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HMS Recreational Round Table

HMS Advisory Panel Fall Meeting
September 4, 2019

Purpose of Round Table

GOAL: Discuss your thoughts/ideas/concerns about Recreational HMS Fisheries

- Each region is holding or has held round table discussions on recreational fisheries
- Open discussion
- What is on your mind regarding recreational HMS fisheries?
- We have a few ideas in following slides
- Will solicit your thoughts/ideas at the end of the presentation



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Large Pelagic Survey Redesign

GOAL: Integrate recommendations of the National Academies' assessment of MRIP

LPS statistics team is evaluating elements of survey design that may introduce bias or influence sampling productivity

- Tournament over-sampling and biases
- Off-frame non-HMS trips, e.g., little tunny

Working to develop a novel design that combines probabilistic sampling with flexible sampling

Plan to pilot test in two states in 2020



For-Hire Electronic Reporting

Implementation of for-hire electronic logbook

- SAFMC & GMFMC reporting has been delayed but set for 2020
- NEFMC announces intention to pursue electronic reporting requirements
- HMS considering its own rule

HMS is working to reduce redundant reporting

- HMS data elements to be included in SAFIS eTrips version 2.1
- Working with ACCSP to facilitate timely data transfer to ALRS system



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HMS Tournament Issues

Catch reporting selection has been expanded to all registered HMS tournaments in 2019

HMS staff visited four tournaments to conduct outreach in summer 2019

- Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza (ME), White Marlin Open (MD), Pirate's Cove Billfish (NC), and International Billfish (PR)

HMS and OLE are continuing work to identify and provide compliance assistance to unregistered tournaments



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Improving Communication of Recreational Regulations

HMS staff are developing a website of all recreational length and trip limits

HMS continues to work with FishRules App developer to insure accuracy of regulatory information

SF Communications staff and HMS have developed a outreach plan to coordinate outreach efforts and resources



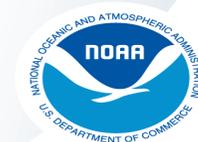
Atlantic Tunas Issues

Bluefin tuna

- Trophy bluefin allocation for Angling sector
- Post-release mortality after closures (commercial and recreational) - should catch-and-release fishing be discouraged or restricted?
- Is Charter/Headboat commercial sale of fish caught on for-hire trips appropriate?

Yellowfin/Bigeye

- Shark depredation concerns
- Should we consider bigeye retention limits given the stock status?



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Atlantic Billfish – Marlin 250 Limit

Landings gradually increasing over time

Species	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*
White Marlin	42	66	60	61	78	7
Blue Marlin	54	63	80	62	90	39
Roundscale Spearfish	2	10	22	6	20	0
Total	98	139	162	129	188	46
% of Limit Utilized	39%	56%	61%	51%	75%	18%

Landing Source	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*
Tournament	89%	69%	85.5%	78%	78%	63%
Non-Tournament	11%	31%	21%	22%	22%	37%

*through June 30, 2019



Atlantic Billfish – Marlin 250 Limit

- Current regulations provide options for inseason management
- Size limits can be increased to slow landings

From 635.20 (d)(5)...”may be adjusted to sizes between 117 and 138 inches (297.2 and 350.5 cm) for blue marlin and 70 and 79 inches (177.8 and 200.7 cm) for white marlin and roundscale spearfish, to achieve, but not exceed, the annual Atlantic marlin landing limit...”

- If marlin 250 reached or projected to be reached -----> catch/release only
- Harvest underage/overage carry-forward provisions exist, but have not been exercised to date
- If landings trends continue, NMFS may exercise these regulatory provisions.



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Open Discussion

What other recreational HMS fishery thoughts/ideas/concerns are on your minds?



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Share your thoughts!

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