



NOAA
FISHERIES

Office of
Sustainable
Fisheries

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

HMS Management Overview

September 5, 2018

Goal of Presentation

Brief update of recent actions/Defer issues discussed later in meeting:

- Shortfin Mako Emergency Interim Final Rule Extension (published 8/22/18)
- Research in Fishery Closed Areas
- Draft IBQ Three-Year Review Document
- HMS Recreational Issues
- HMS Charter headboat electronic reporting
- Caribbean Management Updates
- Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management
- Upcoming Rulemakings
 - Amendment 11 - Shortfin Mako;
 - Amendment 12 - National Policy Initiatives;
 - Amendment 13 - Bluefin Tuna Management;
 - Amendment 14 - Domestic Shark Quota Management;
 - PLL Bluefin Area-Based and Weak Hook Management;
 - 2019 Shark Specifications – proposed rule expected shortly

Rulemaking/Operations

Since the Spring 2018 AP meeting:

3 Final Rules:

1. Extension to Emergency Interim Final Rule on Shortfin Mako
2. Shark Fishery Closure Regulations
3. Adjusted 2018 Swordfish Quotas

Inseason actions:

| Action | Target |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Retention Limit Adjustments | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BFT• SWO Gen Comm• Atl LCS & HH Sharks |
| Closures | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BFT (trophy) |
| Quota Transfers | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BFT |

Operations:

| Action | # |
|---|--------|
| EFP/SRP/LOA | 39 |
| Shark Research Fishery Permits | 6 |
| HMS Tournaments Registered (2018) | 235 |
| Shark ID & Protected Species Workshops (2018) | 17 |
| Atlantic HMS News Subscribers | ~5,797 |

BFT/NALB Quota Rule; Shark-damaged Tunas

- Proposed rule: 83 FR 31517, July 6, 2018
- Webinar held: July 17
- Comment period ended: August 6
- Received 3 comments:
 - For and against ICCAT-recommended quota increases (against was specific to bluefin)
 - Specific suggestions re: the proposed text re: shark-damaged tunas
 - Some comments re: IBQ and PLL (outside scope)
- Anticipate publishing final rule in September; includes adjusted 2018 BFT and NALB quotas

Rulemaking/Operations

Atlantic Tournament Registration and Reporting

Selection of HMS tournaments for reporting (currently only BLF/SWO)

- Effort, Landings, Releases
- Selection of all species is authorized in current regs (50 CFR 635.5(d))

New online reporting capability has been well received by tournament operators (easy and efficient)

- Considering/planning for selection of all HMS tournaments for reporting (adding tunas and sharks)

2018 North and South Atlantic Swordfish Quotas

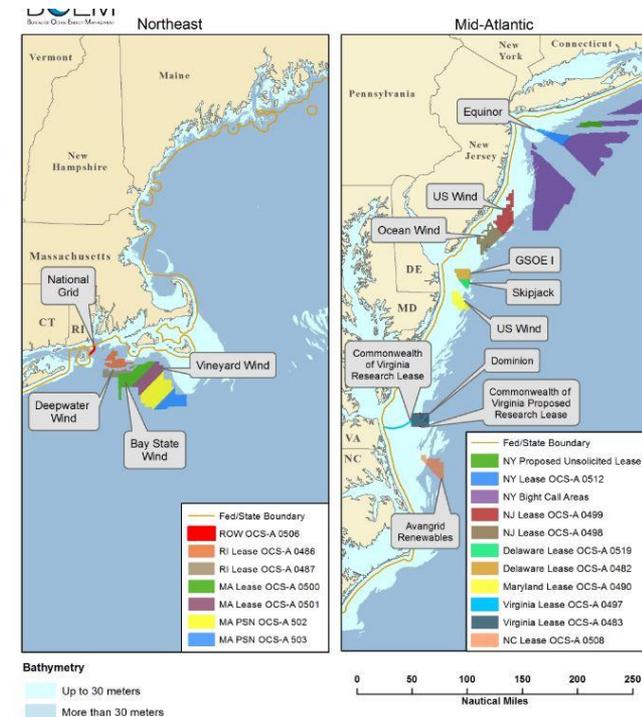
- 2018 North Atlantic Swordfish Adjusted Quota:
 - 3,378.2 mt dw
 - 3,028.2 mt dw allocated to the directed category
 - 300 mt dw allocated to the incidental category
 - 50 mt dw allocated to the reserve category
- 2018 South Atlantic Swordfish Adjusted Quota:
 - 75.1 mt dw
- 2018 Adjusted Quotas effective 8/31/2018

Data Collection and Research to Support Spatial Fisheries Management

- Collect data in areas that currently restrict commercial and/or recreational fishing
- At the last AP, we presented several options to facilitate comprehensive data collection in closed areas
- Division is currently drafting an Issues and Options paper to more fully consider ways to collect data in closed areas comprehensively
- Issues and Options paper will likely be completed later this year and distributed for public comment

National Policy Updates - Offshore Wind

- Several offshore wind energy developments proceeding off the Northeast (MA-NC)
- NMFS is coordinating with Councils & BOEM to help evaluate potential fisheries impacts
- HMS Division staff are engaged with the NMFS Northeast Regional Wind Team
- For more information refer to the New England/Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council joint Offshore Wind website: <http://www.mafmc.org/northeast-offshore-wind>



Landings & Tournaments Updates

| Species | Link to Monthly/Annual Landings Updates and Tournament Information |
|---|---|
| Swordfish, BAYS tunas, Sharks, Bluefin tuna, and Billfish | https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-landings-updates |
| Tournaments | https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-tournaments |
| Daily Bluefin Tuna Landing Updates | https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/ |

Exempted Fishing Permit Updates

Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Association

- Application received June 19, 2017
- Permit Issued on October 2, 2017 - Expires December 31, 2018
 - Authorizes 5 vessels to fish for and retain legal size BFT while unauthorized gear is onboard (i.e. while on a groundfish trip)
 - Verify catch of BFT with rod and reel or harpoon gear using EM
 - NMFS will also receive footage of all HMS captures that occur while fishing for BFT
 - All BFT will be reported through the normal General category methods
- Status: Approved vessel monitoring plans
 - No fishing has occurred.
 - Added additional fishing vessel on May 8, 2018

Exempted Fishing Permit Updates (cont.)

East Florida Coast Pelagic Longline Closed Area Research Project

- Revised EFP application received December 14, 2017
- NMFS, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary of Commerce, has decided not to issue an EFP for the revised application
- NMFS is evaluating other comprehensive approaches to research and data collection as part of a long-term initiative
- NMFS will continue to seek opportunities for both recreational and commercial fisheries that will strengthen the economy of our coastal communities and the nation, while appropriately conserving HMS fish stocks

General Category Cost Earnings Study

- One year cost-earnings logbook study of the Atlantic Tunas General Category (January -December 2018)
- Purpose: Estimate economic activity of HMS fishing under Atlantic Tunas General category quota
- 682 Atlantic Tunas General category and HMS Charter/Headboat permit holders with 2 or more commercial bluefin tuna landings in 2016-17 were selected for reporting
- HMS Charter/Headboat permit holders added based on feedback received at 2017 Spring AP meeting

General Category Study Timeline

- NMFS sent notification letters in early November 2017
- Participation required if selected and permit has been renewed per HMS regulations (see 635.5(a)(1) *Logbooks*)
- Selected vessels reporting via electronic logbook:
 - Trip reports, including cost-earnings data, for each trip commercially landing or targeting HMS, excluding for-hire trips
 - No HMS Fishing reports for each month they do not fish for HMS
 - Final survey of annualized expenses (e.g., vessel and equipment costs, insurance, etc.) will be conducted in early 2019
 - **991 unique trip reports received by August 13th**
- Final report targeted for late 2019

New HMS Permit Endorsements

- Two new HMS permit endorsements became effective at the beginning of 2018
 - HMS Recreational Shark Endorsement
 - Allows for the retention of legal sharks caught in the recreational fisheries
 - 14,190 issued to 25,535 qualifying permit holders (56%)
 - 10,433 HMS Angling, 2,577 HMS Charter/Headboat; 1,150 Tuna and/or Swordfish General (for tournament fishing only)
 - HMS Charter/Headboat permit commercial sales endorsement
 - Allows the commercial sale of HMS caught by HMS charter/headboats, provided certain conditions are met
 - In 2018, 3,503 HMS Charter/Headboat permits have been issued; 1,320 of those have the endorsement (38%)

Data current through Aug 24, 2018

ESA Updates – Biological Opinions

- On August 27, 2014, NMFS published a final rule to list 20 coral species as threatened under the ESA; 7 of these species are distributed in U.S. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean waters
- NMFS reinitiated ESA consultation on these coral species, and the newly listed Western and Central Atlantic DPS of scalloped hammerhead for all HMS fisheries (including pelagic longline fishery for which consultation had already been reinitiated) on October 30, 2014
- Consultation ongoing now for all HMS fisheries

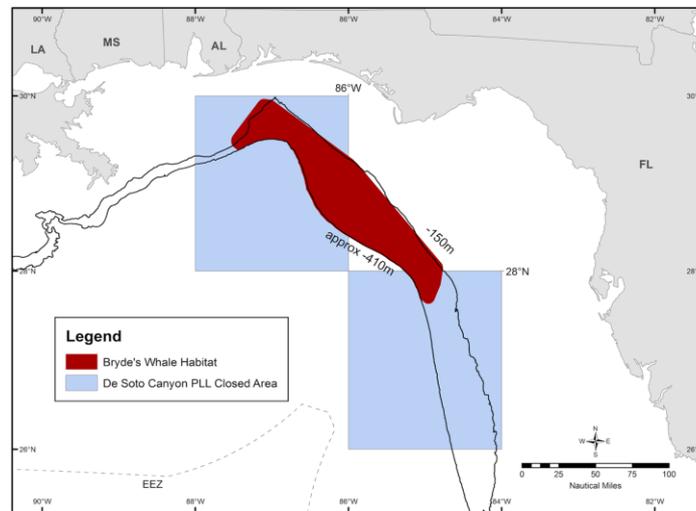
Bryde's Whale – Gulf of Mexico

Proposed rule to list under ESA: December 8, 2016

Comment period extended to February 23, 2017 (currently closed)

For more information:

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected_resources/brydes_whale/index.html



DWH Oil Spill Restoration

Oceanic Fish Restoration Project (OFRP) in the Gulf of Mexico

- 10 vessels participated in the PLL repose and alternative gear program in 2018 (January-June 2018)
- Request for Quotes for 2019 project anticipated very soon
- More information at <http://www.nfwf.org/pll/Pages/home.aspx>

Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group (OO TIG)

- Public request for ideas for restoration projects for the 2017-2020 planning years; request period ended May 15, 2017
- Project ideas screened and evaluated
- Restoration plan being drafted
- More information at <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/open-ocean>

Looking Ahead

Upcoming Dates:

- EBFM Road Map final implementation plan – Winter 2018
- Final IBQ Program three-year review document – Spring 2019

Upcoming Final Actions:

- BFT/NALB Quotas/Damaged Tunas Final Rule; 2018 BFT & NALB Adjusted Quotas – September 2018
- Amendment 11 – Spring 2019

Upcoming Proposed Rules/Actions/Notices:

- Bluefin tuna area-based and weak hook draft rule - Spring 2019
- Spatial management data collection issues and options
- Amendment 12 (FMP objectives, international stock status determination criteria, SBRM, allocation criteria)
- Amendment 13 Notice of Intent and Scoping

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

Conclusion/Looking Forward

In conclusion,

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

Looking forward,

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

Questions?

Thank you!

Back up slides

Bigeye, Albacore, Yellowfin, & Skipjack (BAYS) Tuna Landings January 1-July 31, 2018[†]

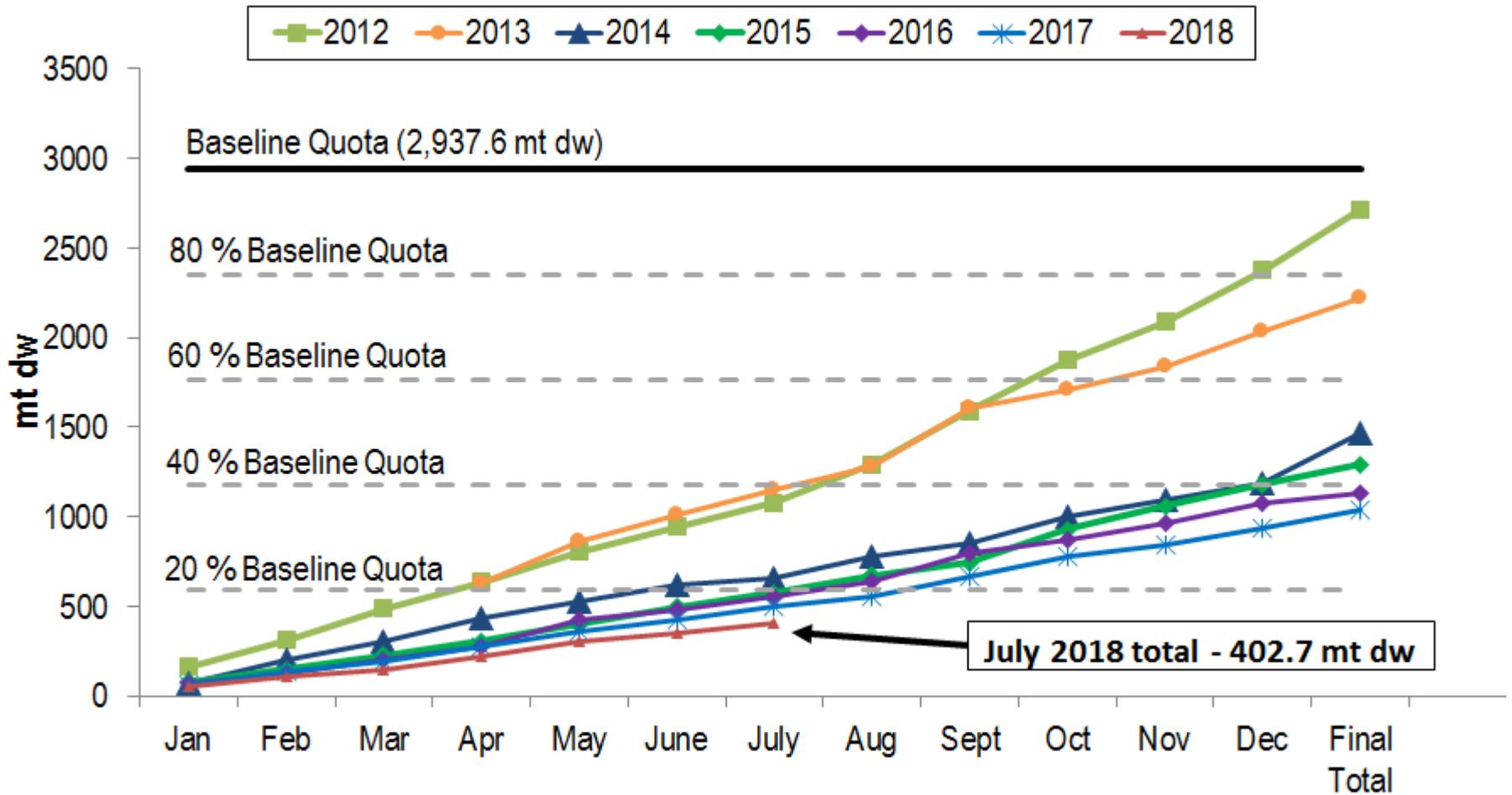
| Species | 2018 Quota (ww) | Estimated Landings in 2018 (ww) † | Percent of 2018 Quota | 2017 Landings through the Same Time Period (ww) |
|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Bigeye | <i>None</i> | 95.5 mt (210,441 lb) | NA | 116.1 mt (255,952 lb) |
| Northern Albacore * | 527 mt * (1,161,824 lb) | 59.6 mt (131,316 lb) | 11% | 97.8 mt (215,621 lb) |
| Yellowfin | <i>None</i> | 489.9 mt (1,079,946 lb) | NA | 783.8 mt (1,727,876 lb) |
| Skipjack | <i>None</i> | 3.3 mt (7,212 lb) | NA | 6.5 mt (14,248 lb) |

[†] Landings data updated August 23, 2018.

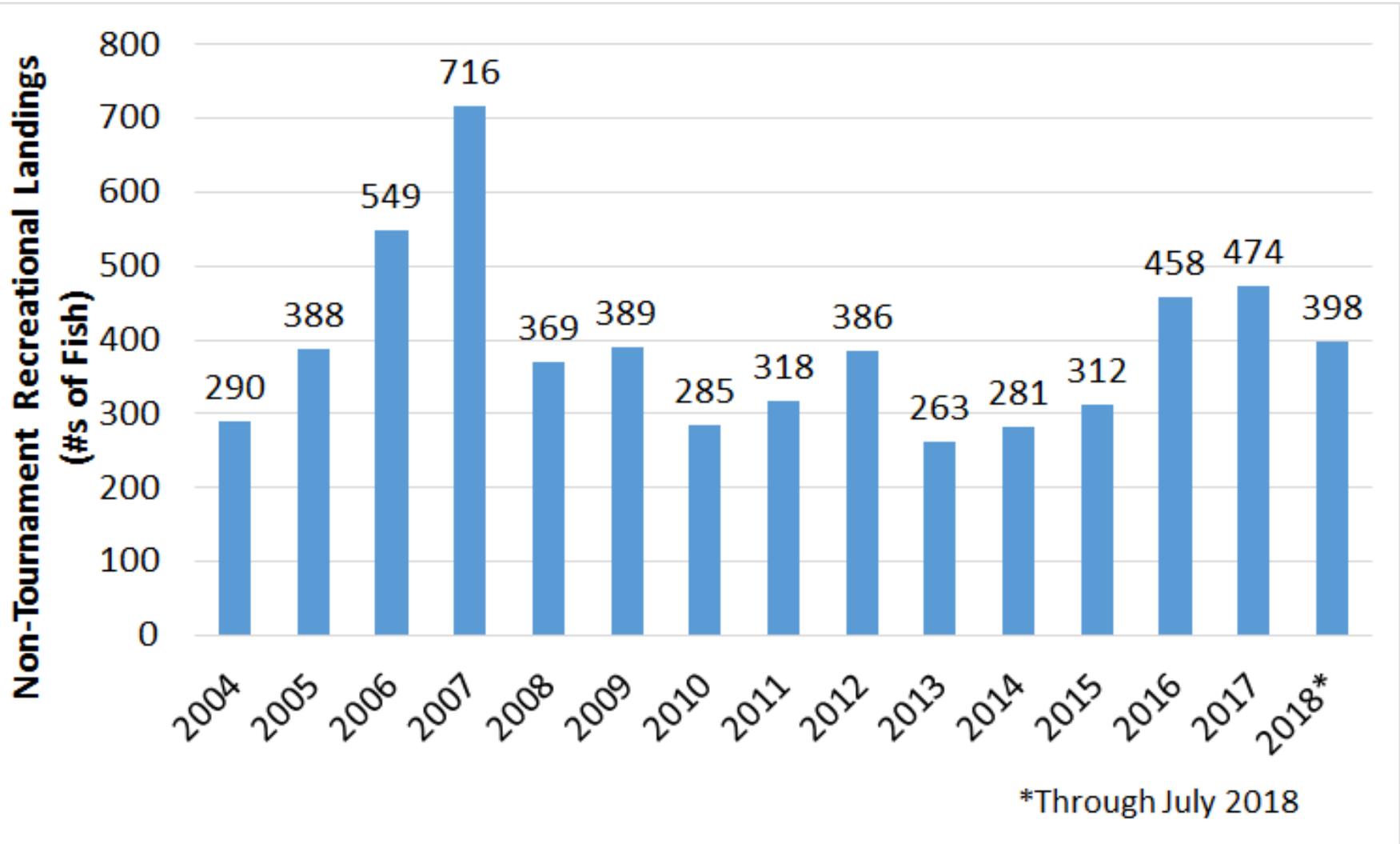
† Due to delays in availability, landings estimates for the Caribbean may not include all data through the current date

* NMFS proposed adjusting the annual northern albacore (NALB) quota to implement the increase in the U.S. baseline quota to 632.4 mt, consistent with ICCAT Recommendation 17-04. NMFS will update the 2018 quota when the final rule is effective and also to account for underharvest of the 2017 adjusted U.S. NALB quota, within ICCAT limits. [<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/bulletin/noaa-fisheries-announces-proposed-rule-atlantic-bluefin-tuna-and-northern-albacore>]

Commercial Swordfish Landings



Recreational Swordfish Landings

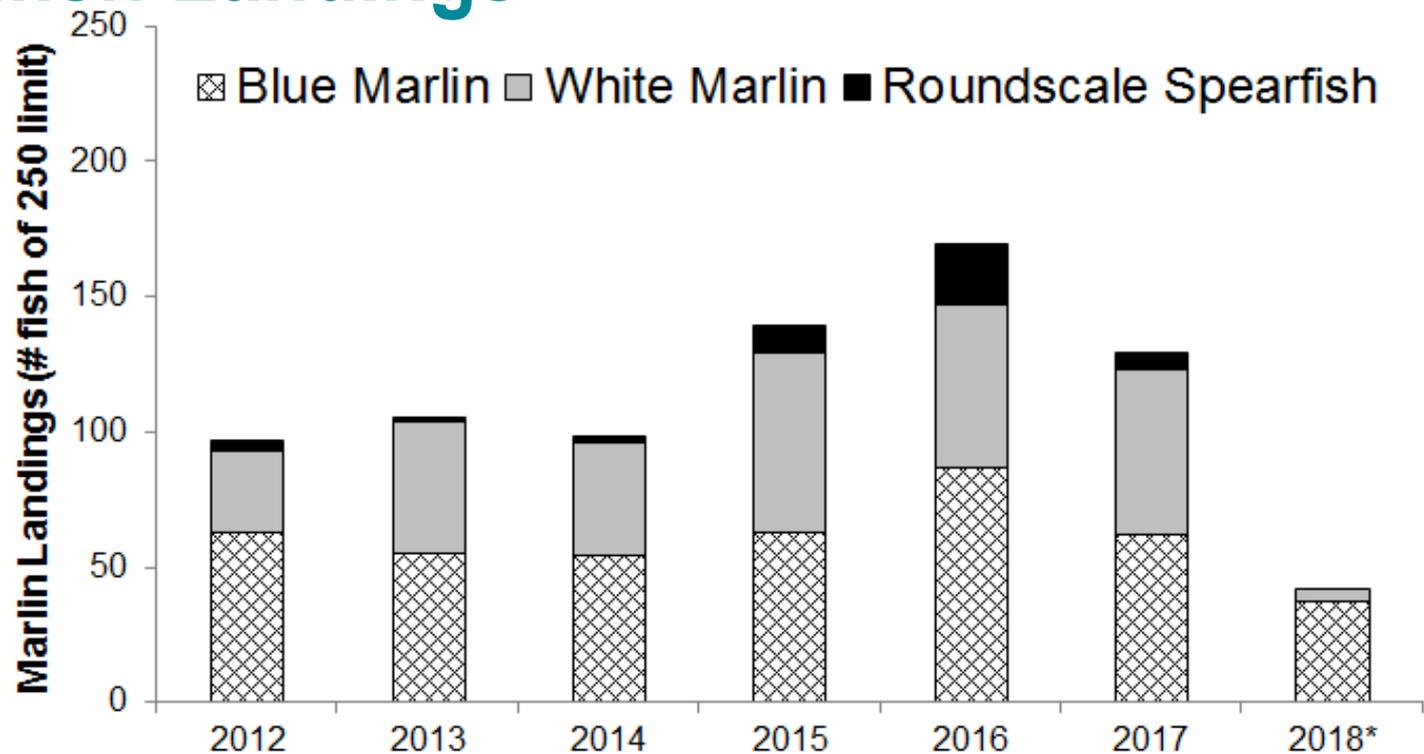


2018 Shark Landings As of August 18

| Sub-Region | Shark Management Group | 2018 Quota | Estimated 2018 Landings | % of 2018 Quota |
|--|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Western Gulf of Mexico (West of 88° W. lat. only) | Blacktip | 347.2 mt dw (765,392 lb dw) | 330.2 mt dw (727,992 lb dw) | 95% CLOSED* |
| | Aggregated Large Coastal | 72.0 mt dw (158,724 lb dw) | 92.2 mt dw (203,400 lb dw) | 128% CLOSED* |
| | Hammerhead | 11.9 mt dw (26,301 lb dw) | 11.0 mt dw (24,292 lb dw) | 92% CLOSED* |
| Eastern Gulf of Mexico (East of 88° W. lat. only) | Blacktip | 37.7 mt dw (83,158 lb dw) | 18.3 mt dw (40,388 lb dw) | 49% |
| | Aggregated Large Coastal | 85.5 mt dw (188,593 lb dw) | 43.7 mt dw (96,268 lb dw) | 51% |
| | Hammerhead | 13.4 mt dw (29,421 lb dw) | 6.5 mt dw (14,244 lb dw) | 48% |
| Gulf of Mexico | Non-Blacknose Small Coastal | 112.6 mt dw (248,215 lb dw) | 36.6 mt dw (80,605 lb dw) | 32% |
| | Smoothhound | 504.6 mt dw (1,112,441 lb dw) | 0 mt dw (0 lb dw) | 0% |
| Atlantic | Aggregated Large Coastal | 168.9 mt dw (372,552 lb dw) | 51.1 mt dw (112,647 lb dw) | 30% |
| | Hammerhead | 27.1 mt dw (59,736 lb dw) | 6.0 mt dw (13,139 lb dw) | 22% |
| | Non-Blacknose Small Coastal | 264.1 mt dw (582,333 lb dw) | 67.6 mt dw (149,062 lb dw) | 26% |
| | Blacknose | 17.2 mt dw (37,921 lb dw) | 3.9 mt dw (8,692 lb dw) | 23% |
| | Smoothhound | 1,802.6 mt dw (3,973,902 lb dw) | 293.5 mt dw (647,056 lb dw) | 16% |
| N/A | Shark Research Fishery (Aggregated LCS) | 50.0 mt dw (110,230 lb dw) | 11.8 mt dw (26,093 lb dw) | 24% |
| | Shark Research Fishery (Sandbar only) | 90.7 mt dw (199,943 lb dw) | 40.2 mt dw (88,546 lb dw) | 44% |
| | Blue | 273.0 mt dw (601,856 lb dw) | 3.8 mt dw (8,372 lb dw) | 1% |
| | Porbeagle | 1.7 mt dw (3,748 lb dw) | < 0.2 mt dw (< 375 lb dw) | < 10% |
| | Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue | 488.0 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw) | 40.3 mt dw (88,935 lb dw) | 8% |

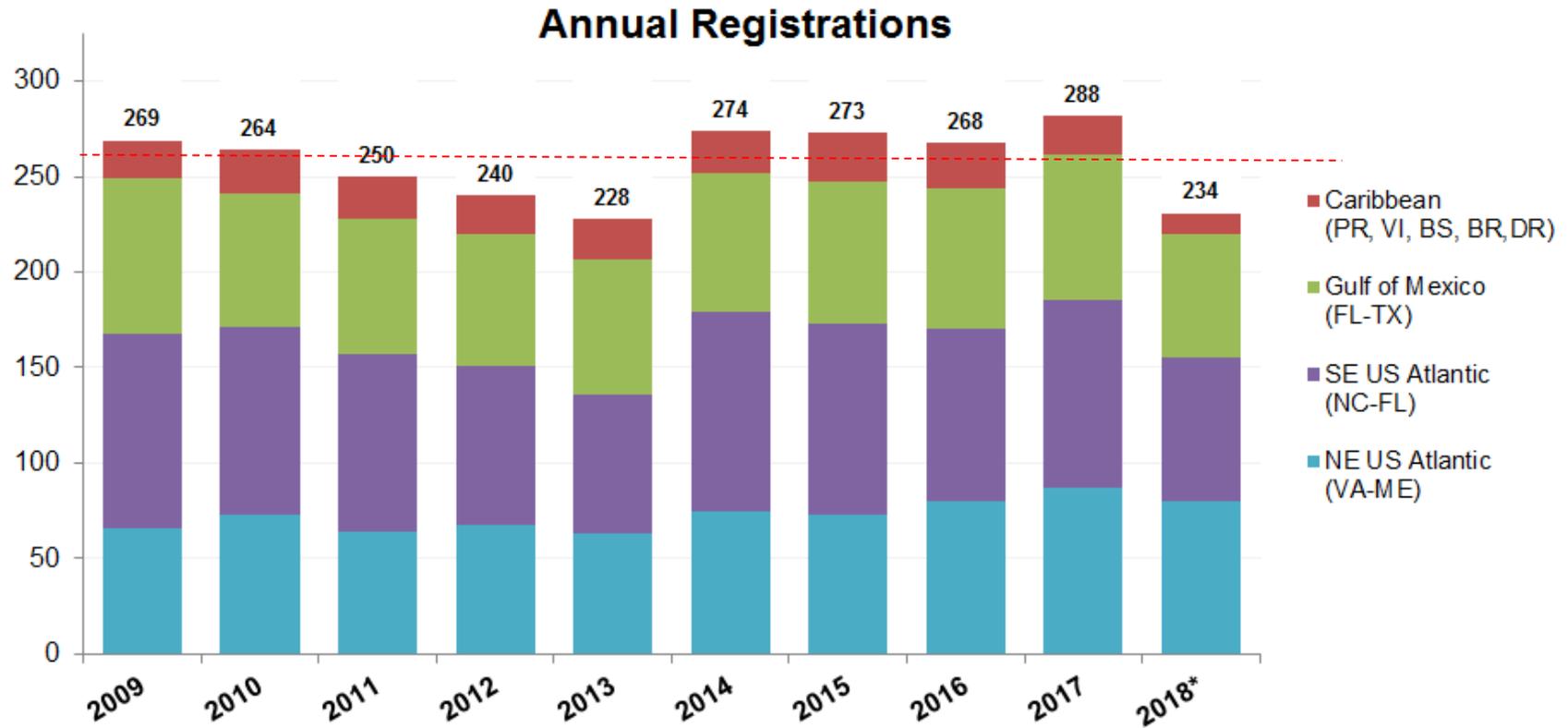
* Fishery closed at 11:30 p.m. local time on March 13, 2018 (83 FR 10802).

Billfish Landings



| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Roundscale Spearfish | 4 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 22 | 6 | 0 |
| White Marlin | 30 | 49 | 42 | 66 | 60 | 61 | 5 |
| Blue Marlin | 63 | 55 | 54 | 63 | 87 | 62 | 37 |
| Sailfish | 184 | 173 | 118 | 114 | 114 | 105 | 58 |

Tournament Updates



----- Average Total # of Registrations '09-'18 = 262

* As of August 27, 2018

Previous AP suggestions

- SWO – increase incidental retention limit (under consideration)
- Pursue research in closed areas – (under consideration)
- Require modified hooks in Atlantic – under consideration as part of PLL Take Reduction Plan
- Caribbean – increase SWO retention limit & allow shark retention with Caribbean Small Boat Permit - under consideration
- Remove Gear Restricted Areas – not needed due to IBQs – under consideration in Area-Based Management & Weak Hook scoping