



NOAA
FISHERIES

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

HMS Management Overview
September 4, 2019

This Presentation...

Brief Update of Recent Actions

- Adjusted Albacore/Swordfish/Bluefin Quotas
- A5b litigation and remand document
- New Tech Memo & Turtle Rule
- PLL BFT Area Based and Weak Hook Management Measures
- IBQ 3 Year Review – Status Update

AP Meeting Discussion...

Rulemakings

- Amendment 13 – Bluefin Tuna
- Amendment 14 – Domestic Shark Quota Management
- Data Collection for Spatial Management of HMS Fisheries

Other Discussion Items

- Amendment 12 – HMS FMP objectives, international stock status determination criteria, SBRM, allocation criteria, SAFE Report timing
- Shark Population and Depredation
- General Category Cost Earnings Survey
- HMS Recreational Roundtable Discussion
- Stock Assessment Updates (Yellowfin Tuna, White Marlin, Shortfin Mako)
- HMS Compendium Update
- Bluefin Tuna Fishery Update

Updates from Other Offices

- Enforcement

Rulemaking/Operations - Since the Spring 2019 AP Meeting:

Proposed Rules:

1. PLL BFT Area Based & Weak Hook Management Measures

Scoping:

1. Amendment 12 - HMS FMP Objectives
2. Amendment 13 - Bluefin tuna
3. Amendment 14 - Sharks
4. Data Collection for Spatial Management

Inseason Actions	Target
Adjust Retention Limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BFT• SWO Gen Comm• Atl & GOM Sharks
Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BFT (Gulf of Mexico and Northern Area Trophy, Harpoon, General (June-August))
Quota Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BFT• GOM Sharks

Operations:	#
EFP/SRP/LOA	34
Shark Research Fishery Permits	5
HMS Tournaments Registered (as of 08/26/19)	226
Shark ID & Protected Species Workshops	10
Atlantic HMS News Subscribers	~5,800
# Recreational Shark Endorsements	15,167 (~57%)
CHB Commercial Sale Endorsements	1,475 (~41%)

Adjusted Bluefin, Northern Albacore, Swordfish Quotas

Adjusts the 2019 baseline quotas based on available (i.e., allowable) underharvest of the 2018 adjusted U.S. quotas

The final 2019 adjusted quotas are:

- Northern albacore - 790.5 metric tons (mt) whole weight (ww)
- North Atlantic swordfish - 3,378.2 mt dressed weight (dw)
- South Atlantic swordfish - 75.1 mt dw
- Atlantic bluefin tuna Reserve category - 225.3 mt ww

Amendment 5b Litigation - Dusky sharks

- April 2017 - Amendment 5b final rule published
- May 2017 - Oceana filed lawsuit regarding Amendment 5b
- March 2019 - Court issues opinion and in April remands to Agency to:
 - "...consider all relevant data related to dusky shark bycatch in the HMS and non-HMS fisheries..." and
 - Submit a document to the Court by August 2, 2019 setting forth this consideration and addressing several points related to the approach taken in Amendment 5b
- August 2019 - Agency filed document with the court. Document is available online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-5b-2006-consolidated-hms-fishery-management-plan-atlantic-shark-management>

SEFSC Technical Memos for Protected Resources

- SEFSC Technical Memorandum-580 distributed at Safe Handling, Release and Identification workshops has been replaced by Technical Memorandum-735 (Careful Release Protocols) and Technical Memorandum-738 (Design Standards)
- All previously-approved release gears are still approved
- NMFS intends to initiate a rulemaking to codify the minor changes



PLL BFT Area Based & Weak Hook Management Measures

- Comments on proposed rule & DEIS by **September 30, 2019**
- Submit comments at www.regulations.gov, search docket "NOAA-NMFS-2018-0035"
- 4 public hearings (Gloucester MA, Houma LA, Toms River NJ, Manteo NC);
2 conference calls / webinars (July 19 & July 31)
- Request for additional public hearing in Gloucester MA - **September 19, 2019**
- NMFS has received comments opposed / in favor of most preferred alternatives, and additional suggestions for consideration

Individual Bluefin Quota (IBQ) – 3 Year Review

Final Three-Year Review of the Individual Bluefin Quota Program - completion by end of September

Final document

- No substantive changes to conclusions or recommendations contained in the Draft Three-Year Review (draft version released 5/10/19 and available here: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/webdam/download/90876562>)
- Addition of some 2018 data (bluefin landings & dead discards, fishing effort)

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/

MRIP and LPS Updates

MRIP fully transitioned to new Fishing Effort Survey

- New catch estimates and time series being used for management and stock assessments including the assessments for Gulf (2018) and Atlantic (2019) Blacktip Sharks

LPS Redesign updates

- Team is analyzing historical data to assess impacts of untested assumptions and deviations from probability sampling
- Assessing tournament impacts and “off frame” fishing effort for HMS
- Consultants from Colorado State and Westat are assessing novel methods to improve sampling efficiency and statistical validity
- Initial pilot study planned for 2020 to test modification to the LPIS

ESA Updates

- Consultation ongoing now for all HMS fisheries; will include all species listed recently (e.g., Bryde's whale; Oceanic whitetip shark, Giant manta ray)
- On August 1, 2019, Agency was sued by Defenders of Wildlife and Center for Biological Diversity for failure to complete consultation under the ESA on oceanic whitetip shark and giant manta ray
- Oceanic whitetip recovery planning workshop for the Atlantic and Caribbean upcoming this Fall. Contact Chelsey Young for more information.
chelsey.young@noaa.gov



There is a lot happening outside the HMS Division

Some of these things might impact HMS fisheries

- CITES - inclusion of longfin and shortfin mako on Appendix II. More information about CITES requirements - <https://www.fws.gov/international/permits/by-species/sharks-and-rays.html>
- Expansion of Flower Gardens Banks National Marine Sanctuary (DEIS published in 2016, comment period closed) - <https://flowergarden.noaa.gov/management/expansiondeis.html>
- Implementation of Gulf of Mexico Coral Amendment 9
- Consideration of several Shark Fin Ban Bills in Congress
- Expansion of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary - DEIS and Restoration Blueprint released 8/20/19 and CPE 1/31/2020. Meeting and comment submission information available - <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/aug19/shape-the-future-of-florida-keys-national-marine-sanctuary.html>

Data Requests

- NMFS has received numerous data requests related to different rulemakings
- Goal is to be as responsive as possible, but there are constraints
- NMFS considers:
 - Staff availability
 - Division workload and priorities
 - Data considerations (completeness of data, confidentiality, etc)
 - Timing with AP meetings, stage of rulemaking, and other considerations

Looking Ahead

Upcoming Dates:

- Final Three-Year Review of IBQ Program document – Sept. 2019

Upcoming Final Actions:

- 2020 Shark Specifications Rule - Nov 2019
- Bluefin tuna area-based and weak hook Final EIS and rule - Spring 2020

Proposed Rules/Actions/Notices:

- 2020 Shark Specifications Rule - Sept 2019
- Spatial management data collection proposed rule
- Amendment 12 (FMP objectives, international SSD criteria, SBRM, allocation criteria, SAFE Report timing) Notice of Intent and Scoping
- Amendment 13 proposed rule
- Amendment 14 proposed rule

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 short meeting
- Operational activities require substantial agency resources

Looking forward,

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

Questions?

Thank you!

Backup / Additional Data Slides

Shark Specifications

- Proposed rule to be published on September XX, 2019 (84 FR XXXX)
- Proposed to open all shark management groups on January 1, 2019
- Proposed quota changes:
 - Western Gulf of Mexico (wGOM) Blacktip: 358.9 mt dw (792,161 lb dw) up from 255.8 mt dw (563,799 lb dw)
 - Eastern GOM Blacktip (eGOM): 39.0 mt dw (86,066.7 lb dw) up from 27.7 mt dw (61,256 lb dw)
- Final LCS retention limits for Directed Permit Holders: e+wGOM = 45. Atl = 25.
- Requesting comments on:
 - Increase in e+wGOM to 55, and increase to higher than 25 in Atl.
 - In Atl: consider adjusting to a higher percentage for LCS quota harvested.
- Comments due by October XX, 2019
- Written comments, "NOAA-NMFS-2019-0091", submitted electronically via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>, or sent by fax or mail.

Bigeye, Albacore, Yellowfin, & Skipjack (BAYS) Tuna Landings

January 1-December 31, 2018^r

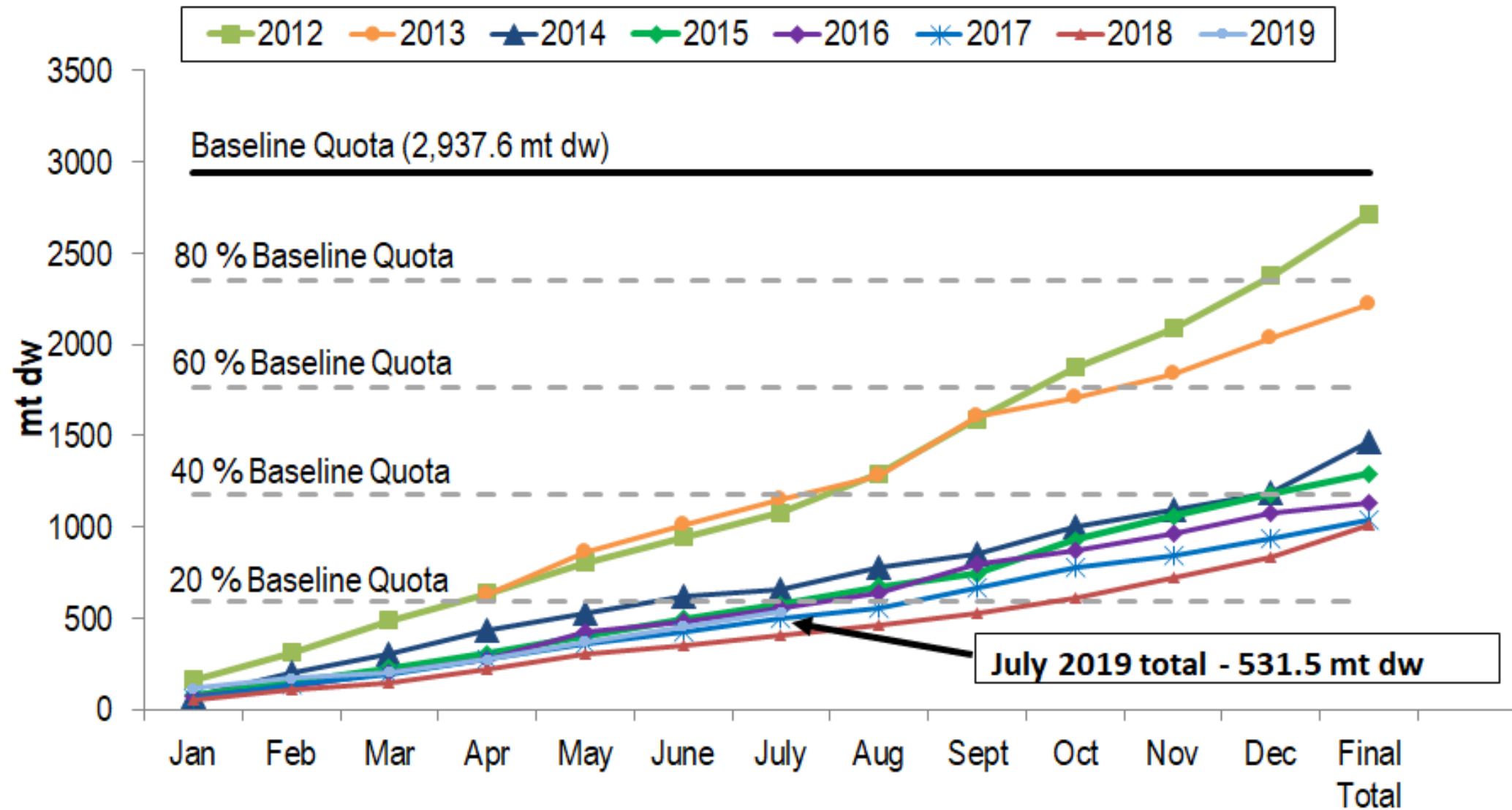
Species	2018 Quota (ww)	Estimated Landings in 2018 (ww) [†]	Percent of 2018 Quota	2017 Landings through the Same Time Period (ww)
Bigeye	<i>None</i>	414.1 mt (912,923 lb)	NA	542.8 mt (1,196,610 lb)
Northern Albacore *	764.15 mt * (1,684,645 lb)	93.4 mt (205,923 lb)	12%	202.4 mt (446,277 lb)
Yellowfin	<i>None</i>	882.7 mt (1,946,087 lb)	NA	1,497.1 mt (3,300,623 lb)
Skipjack	<i>None</i>	7.6 mt (16,672 lb)	NA	8.9 mt (19,531 lb)

^r Landings data updated February 28, 2018.

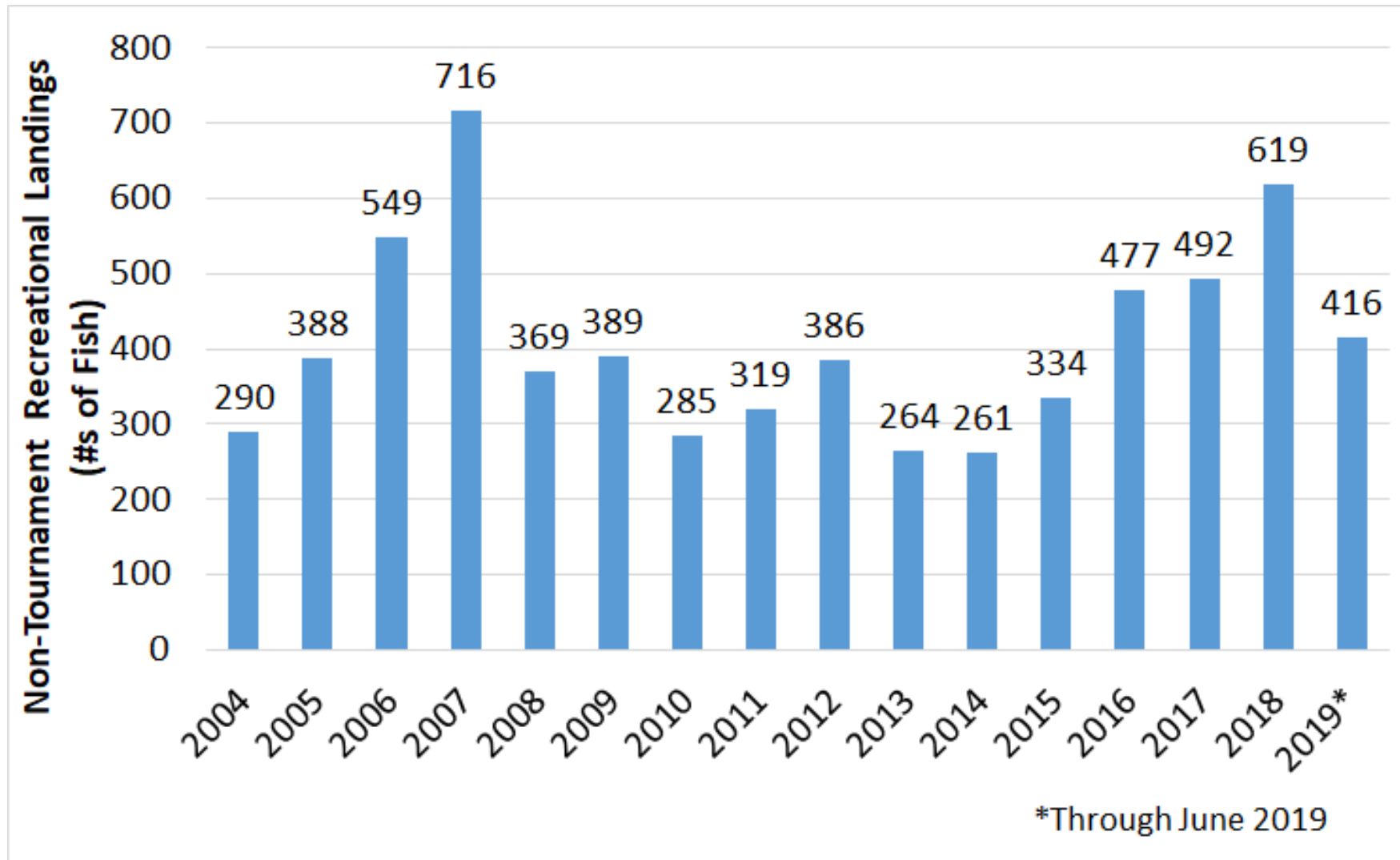
[†] Due to delays in availability, landings estimates for the Caribbean may not include all data through the current date

* On October 10, 2018, NMFS adjusted the annual northern albacore (NALB) quota to implement the increase in the U.S. baseline quota to 632.4 mt from 527 mt, consistent with ICCAT Recommendation 17-04 (83 FR 51391). NMFS also adjusted the 2018 quota to account for underharvest of the 2017 adjusted U.S. NALB quota, within ICCAT limits (additional 131.75 mt).

Commercial Swordfish Landings



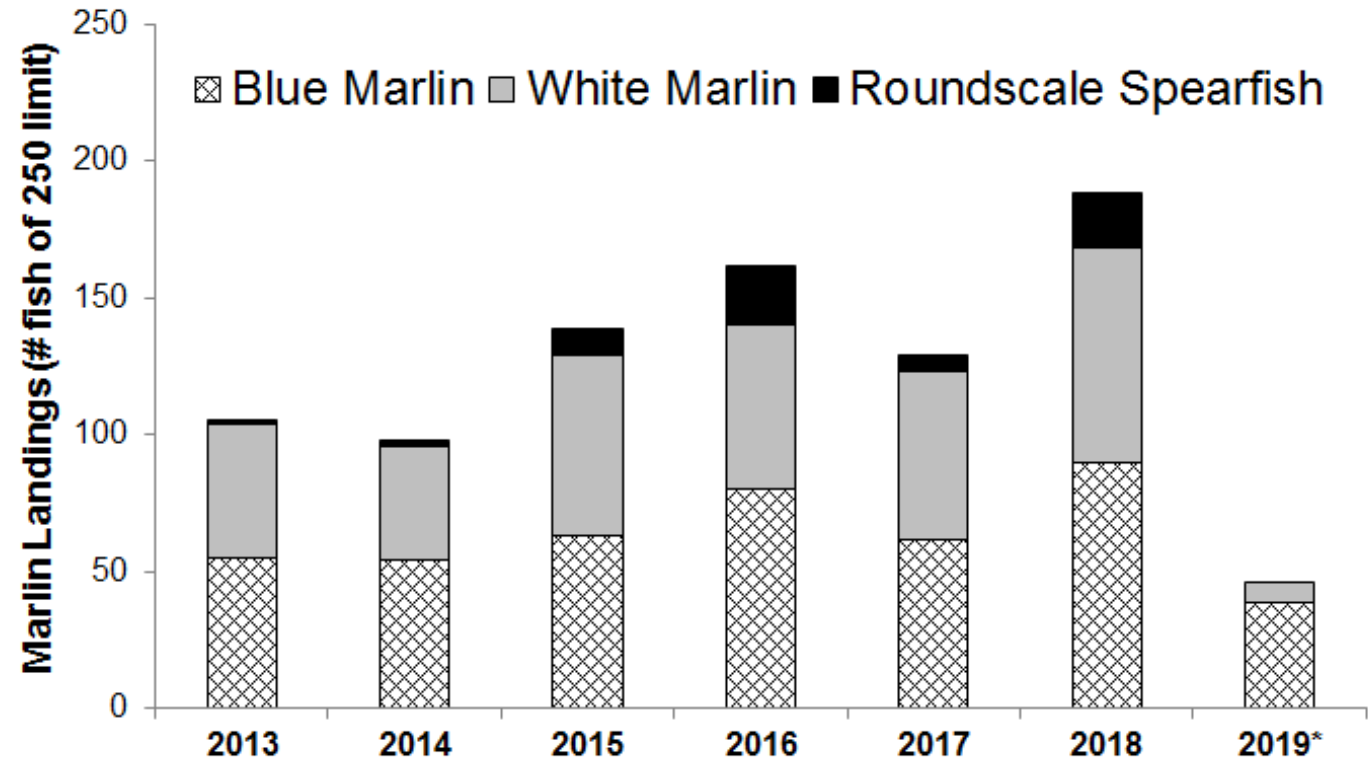
Recreational Swordfish Landings



2019 Shark Landings As of August 9, 2019

Sub-Region	Shark Management Group	2019 Quota	Estimated 2019 Landings	% of 2019 Quota
Western Gulf of Mexico (West of 88° W. lat. only)	Blacktip	255.8 mt dw (563,799 lb dw)	57.5 <u>mt dw</u> (126,786 <u>lb dw</u>)	22%
	Aggregated Large Coastal	72.0 mt dw (158,724 lb dw)	11.2 <u>mt dw</u> (24,682 <u>lb dw</u>)	16%
	Hammerhead	11.9 mt dw (26,301 lb dw)	<0.5 <u>mt dw</u> (<1300 <u>lb dw</u>)	<5%
Eastern Gulf of Mexico (East of 88° W. lat. only)	Blacktip	27.7 mt dw (61,256 lb dw)	7.1 <u>mt dw</u> (15,571 <u>lb dw</u>)	25%
	Aggregated Large Coastal	85.5 mt dw (188,593 lb dw)	52.2 <u>mt dw</u> (115,117 <u>lb dw</u>)	61%
	Hammerhead	13.4 mt dw (29,421 lb dw)	8.4 <u>mt dw</u> (18,520 <u>lb dw</u>)	63%
Gulf of Mexico	Non-Blacknose Small Coastal	112.6 mt dw (248,215 lb dw)	32.2 <u>mt dw</u> (70,979 <u>lb dw</u>)	29%
	Smoothhound	504.6 mt dw (1,112,441 lb dw)	< 5.0 <u>mt dw</u> (< 11,000 <u>lb dw</u>)	<5%
Atlantic	Aggregated Large Coastal	168.9 mt dw (372,552 lb dw)	28.0 <u>mt dw</u> (61,784 <u>lb dw</u>)	17%
	Hammerhead	27.1 mt dw (59,736 lb dw)	8.9 <u>mt dw</u> (19,652 <u>lb dw</u>)	33%
	Non-Blacknose Small Coastal	264.1 mt dw (582,333 lb dw)	78.8 <u>mt dw</u> (173,724 <u>lb dw</u>)	30%
	Blacknose	17.2 mt dw (37,921 lb dw)	6.4 <u>mt dw</u> (14,034 <u>lb dw</u>)	37%
	Smoothhound	1,802.6 mt dw (3,973,902 lb dw)	236.3 <u>mt dw</u> (520,991 <u>lb dw</u>)	13%
N/A	Shark Research Fishery (Aggregated LCS)	50.0 mt dw (110,230 lb dw)	9.7 <u>mt dw</u> (21,305 <u>lb dw</u>)	19%
	Shark Research Fishery (Sandbar only)	90.7 mt dw (199,943 lb dw)	48.6 <u>mt dw</u> (107,052 <u>lb dw</u>)	54%
	Blue	273.0 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	0 <u>mt dw</u> (0 <u>lb dw</u>)	0%
	Porbeagle	1.7 mt dw (3,748 lb dw)	0 <u>mt dw</u> (0 <u>lb dw</u>)	0%
	Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue	488.0 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)	25.7 <u>mt dw</u> (56,708 <u>lb dw</u>)	5%

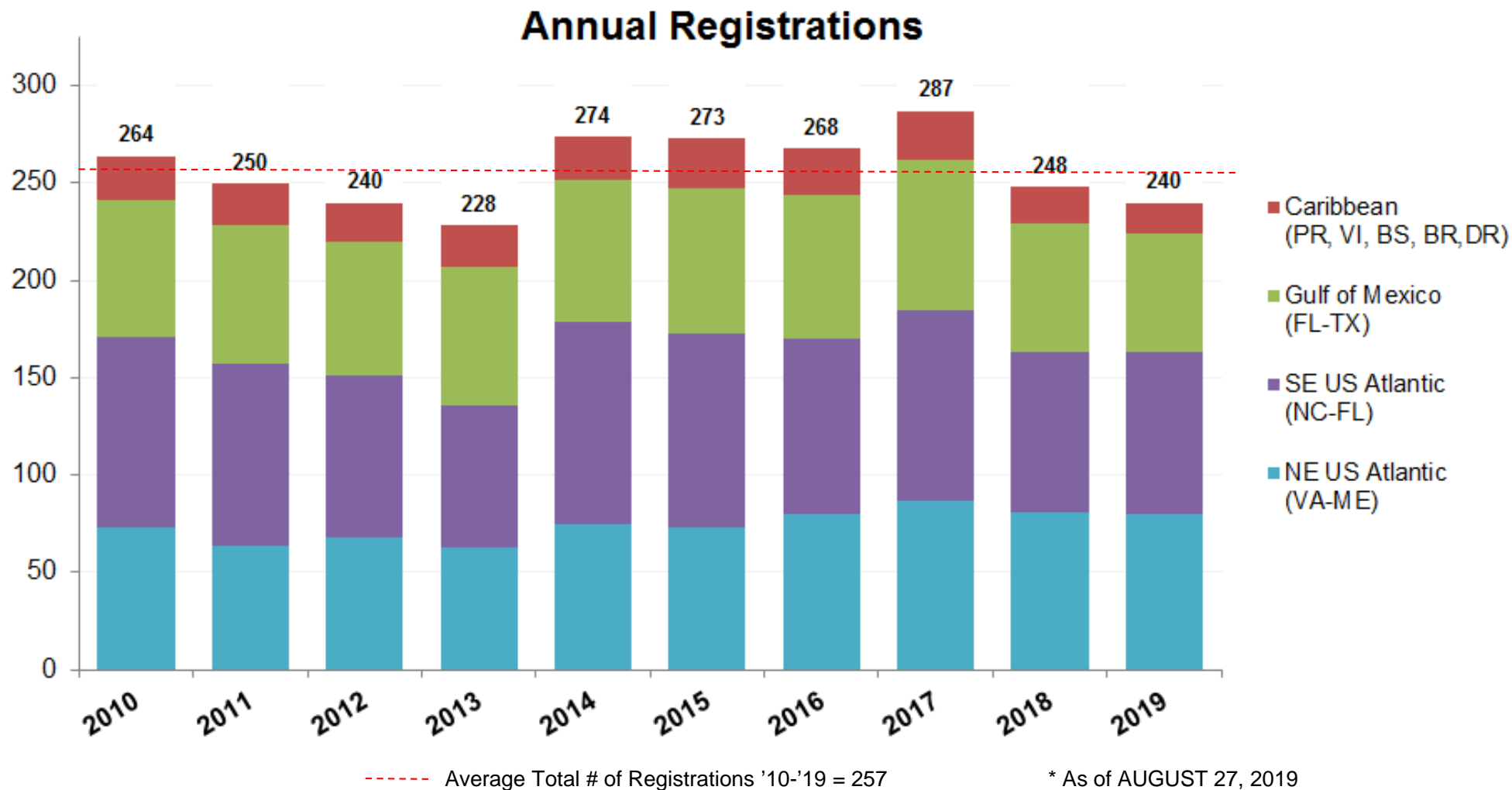
Billfish Landings



Roundscale Spearfish	1	2	10	22	6	20	0
White Marlin	49	42	66	60	61	78	7
Blue Marlin	55	54	63	80	62	90	39
Sailfish	173	118	114	114	105	98	51

*Includes landings from January 1 - June 30, 2019

Tournament Updates



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

HMS Permit Endorsements

- Two new HMS permit endorsements became effective at the beginning of 2018
 - HMS Recreational Shark Endorsement (Jan-Aug 2019)
 - Allows for the retention of legal sharks caught in the recreational fisheries
 - 15,167 issued to 26,552 qualifying permit holders (57%)
 - 11,288 HMS Angling, 2,656 HMS Charter/Headboat; 1,223 Tuna and/or Swordfish General (for tournament fishing only)
 - HMS Charter/Headboat permit commercial sales endorsement (2019)
 - Allows the commercial sale of HMS caught by HMS charter/headboats, provided certain conditions are met
 - In Jan-Aug 2019, 3,615 HMS Charter/Headboat permits were issued; 1,475 of those have the endorsement (41%)