS provide food and enjoyment for anglers as well as support local economies through fishing tackle, boat, fuel, bait, and equipment sales and through the tourism dollars that anglers spend at hotels and restaurants.

Ongoing Responsibilities/Activity:

- ♦ Provide fair and equitable access to recreational Atlantic HMS fisheries consistent with legal obligations, stock health, and the goals and objectives of the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP and its amendments.

Areas of Enhanced Effort:

- ♦ Provide for and, where practical, improve recreational opportunities for Atlantic HMS through management practices that ensure healthy stocks are available to anglers.

| Objectives/Strategy | Projects/Deliverables |
|--|--|
| Ongoing Responsibilities/Activity | |
| <p><i>Provide fair and equitable access to recreational Atlantic HMS fisheries consistent with legal obligations, stock health, and the goals and objectives of the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP and its amendments.</i></p> | <p>Provide continued access to billfish, swordfish, Atlantic tuna, and shark fisheries through issuance of HMS Angling and Charter/Headboat permits to vessels that would target these species.</p> <p>Provide continued access to billfish, swordfish, Atlantic tuna, and shark fisheries through management activities (e.g., quota specification processes, in-season adjustments, etc.) that promote balanced access for recreational and commercial sectors for these species.</p> |
| Areas of Enhanced Effort | |
| <p><i>Provide for and, where practical, improve recreational opportunities for Atlantic HMS through management practices that ensure healthy stocks are available to anglers.</i></p> | <p>Seek to expand U.S. recreational fishing opportunities on internationally managed fish stocks, where feasible and appropriate, and promote the legitimacy and recognition of the economic importance of recreational fisheries within international fisheries management bodies.</p> <p>Implement bluefin tuna management program that increases the likelihood of availability of bluefin tuna to the recreational fishery: Utilize inseason management authority to provide mid-season recreational fishing opportunities for bluefin tuna among different recreational user groups based on real-time fishery conditions.</p> <p>Conduct HMS Tournament Angler Satisfaction Survey: A survey that measures angler satisfaction with respect to available fishing opportunities would provide an important feedback mechanism for the largest category of HMS permit holders and may provide insight into preferred future management approaches/objectives allowing for the design of management actions which could provide for a more satisfying fishery while still meeting conservation mandates. The Atlantic HMS Management Division will develop a proposal for a research project to measure angler satisfaction with HMS recreational fishing resources and management.</p> |

Coordinate with state and federal management entities

The input and coordination received from state and other fishery management entities, such as regional fishery management councils and interstate marine fisheries commissions are invaluable to the success of Atlantic HMS management.

Ongoing Responsibilities/Activity:

- ♦ Fully utilize the Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel to gain valuable input.
- ♦ Coordinate with councils and commissions on HMS management issues as appropriate.
- ♦ Collaborate with states and territories on fisheries data collection efforts.

Areas of Enhanced Effort:

- ♦ Explore ways to maximize enforcement, education, and outreach on Atlantic HMS issues.

| Objectives/Strategy | Projects/Deliverables |
|--|---|
| Ongoing Responsibilities/Activity | |
| <i>Fully utilize the Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel to gain valuable input.</i> | Recruit active participation by state and council representatives on the Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel: Encouraging states and councils to provide active representation on the Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel. |
| <i>Coordinate with councils and commissions on HMS management issues as appropriate.</i> | Directly engage councils and commissions to facilitate communication and coordination on relevant fisheries management and science issues. |
| <i>Collaborate with states and territories on fisheries data collection efforts.</i> | NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology will also continue to support state-based efforts to collect catch and effort data on HMS fisheries, such as the catch card programs in place in North Carolina and Maryland and the shark catch card program in Maryland. |
| Areas of Enhanced Effort | |
| <i>Explore ways to maximize enforcement, education, and outreach on Atlantic HMS issues.</i> | Maximize partnership and outreach opportunities between NMFS Office of Law Enforcement and Joint Enforcement Agreement partners, especially as more Uniformed Officers are hired. For Atlantic HMS Management Division, we will maximize engagement opportunities with enforcement partners (e.g., present HMS priorities at annual or regional Office of Law Enforcement training events). |

Advance innovative solutions to evolving science, management, and environmental challenges

The challenges of HMS management are constantly changing. Improvements in science help to provide new perspectives on ocean processes and the biology of oceanic species. Environmental changes such as climate change cause uncertainty about the future state of ocean ecosystems and effects on the species that live in and around it, including humans.

Ongoing Responsibilities/Activity:

- ♦ Support the improvement of fisheries surveys to obtain accurate catch and effort data.
- ♦ Support the operation of Atlantic HMS tournaments and provide opportunities to obtain recreational catch and biological data on a variety of HMS species.

Areas of Enhanced Effort:

- ♦ Streamline and improve opportunities to obtain Atlantic HMS tournament recreational catch data and biological data on a variety of HMS species.
- ♦ Facilitate quick reporting of catch information by anglers through internet and phone reporting.

| Objectives/Strategy | Projects/Deliverables |
|---|--|
| Ongoing Responsibilities/Activity | |
| <i>Support the improvement of fisheries surveys to obtain accurate catch and effort data.</i> | Implement the updated NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology Access Point Angler Intercept Survey, which will improve catch and effort data for HMS fisheries by eliminating potential sources of bias and expanding sampling coverage to fishing tournaments and 24-hour-a-day sampling. |
| <i>Support the operation of Atlantic HMS tournaments and provide opportunities to obtain recreational catch and biological data on a variety of HMS species.</i> | Continue to administer tournament registration and reporting in order to quantify the extent and impact of these events. |
| Areas of Enhanced Effort | |
| <i>Streamline and improve opportunities to obtain Atlantic HMS tournament recreational catch data and biological data on a variety of HMS species.</i> | Improve HMS tournament registration: Provide online mechanisms for tournament operators to register Atlantic HMS tournaments quickly and efficiently. |
| <i>Facilitate quick reporting of catch information by anglers through internet and phone reporting.</i> | Design smartphone apps for collecting HMS catch data: Capitalize on technological improvements for electronic reporting of HMS catch via smartphone apps. |

Provide scientifically sound and trusted social, cultural, economic, and ecological information

Effective fisheries management depends on scientifically sound data, and programs must be in place to supply these data.

Ongoing Responsibilities/Activity:

- ♦ Pursue contemporary analyses of the socio-economic impacts of regulations on recreational fishing communities.

Areas of Enhanced Effort:

- ♦ Evaluation and improvement of “rare event” recreational fisheries surveys (which include HMS fisheries).
- ♦ Collect updated social and economic data from recreational anglers.

| Objectives/Strategy | Projects/Deliverables |
|---|--|
| Ongoing Responsibilities/Activity | |
| <i>Pursue contemporary analyses of the socio-economic impacts of regulations on recreational fishing communities.</i> | Advocate for research to update HMS socio-economic studies: Updated benchmark socio-economic analyses of HMS recreational anglers, for-hire sector, and fishing tournaments are a significant data priority for HMS recreational fisheries management, as they are needed to assess the economic effects of current/proposed regulations. The Atlantic HMS Management Division will work with NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology to develop and execute research project(s) to collect+ data on the socio-economics of HMS recreational fisheries. |
| Areas of Enhanced Effort | |
| <i>Evaluation and improvement of “rare event” recreational fisheries surveys (which include HMS fisheries).</i> | Redesign the NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology Large Pelagics Survey and improve MRIP survey techniques. Collaborate on the redesign and re-estimation of HMS recreational catch and effort estimates derived from the Large Pelagics Survey to produce improved/revised estimates for stock assessments in support of management. |
| <i>Collect updated social and economic data from recreational anglers.</i> | <p>Conduct and report on HMS Tournament Expenditure Survey: Survey tournament operators and participants to better understand the economics of tournaments for all HMS in 2016. Report on survey findings in 2017.</p> <p>Conduct and report on a non-durable goods survey: Survey will be conducted in 2016 and 2017 that includes HMS angler expenditures with a final report expected in 2017.</p> <p>Report on the economic contribution of marine angler (including Atlantic HMS anglers) expenditures on durable goods in the United States: Analysis and reporting on this survey will occur in 2016.</p> |

Communicate and engage with the recreational fishing public

Fisheries management depends on effective implementation of management measures, and an important part of effective implementation comes from anglers who are motivated because they understand the science and rationale behind the measures. Communication and engagement are integral to developing an informed and motivated recreational constituency.

Ongoing Responsibilities/Activity:

- ♦ Conduct on-the-ground communication efforts with constituents.

Areas of Enhanced Effort:

- ♦ Communicate information regarding major NOAA initiatives with constituents, tournaments, and various associations that represent fishermen.

| Objectives/Strategy | Projects/Deliverables |
|---|---|
| On-Going Responsibilities/Activity | |
| <p><i>Conduct on-the-ground communication efforts with constituents.</i></p> | <p>Continue to communicate HMS recreational fishing regulations and other helpful information by preparing and distributing HMS News releases and informational material such as the Recreational Compliance Guide, Tuna Identification Guide, MRIP fliers, Large Pelagics Survey fliers, and a shark identification placard.</p> <p>Improve constituent communications: Identify constituents and constituent groups through Atlantic HMS tournament registration and other mechanisms of constituent contact for distribution of outreach materials, which will facilitate biological data collection on landed HMS; provide on-the-ground outreach to anglers.</p> <p>Conduct regular on-the-ground outreach efforts at boating, recreational, and species-specific events in order to provide information to and receive feedback from recreational constituents in addition to feedback from HMS Advisory Panel members.</p> <p>Recruit recreational participation in shark stock assessments: Identify and recruit, through Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel members and HMS News Notices, recreational constituents to participate in domestic shark stock assessments to ensure recreational interests and knowledge are represented in the assessment process.</p> <p>Recruit participation in cooperative tagging programs and communicate results: NMFS Cooperative Shark Tagging Program and Cooperative Tagging Center (for tagging of tuna and billfish) work with volunteer anglers to tag thousands of fish, providing valuable information about movement patterns, as well as documenting the success of catch and release outreach efforts. The Cooperative Tagging Center also collaborates with The Billfish Foundation to enhance billfish tagging efforts throughout the Atlantic Ocean and beyond. Results are communicated back to anglers.</p> |

| Objectives/Strategy | Projects/Deliverables |
|--|---|
| Areas of Enhanced Effort | |
| <p><i>Communicate information regarding major NOAA initiatives with constituents, tournaments, and various associations that represent fishermen.</i></p> | <p>Conduct collaborative communication for MRIP studies: Explore collaborations with the MRIP Communications and Education Team to increase awareness and understanding of MRIP projects among the fishing community.</p> |
| | <p>Investigate additional ways for the public to listen to and participate in Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel meetings: Investigate webcasting or other technologies to allow for remote access to Advisory Panel meetings.</p> |

SUMMARY

The actions listed above will enable progress in achieving the plan's objectives and goals for Atlantic HMS recreational fisheries in keeping with the NOAA Fisheries Recreational Saltwater Fisheries Policy. Some projects have specific timeframes (e.g., MRIP initiatives to improve data collection for recreational fisheries), and others are expected to continue throughout the effective time period of this implementation plan (2016-2017). Outcomes from the actions above will enable the Atlantic HMS Management Division to better address the needs of the Atlantic HMS recreational fisheries. The Atlantic HMS Management Division will continue to integrate recreational considerations into the management of tunas, sharks, swordfish, and billfish and provide for recreational fishing opportunities.



APPENDIX A - Status Report on Projects from 2014-2015 HMS Recreational Action Plan

| Goal | Objective | Projects/ Deliverables | Status |
|---|---|--|---|
| GOAL 1 - Improve Recreational Fishing Opportunities | Objective 1: Provide for and, where practical, improve recreational opportunities for Atlantic HMS through management practices that ensure healthy stocks are available to anglers (Action Items as listed do not represent priority ranking). | Project 1: Support Recreational HMS Fisheries Interests at ICCAT. | Continuing in 2016-2017plan. |
| | | Project 2: Investigate Methods of Measuring HMS Angler Satisfaction Proposal. | Continuing in 2016-2017plan. |
| | | Project 3: Address Opportunities to Land “Trophy” Bluefin Tuna Throughout their Temporal/Geographic Range. | Completed in Final Rule for Amendment 7 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan (79 FR 71510; December 2, 2014). |

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| GOAL 2 - Improve Recreational Catch, Effort, and Status Data | Objective 1: Evaluation and improvement of “rare event” recreational fisheries surveys (which included HMS fisheries). | Project 1: Redesign of the Large Pelagics Survey. | Continuing in 2016-2017plan. |
| | | Project 2: Puerto Rico HMS Angling Phone Survey. | Completed – Final report available at https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/mdms/public/finalReport.jsp?ReportID=933 |
| | | Project 3: Evaluate Non-response Bias in Large Pelagics Telephone Survey. | Completed – Updates available at http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/Assets/recreational/pdf/HMS%20Fact%20Sheet%202015.pdf |
| | Objective 2: Support the operation of Atlantic HMS tournaments and provide opportunities to obtain recreational catch and biological data on a variety of HMS species. Objective 3: Facilitate quick reporting of catch information by anglers through internet and phone reporting. | Project 1: Improve HMS Tournament Registration. | Continuing in 2016-2017plan. |
| | | Project 1: Collect Short-fin Mako Catch-and-Release Data on Phone Apps. | Continuing in 2016-2017plan. |
| | | Project 2: Investigate Use of Smart Phone Apps for Collecting Catch Data. | Continuing in 2016-2017plan. |

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| GOAL 3 - Improve Social and Economic Data on Recreational Fisheries | Objective 1: Develop contemporary analyses of the socio-economic impacts of rules on recreational and commercial fishing communities. | Project 1: Cooperate on Research to Update HMS Socio-economic Studies. | Continuing in 2016-2017 plan. |
| | Objective 2: Collect updated social and economic data from recreational anglers. | Project 1: HMS Recreational Expenditure Survey. | Hutt, Clifford, Sabrina Lovell, and George Silva. 2014. The Economic Contributions of Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Anglers in New England and the Mid-Atlantic, 2011. U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-F/SPO-147, 34 p.; available at http://spo.nmfs.noaa.gov/tm/TM147.pdf |
| | Objective 3: Collect social and economic data from Charter/Headboat owners/captains in order to improve the development of fisheries regulations and understand impacts. | Project 1: HMS Charter/Headboat Cost-Earnings Study. | Hutt, Clifford, and George Silva. 2015. The Economics of Atlantic Highly Migratory Species For-Hire Fishing Trips, July-November 2013. U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-OSF-4, 31 p.; available at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/documents/osf4_economics_hms_for-hire_fishing_trips.pdf |

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| GOAL 4 - Improve Communication | Objective 1: Conduct on-the-ground communication efforts with constituents. | Project 1: Improve Constituent Communications. | Continuing in 2016-2017plan. |
| | | Project 2: Recruit Recreational Participation in Shark Stock Assessments. | Continuing in 2016-2017plan. |
| | Objective 2: Communicate information regarding major NOAA initiatives with constituents, tournaments, and various associations that represent fishermen. | Project 1: Collaborative Communication of MRIP Studies. | Continuing in 2016-2017plan. |
| | | Project 2: Effectively Communicate HMS Recreational Fishing Regulations. | Continuing in 2016-2017plan. |

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| GOAL 5 - Institutional Orientation | Objective 1: Balanced recreational and commercial representation on the Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel. | Project 1: Maintain Balanced HMS Advisory Panel Representation. | Continuing in 2016-2017plan. |
| | Objective 2: Improve institutional awareness of Atlantic HMS Management Issues. | Project 1: Maintain internal awareness of Current HMS Recreational Fishing Issues. | This is a regular activity within the Atlantic HMS Management Division and is executed on an ongoing basis including in preparation for HMS Advisory Panel meetings. As such, this is not really a “project” and is no longer specifically mentioned under the new “Guiding Principles” in the 2016-2017plan. |
| | | Project 2: Communicate Recreational Issues to NOAA Fisheries Leadership. | This is a regular activity within the Atlantic HMS Management Division and is executed on an ongoing basis including in preparation for HMS Advisory Panel meetings. As such, this is not really a “project” and is no longer specifically mentioned under the new “Guiding Principles” in the 2016-2017plan. |



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April 2016

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