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Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

HMS Management Overview

May 18, 2022

This Presentation...

Brief status update on

- New staff
- AP Term Limits
- Operations
- Best Scientific Information Available (BSIA)
- Gear Restricted Area Monitoring Areas
- Litigation
- Online workshops

Next Presentation...

- Rulemakings, etc.

AP Meeting Discussion...

Discussion Items

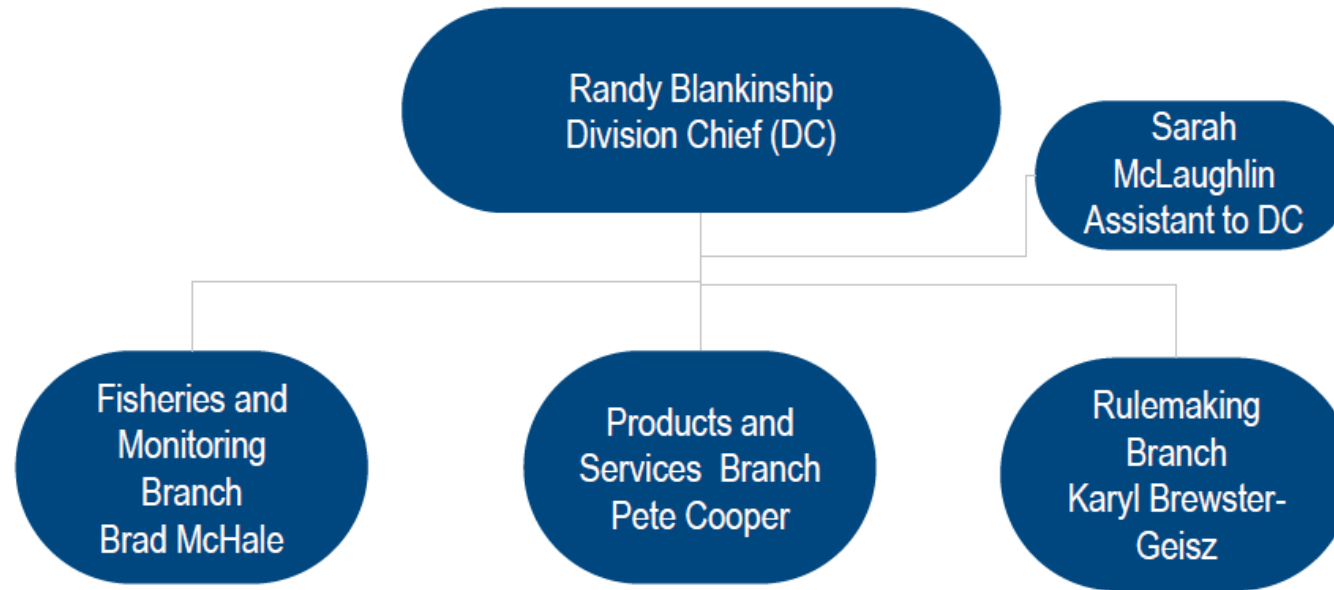
- Bluefin tuna 2021 Year in Rvw & 2022 Mgmt Issues
- Shark depredation
- Bluefin tuna: Amendment 13
- MRIP HMS Regional Implementation Plan update
- Offshore Wind update
- PLTRP Final Rule
- Electronic Monitoring Cost Allocation Policy
- Equity and Environmental Justice
- OLE/USCG update



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Staff Changes

- Departures - Rick Pearson retired; Lauren Latchford moved on; and Neva Howard retiring soon
- New hires:
 - Ann Williamson and Erianna Hammond - Rulemaking Branch
 - Ben Duffin - Fisheries and Monitoring Branch



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HMS Advisory Panel Term Limits

- AP members who have served 3 consecutive terms, and whose terms are expiring, will not be eligible for re-nomination at that time
- Will begin with terms expiring at the end of this year (Dec. 31, 2022)
- AP members who will be term-limited will be notified via email before the Fall 2022 AP meeting
- Members who reach a term limit must wait 1 year before being eligible for re-nomination to the AP



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Operations in 2022 by the Numbers

Through April 22, 2022

Operations:	#
EFP/SRP/LOA	22
Shark Research Fishery Permits	5
HMS Tournaments Registered	158
Shark ID & Protected Species Workshops	10
Atlantic HMS News Subscribers	~5,900
Recreational Shark Endorsements	7,541 (57%)
CHB Commercial Sale Endorsements	858 (40%)



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Best Scientific Information Available (BSIA) Status Update

- Draft framework published September 8, 2021
- Fall 2021 AP suggestions considered in final framework
- NMFS Procedure Deadline: May 7, 2022
- Final framework posted May 6 and available at:

[Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Best Scientific Information Available Regional Framework page](#)



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Gear Restricted Area (GRA) & Weak Hook (WH) Management Measures

- Evaluate whether some current pelagic longline area-based and gear management measures remain necessary to reduce/maintain low numbers of bluefin discards and interactions
- Final Rule (85 FR 18812, April 2, 2020)
- 2022 is third/final year of Monitoring Areas
- Bluefin tuna catch data is posted on the [GRA/WH rulemaking page](#)
- Lawsuit filed April 2020 by EarthJustice, on behalf of Healthy Gulf and Turtle Island Network
- The District Court of Maryland recently upheld the GRA/WH final rule



Online Workshops

- Reminder: NOAA Fisheries implemented online recertification workshops in the fall of 2021 for persons who have already attended an in-person workshop
- This option is available for both the Safe Handling, Release, and Identification workshop and the Atlantic Shark Identification workshop
- In-person workshops will continue to be conducted, but at a reduced frequency
- For more information see [workshops page](#)



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HMS Catch Reporting Options

- HMS Angling, Charter/Headboat, and Atlantic Tunas General/Harpoon category permit holders can now submit catch reports for bluefin tuna, billfish, and swordfish via:
 - [HMS Permit Shop website](#)
 - [HMS Catch Reporting smartphone app](#)
 - [SAFIS eTrips Mobile and Online](#) – now available for HMS open access permit holders that submit state or Federal vessel trip reports via eTrips
 - No matter which option is used, **HMS catch reports must be submitted within 24 hours of returning from a trip**
- NC and MD fishermen are still required to complete state HMS Catch Cards
- As of May 18, 2022, the commonly used GARFO FishOnline (eVTR) and Bluefin Data, LLC “VESL” reporting platforms do not collect all the data needed to satisfy HMS Catch Reporting requirements. Those using these platforms will need to submit separate HMS catch reports via the HMS Catch Reporting app or Permit Shop website.
- HMS Commercial Logbook participants must continue to submit paper logbooks at this time



Landings & Tournaments Updates

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

There is a lot happening outside the HMS Division

Some things might impact HMS fisheries

- [Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan](#) - Phase 2 (Modifications including for gillnet fisheries): Scoping occurred fall 2021; Take Reduction Team meeting last week; anticipating rulemaking
- [Aquaculture](#): Coming soon - Notice of Intent to prepare Programmatic EIS for Aquaculture Opportunity Areas in Gulf of Mexico; look for another update at June Gulf Council meeting
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/aquaculture/aquaculture-opportunity-areas>.



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- NE Canyons and Seamounts: On October 8, 2021, President Biden revised the prohibited activities to prohibit commercial fishing (other than for American lobster and deep-sea red crab taken with fixed gear)
- Atlantic mackerel and herring fisheries:
 - Atlantic Mackerel Rebuilding Amendment: Potential management measures include commercial quotas, recreational bag/possession limits, and permitting clarifications.
 - Atlantic Herring FMP: A March 29, 2022 U.S. District Court judgment vacated the inshore midwater trawl restricted area measure implemented through Amendment 8. As a result, the inshore midwater trawl restricted area regulations are not in effect and will not be enforced. NOAA Fisheries retains its opportunity to seek review of the court's order and is considering its options.



U.S./Bahamas Boundary Information

- At the May 2021 AP meeting, there were questions about boundary location and rules for recreational fishing/transiting following [news](#) of a case involving illegal harvest of commercial quantities of reef fish from Bahamian waters
- See the hyperlink in the online agenda for the September 8, 2021 AP meeting for resource slides provided by NMFS Office of Law Enforcement



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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 & international 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

- **HMS staff are in the process of transitioning back to the offices**
- **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 settling into our new hybrid telework/in-office schedules, 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 in-person/virtual hybrid meeting
- Operational activities require substantial agency resources

Looking forward:

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



Questions?

Thank you!



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