



NOAA
FISHERIES

Office of
Sustainable
Fisheries

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

HMS Management Overview

May 21, 2019

Goal of Presentation

Brief update of recent actions

- Amendment 11 - Shortfin Mako Shark
- BFT/NALB Quota Rule
- SWO Quota Rule
- SHK Season Rule
- Litigation Update
- Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management
- ESA Update
- Landings and other updates

For AP Meeting Discussion

Rulemakings

- Amendment 13 - BFT Management
- Amendment 14 - Domestic Shark Quota Management
- PLL BFT Area-Based and Weak Hook Management

Other Actions

- Amendment 12 - National Policy Initiatives
- 3-Year Review of IBQ Program
- Research Priorities

Updates from Other Offices

- SIMP
- DWH
- Enforcement
- CITES
- Offshore Wind

Rulemaking/Operations

Since the Fall 2018 AP meeting:

Final Rules:

1. Amendment 11 Final Rule on Shortfin Mako
2. 2019 Shark Specifications
3. Adjusted 2018 Swordfish Quotas
4. Bluefin and N. Albacore Quotas and Predation-Damaged Tunas Final Rule

Inseason actions:

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

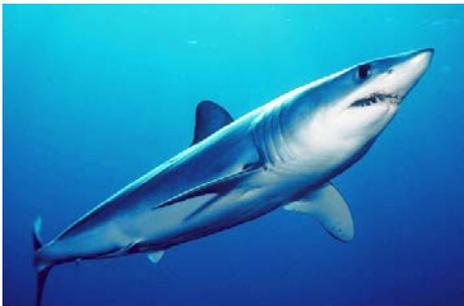
Operations:

Action	#
EFP/SRP/LOA	5
Shark Research Fishery Permits	5
HMS Tournaments Registered (2019)	170
Shark ID & Protected Species Workshops	23
Atlantic HMS News Subscribers	~5,700

Amendment 11 – Shortfin Mako

Final Rule (84 FR 5358; Feb 21, 2019)

- Effective on March 3, 2019
- Commercial Measure: Allow retention of dead shortfin mako sharks with longline and gillnet; EM needed for PLL vessels
- Recreational Measure: 71 inches FL for males, 83 inches FL for females; require the use of circle hooks
- Monitoring Measures: No additional reporting
- Rebuilding Measures: Establish the foundation for developing an international rebuilding plan



BFT/NALB Quota Rule; Predation-Damaged Tunas

- Final rule: 83 FR 51391, October 11, 2018
- Base quotas in effect until changed: 1,247.86 mt (BFT); 632.4 mt (NALB)
- Included adjusted quotas for 2018 based on 2017 underharvest within ICCAT limits
 - Added 108.38 mt to the BFT Reserve; adjusted NALB to 764.15 mt
- Made one change from Proposed Rule in response to a comment that other marine predators may cause damage similar to that caused by shark bites:

“...a bigeye or yellowfin tuna that is damaged through predation by sharks and other marine species may be retained, possessed, or landed only if the length of the remainder of the fish is equal to or greater than 27”. No person shall cut or otherwise alter the predation-damaged area in any manner.”

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.

EBFM Road Map Implementation Plan

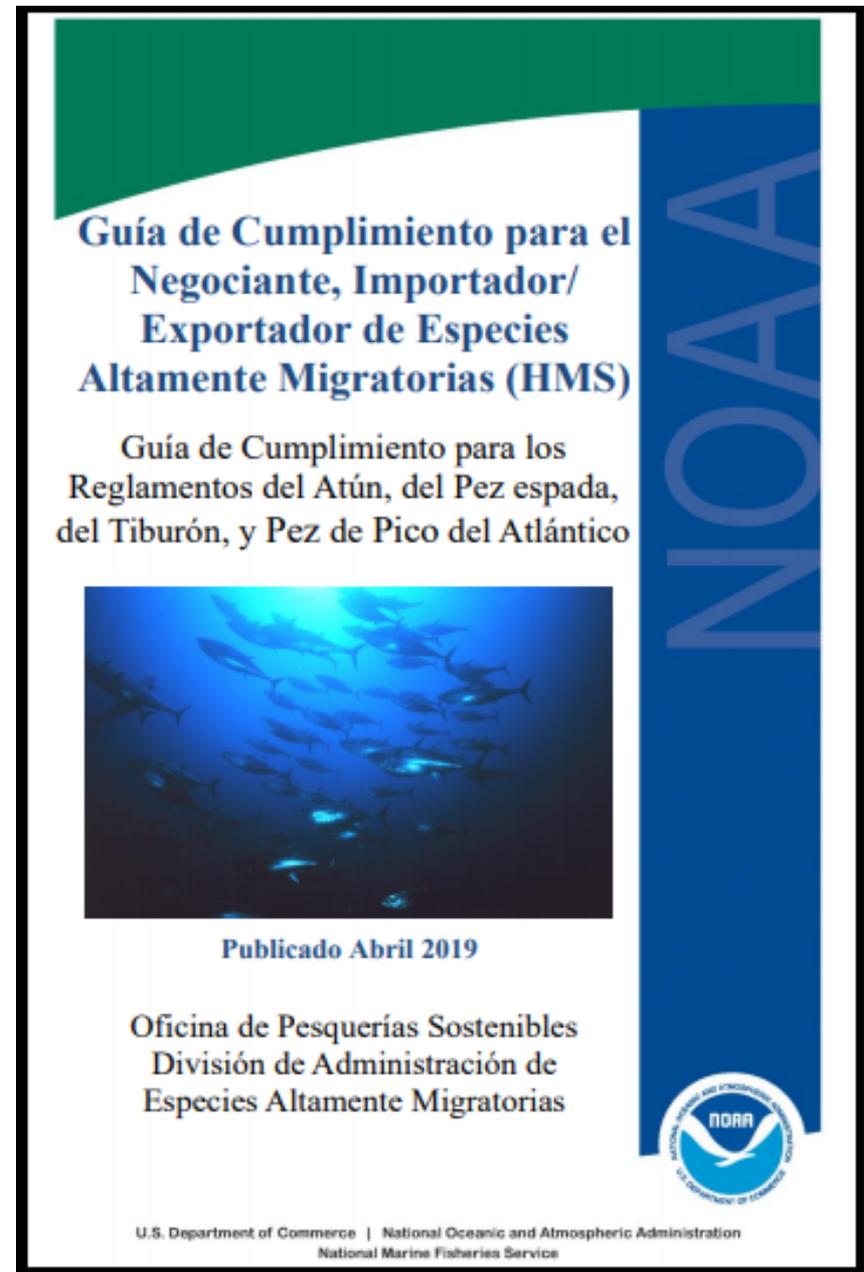
- Final HMS and regional implementation plans released May 2019
- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/ecosystems/ecosystem-based-fishery-management-implementation-plans>
- HMS plan milestones are ongoing efforts, highlighting implementation of national Fisheries policies, coordination with councils and commissions, and ecosystem work at ICCAT



New HMS Compliance Guides

Dealer guide now also available in Spanish.

Commercial and Recreational versions in Spanish coming soon.



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

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
- 587 Atlantic Tunas General category and HMS Charter/ Headboat permit holders selected for reporting renewed their permits in 2018
- 491 permit holders returned Trip or No Fishing reports
- Received over 3,300 completed trip reports, approximately half with HMS catch reported
- Presentation of results at Fall AP; final report by early 2020

HMS Permit Endorsements

- Two new HMS permit endorsements became effective at the beginning of 2018
 - HMS Recreational Shark Endorsement (2018)
 - Allows for the retention of legal sharks caught in the recreational fisheries
 - 14,564 issued to 27,386 qualifying permit holders (53%)
 - 10,769 HMS Angling, 2,645 HMS Charter/Headboat; 1,150 Tuna and/or Swordfish General (for tournament fishing only)
 - HMS Charter/Headboat permit commercial sales endorsement (2018)
 - Allows the commercial sale of HMS caught by HMS charter/headboats, provided certain conditions are met
 - In 2018, 3,635 HMS Charter/Headboat permits have been issued; 1,396 of those have the endorsement (38%)

Data current through Oct 1, 2018

ESA Updates

- Consultation ongoing now for all HMS fisheries; will include all species listed recently (e.g., Bryde's whale; Oceanic whitetip shark)
- 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.

- Expansion of Flower Gardens Banks Nat. 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

Looking Ahead

Upcoming Dates:

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

Upcoming Final Actions:

- 2019 BFT & NALB Adjusted Quotas

Proposed Rules/Actions/Notices:

- Bluefin tuna area-based and weak hook draft DEIS (May 2019) and rule (June 2019)
- Spatial management data collection Notice of Intent and Scoping
- Amendment 13 Notice of Intent and Scoping
- Amendment 14 Notice of Intent and Scoping
- Amendment 12 (FMP objectives, international stock status determination criteria, SBRM, allocation criteria)

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!