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# Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

HMS Management Overview

September 9, 2020

## This Presentation...

### Brief Update of Recent Actions

- Inseason Actions
- PLL Bluefin Tuna Area-Based and Weak Hook Management Measures
- Litigation Update
- Sharks: Fin Bans, Assessments, Amendment 14 Update
- Amendment 13 Update
- HMS Electronic Technologies Plan
- Observer Waivers
- Paperwork Reduction Act
- HMS Management Division Realignment

## AP Meeting Discussion...

### Discussion Items

- Fisheries Economic Situation Report
- Amendment 12
- Bluefin Tuna Fishery Update
- Shark Fishery Update (SHARE) and Depredation Issues
- Research and Data Collection in Support of Spatial HMS Fisheries Management (PRiSM)

### Updates from Other Offices

- Enforcement



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# Rulemaking - Since the Spring 2020 AP Meeting

## Proposed Rule:

Swordfish and Shark Retention Limits  
(Comment period ended June 26, 2020)

## Draft Amendments:

Amendment 12

Inseason Actions	Fishery
Retention Limit Adjustments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWO Gen. Comm.</li> <li>• Atl. Agg. LCS and HH Sharks (2020)</li> </ul>
Closures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BFT (Trophy North; Harpoon)</li> <li>• Western GOM LCS and HH Shark Closure (2020)</li> </ul>
Quota Transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BFT (Reserve to Harpoon)</li> </ul>

Quota Adjustments	Fishery
2020 Annual (for 2019 Underharvest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NALB</li> <li>• BFT (to Reserve)</li> <li>• SWO</li> </ul>



# Operations since the Spring 2020 AP Meeting

## Through September 9, 2020

Operations:	#
EFP/SRP/LOA	17
Shark Research Fishery Permits	5
HMS Tournaments Registered	180
Shark ID & Protected Species Workshops	14
Atlantic HMS News Subscribers	5,803
Recreational Shark Endorsements	15,200 (~59%)
CHB Commercial Sale Endorsements	1,415 (~44%)
Restructure of HMSpermits.NOAA.gov	



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# PLL Bluefin Tuna Area-Based and Weak Hook Management Measures

- Monitoring area update for 2020
- April and May: Spring Gulf of Mexico Monitoring Area
  - Only PLL vessels that entered area were DWH Oceanic Fish Restoration Project participants fishing under alternative gear (e.g., greenstick or buoy gear) declaration codes
  - No PLL interactions with bluefin from sets in this area
- June: Northeastern United States Monitoring Area
  - No PLL sets occurred in this area in June



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# Litigation: PLL Bluefin Tuna Area-Based and Weak Hook Management Measures

- Lawsuit filed by EarthJustice, on behalf of Healthy Gulf and Turtle Island Network
- Filed on April 29, 2020
- Administrative record filed June 18, 2020
- Supplement to the record filed August 25, 2020
- Briefing expected to be complete by end of year



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# Litigation: Amendment 5b - Dusky sharks

- Oceana first challenged Amendment 5b in May 2017. This litigation continues.
- Most recent round of briefings completed on July 24, 2020.
- Currently awaiting further guidance or a decision from the Court.



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# Sharks: Fin Bans, and Assessments

- Identified as a management-based research priority
  - <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-management-based-research-needs-and-priorities>
- Fin Bans: Several bills in front of Congress; FL bill not yet signed; NJ ban effective Jan. 2021; Agency message from Chris Oliver released Jan. 2020
  - <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/leadership-message/shark-fin-sale-bans-would-hurt-us-fishermen-without-improving-shark-conservation>
- Assessments: Atlantic blacktip underway; Hammerhead research track starting 2021; Porbeagle conducted via ICCAT in 2020, results pending
- Amendment 14 (shark ABC control rule, et al.) – Draft under development, may need additional AP meeting later this fall/winter to discuss



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# Bluefin Tuna: Amendment 13 - Current Status

- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Proposed Rule under development
- Recall that scoping occurred during 2019
- Revised timeline for implementation: Late 2021 or 2022

*Focus of Amendment 13: Bluefin tuna management:*

- *Individual Bluefin Quota (IBQ) Program*
- *Purse Seine fishery*
- *Modifications to handgear fishery*



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# Electronic Technology (ET) - Updating the HMS Plan

- Initial HMS ET plan (pursuant to NMFS Policy on Electronic Technologies and Fishery Dependent Data Collection. NMFS Policy 04-115; 5/7/19) completed in 2015
- Objective: to encourage consideration of ET to complement or improve existing fishery dependent data collection programs
- Update is underway. Planning to send the draft updated plan to the HMS AP for input in fall 2020
- Final updated plan expected early 2021

*Technology that can improve timelines, quality, integration, cost effectiveness, and accessibility of fishery dependent data*



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# Observer Waivers

- SEFSC issued a two-week blanket waiver for Atlantic HMS and southeast fisheries that was extended once
- Waiver dates covered April 6 - May 4, 2020

Observers and monitors, at-sea and shoreside, are an essential component of commercial fishing operations and provide critical information that is necessary to keep fisheries open and to provide sustainable seafood to our nation during this time. We will continue to monitor all local public health notifications, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for updates. We are committed to the health and safety of fishermen, observers, and others while fulfilling our mission to maintain our nation's seafood supply and conserving marine life.



# Landings & Tournaments Updates

Species	Link to Monthly/Annual Landings Updates and Tournament Information
Swordfish, BAYS tunas, Sharks, Bluefin tuna, and Billfish	<a href="http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-landings-updates">www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-landings-updates</a>
Tournaments	<a href="http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-tournaments">www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-tournaments</a>
Daily Bluefin Tuna Landing Updates	<a href="http://hmspermits.noaa.gov">hmspermits.noaa.gov</a>
Minimum Sizes and Bag Limits	<a href="http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-minimum-sizes-and-bag-limits">www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-minimum-sizes-and-bag-limits</a>



# 2020 Landings of Blue and White Marlin and Roundscale Spearfish

- NMFS monitors landings throughout the fishing year to ensure that the U.S. recreational fishery remains within the ICCAT-established limit of 250 landings for all these species combined
- Under 50 CFR 635.20, 635.27, and 635.34, NMFS may:
  - Increase the minimum size limit to slow the pace of landings
  - Restrict fishing to catch-and-release only if the annual landings limit is reached or projected to be reached
- Recent high levels of tournament landings this summer
- NMFS is evaluating all available data sources to determine the need for inseason action



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# Paperwork Reduction Act

- We are seeking public comment on PRA renewals for multiple HMS data collections under the following OMB Control Numbers:
  - [0648-0371](#) - HMS Logbooks & Cost-Earnings Reports
  - [0648-0040](#) - HMS Dealer and Bluefin Tuna Trade Reporting
  - [0648-0677](#) - Individual Bluefin Tuna Quota Reporting
- Specifically, we are interested in comments on:
  - the utility of the data collected
  - the accuracy of our burden (time and cost) estimates
  - ways to enhance the quality of the data collected
  - ways to minimize reporting burden
- Comments can be sent to [Adrienne.Thomas@noaa.gov](mailto:Adrienne.Thomas@noaa.gov) and should include the corresponding OMB Control Number



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# HMS Management Division Realignment

Shift from 4 branches generally organized by geography and species to 3 branches organized by function:

- Products and Services – Pete Cooper, Branch Chief
- Reporting and Monitoring – Brad McHale, Branch Chief
- Rulemaking – Karyl Brewster-Geisz, Branch Chief

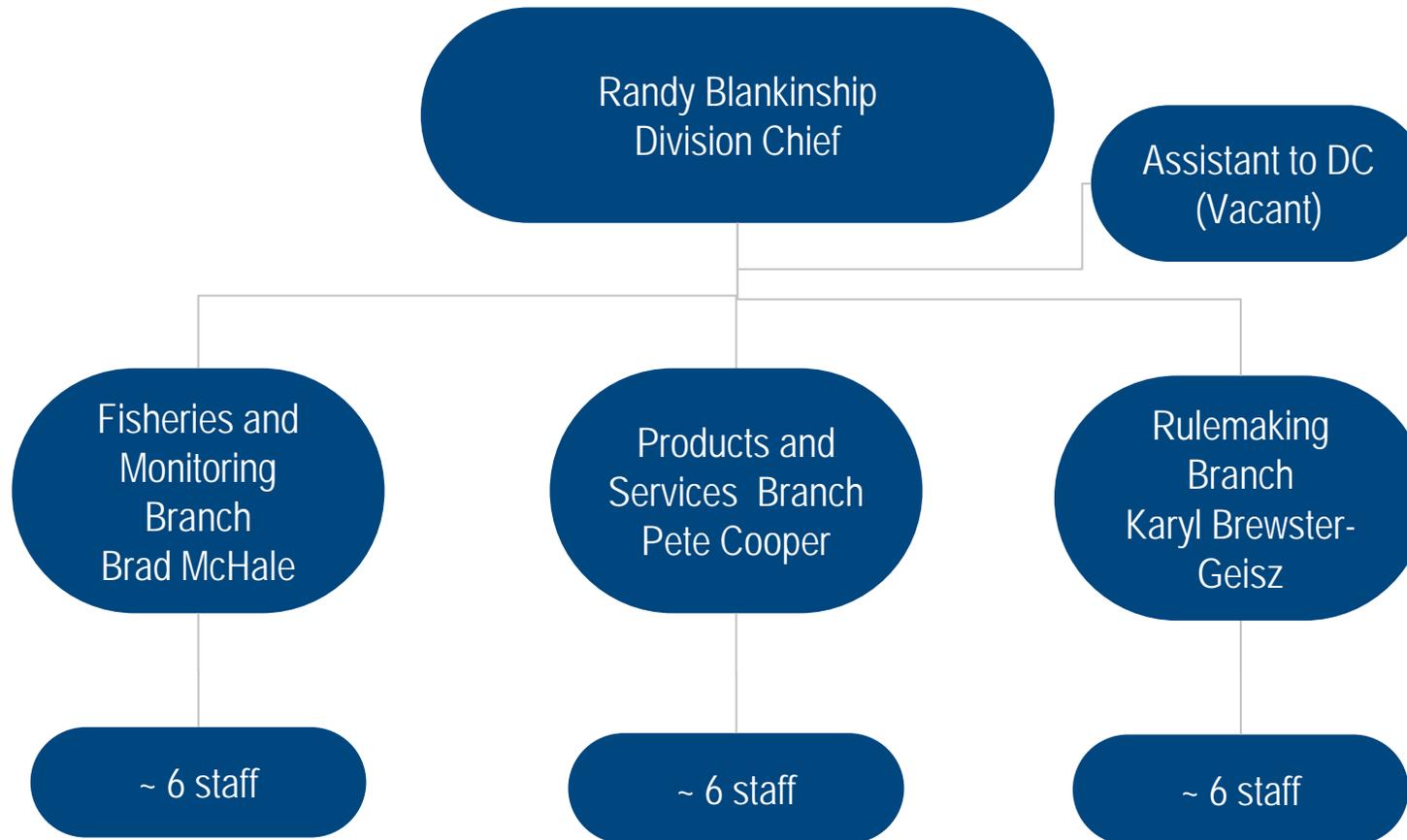
## Goals:

- Clarify organizational functional structure
- Increase organizational prioritization of fisheries reporting and monitoring and participation in national fishery management initiatives
- Better meet strategic and long-term needs

**Don't worry! – We will still muster species- and fishery-specific expertise where it's needed**



# Atlantic HMS Management Division Organization



*Contractors not shown*

# There is a lot happening outside the HMS Division

NOAA Fisheries recognizes that economic conditions have changed over the course of the year. An upcoming agenda item will allow for a more detailed discussion.

## Some other things might impact HMS fisheries

- Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan Changes: Proposed rule in development, expected to be released shortly
- Expansion of Flower Gardens Banks National Marine Sanctuary (DEIS published in 2016)  
<https://flowergarden.noaa.gov/management/expansiondeis.html>
  - Proposed Rule published 5/1/2020 (15 CFR 922), comment period ended 7/3/2020 -  
<https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=NOAA-NOS-2019-0033>



# There is a lot happening outside the HMS Division

## Some other things might impact HMS fisheries

- Gulf of Mexico Coral Amendment 9: final rule in development
- Expansion of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary: DEIS and Restoration Blueprint released 8/20/19 and comment period ended 1/31/2020 <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/aug19/shape-the-future-of-florida-keys-national-marine-sanctuary.html>
- Aquaculture: HMS Management Division is participating in a Southeast IPT for Aquaculture; Agency actively involved in multiple consultations and in site analyses
- Modification of Fishing Access in Eastern Gulf of Mexico MPAs (Madison-Swanson / Steamboat Lumps): request for commensurate regulations for Atlantic HMS from the Gulf Council
- NE Canyons and Seamounts: June 5, 2020 Presidential Proclamation lifted the prohibition on commercial fishing in the Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monuments



# Southeast For-Hire Electronic Logbook Reporting

## South Atlantic final rule published February 24, 2020

- Delayed Implementation of mandatory for-hire electronic logbook reporting for South Atlantic charter/headboat permit holders beginning January 4, 2021
- Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo; South Atlantic Pelagic Fish and Snapper/Grouper

## Gulf of Mexico and VMS type-approval final rules published July 2020

- Implementing reporting January 4, 2021, and VMS requirements later in 2021 (TBD)
- Gulf of Mexico CHB Pelagic Fish and Reef Fish permits

HMS Division continues to work with ACCSP and GARFO to incorporate HMS Catch Reporting data elements to eTRIPS and eVTR to eliminate need for duplicate reporting

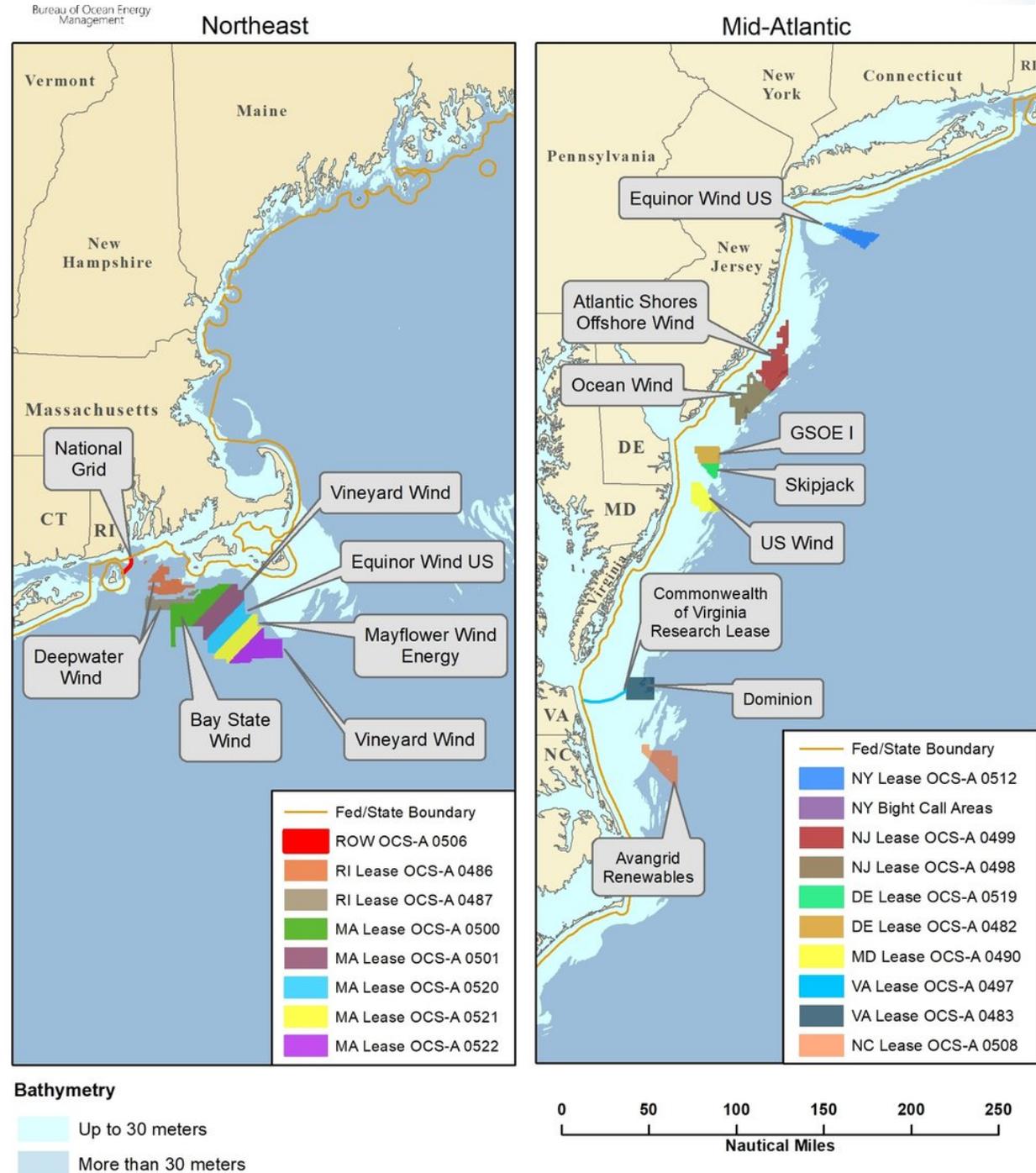


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# Offshore Wind

Many projects moving forward under “One Federal Decision” with BOEM

- HMS Division is coordinating with GARFO, SERO, and Science Centers on project reviews, impact assessments
- Stay informed and submit comments:
  - BOEM: [https://www.boem.gov/atlantic-fishing-industry-communication-and-engagement?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.boem.gov/atlantic-fishing-industry-communication-and-engagement?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)
  - Councils: <https://www.mafmc.org/northeast-offshore-wind>
  - ICES Working Group: <http://www.ices.dk/community/groups/Pages/WGOWDF.aspx>
  - RODA: <https://rodafisheries.org/>



# Looking Ahead

## Upcoming Dates:

- Draft Amendment 12 - August 2020 (comments due by 10/26/20)

## Upcoming Rules/Actions/Notices:

- 2021 Shark Specifications Proposed Rule – expected early Fall 2020
- Draft Amendment 14 – Expected late 2020
- Swordfish and Shark Retention Limits Final Rule – expected late 2020/early 2021
- Draft Amendment 13 and Proposed Rule – expected late 2020/early 2021
- Spatial Management Data Collection Proposed Rule – expected Mid 2021



# Communication Goal: No Surprises

- **Goals for All**
  - Advisors/Public aware, informed, and engaged
  - Agency aware, informed, and engaged
  - R-E-S-P-E-C-T
- **AP 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 AP and public
  - Listen and engage in discussions
  - Make decisions considering feedback



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# Contacting the HMS Management Division

- All HMS staff are working remotely; HQ and regional offices are closed
- If you need to contact us, you can:
  - Email specific staff
  - Call the main phone line (301-427-8503) and leave a voicemail
- While we're not physically in the office, we are monitoring voicemails and will call/email people back



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# Conclusion/Looking Forward

## *In conclusion,*

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

## *Looking forward,*

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



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Questions?

Thank you!



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