

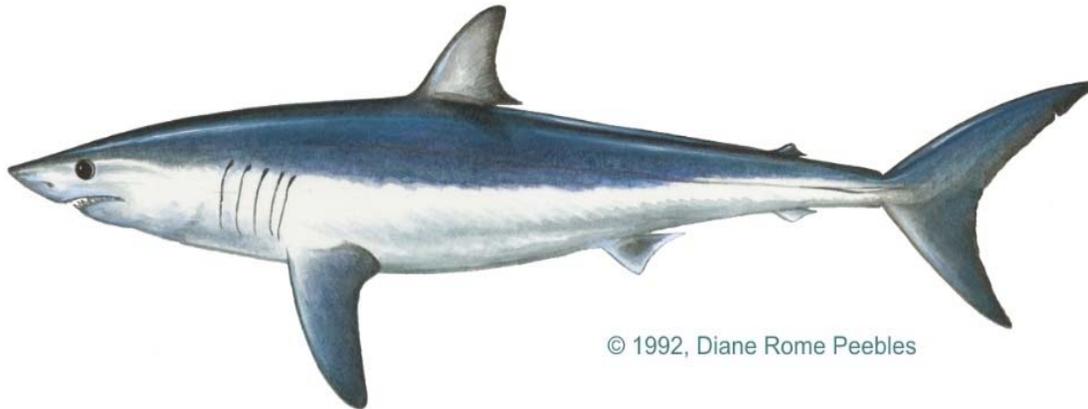


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Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

Shortfin Mako Shark

Emergency Interim Final Rule



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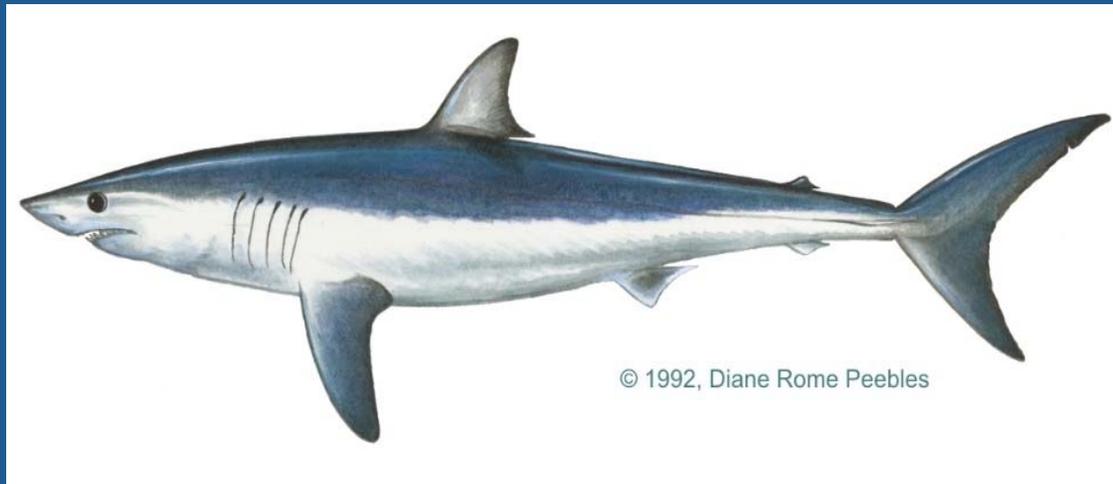
March 2018

Outline

- Shortfin Mako Management Background and Stock Status
 - 2017 ICCAT Stock Assessment
 - ICCAT Recommendation 17-08
- Emergency Interim Final Measures
 - Fishery Impacts
- Next Steps
- Public Hearing



Management History and Stock Status



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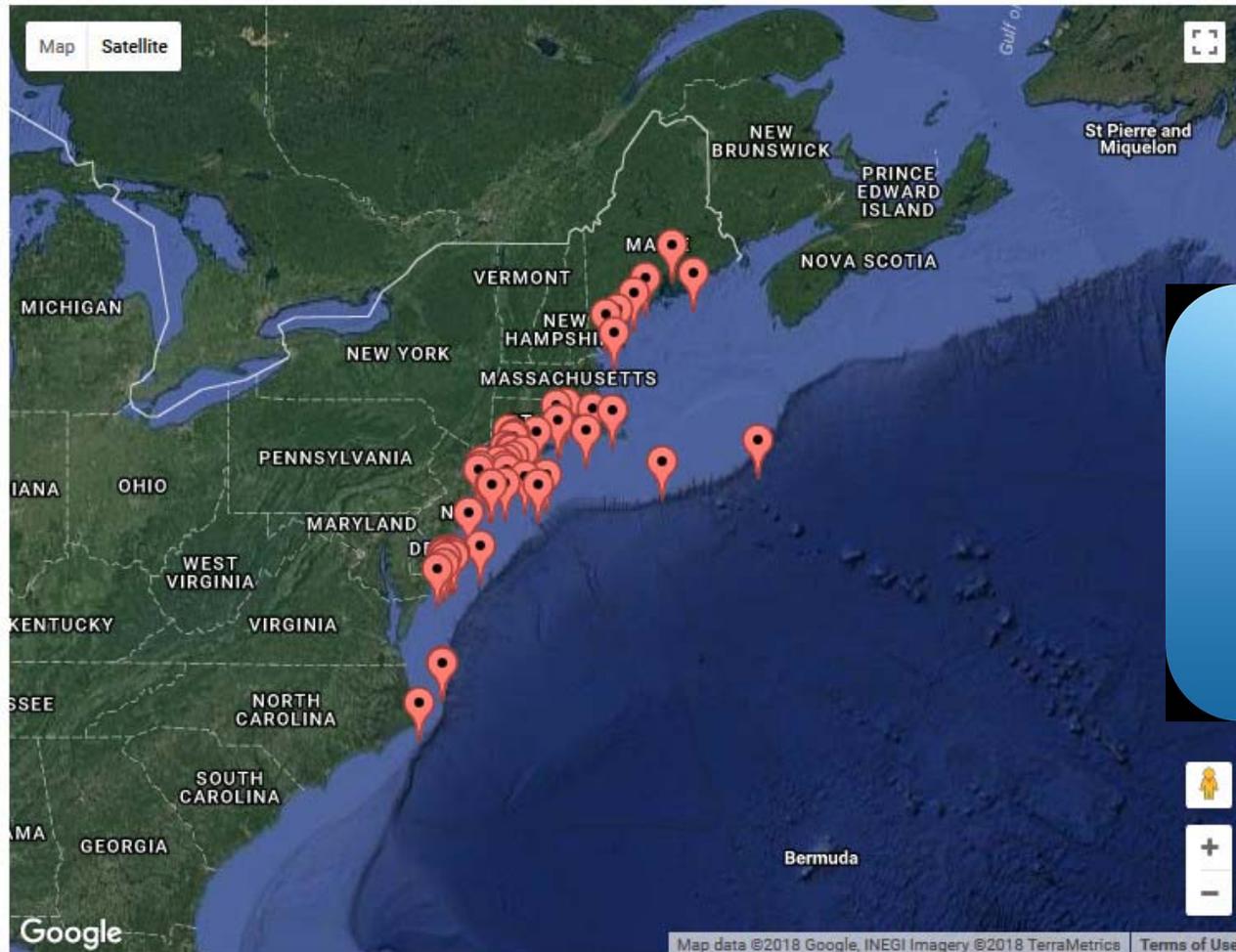
Management History

- 1993: 1993 Shark FMP
 - Shortfin mako sharks managed as part of the Pelagic Shark group
 - Implemented quotas for pelagic sharks (580 mt)
- 1999: 1999 FMP
 - Removed porbeagle and blue sharks from pelagic shark quota; Reduced pelagic shark quota accordingly (488 mt dw)
- 2008: ICCAT Stock Assessment for North Atlantic Shortfin Mako sharks
 - Not overfished, overfishing occurring
- 2010: Amendment 3
 - Encouraged live release of shortfin mako sharks
- 2012: ICCAT Stock Assessment for North Atlantic Shortfin Mako sharks
 - Not overfished, No overfishing occurring
 - NMFS continued to encourage live release of Shortfin Mako sharks



Management History

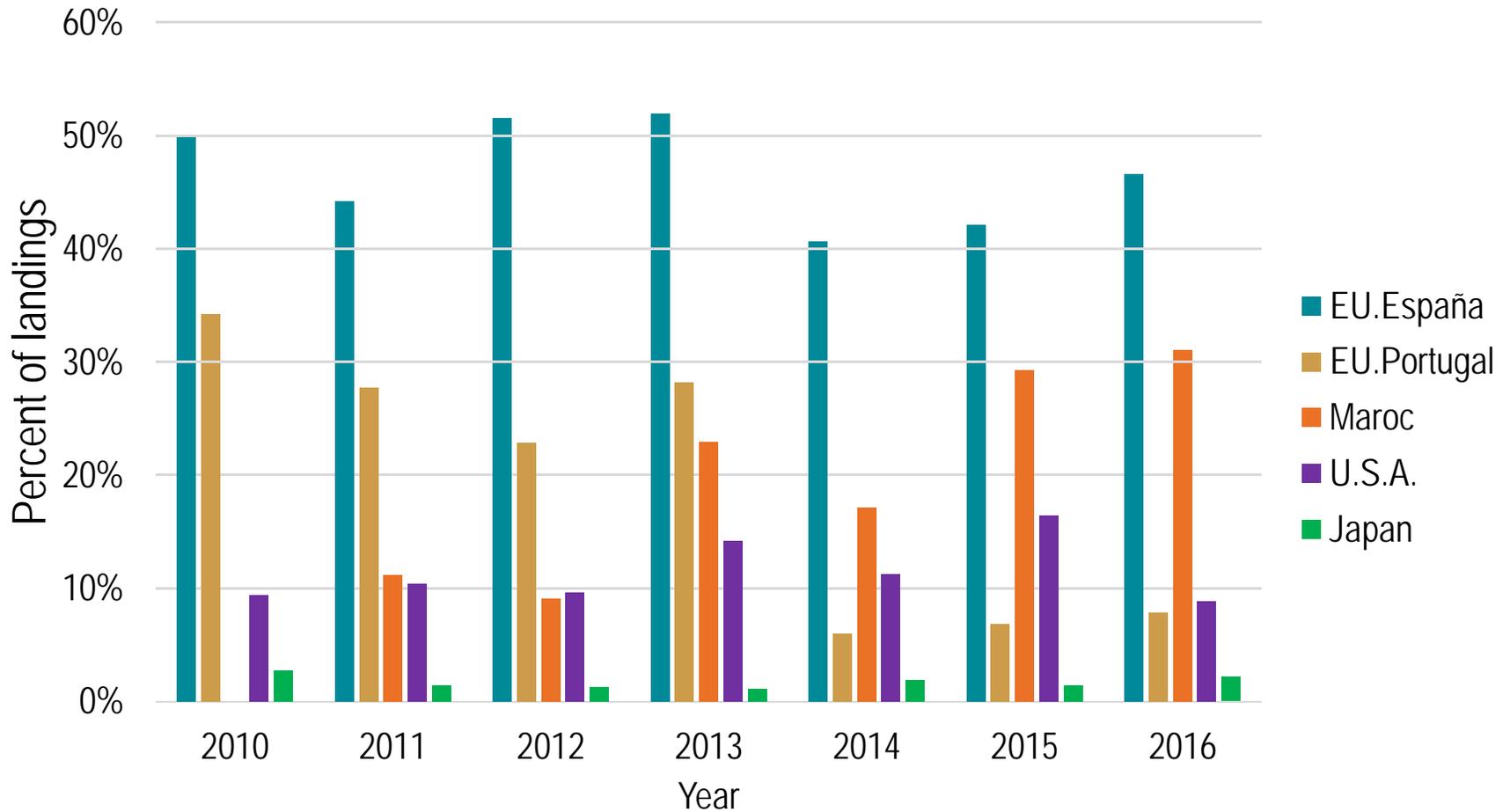
- Release Mako smartphone app (2011)



Management History

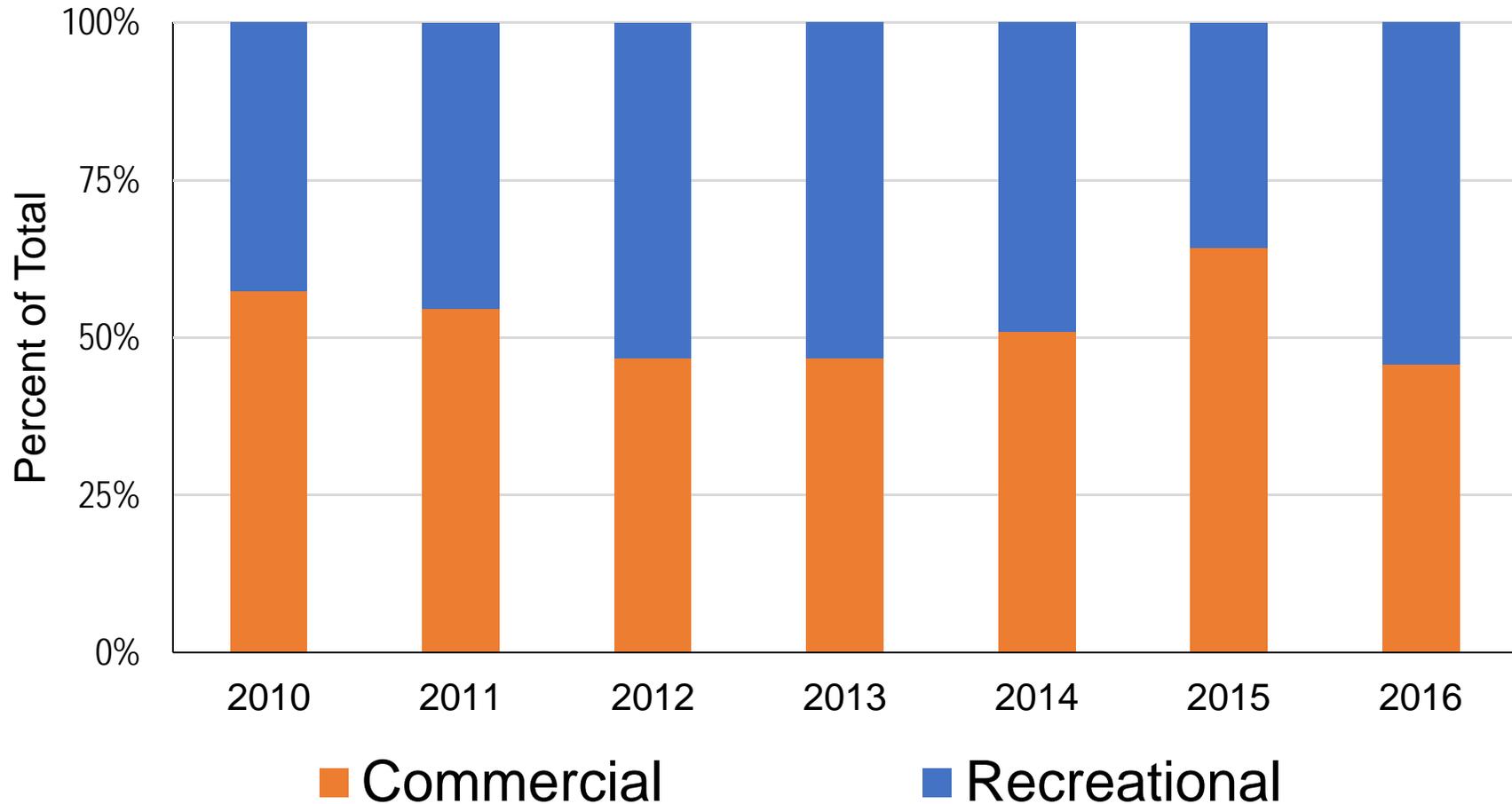
- U.S. shortfin mako catches represent ~11% of total North Atlantic catch

North Atlantic Shortfin Mako Shark Harvest by Country (ICCAT statistics)



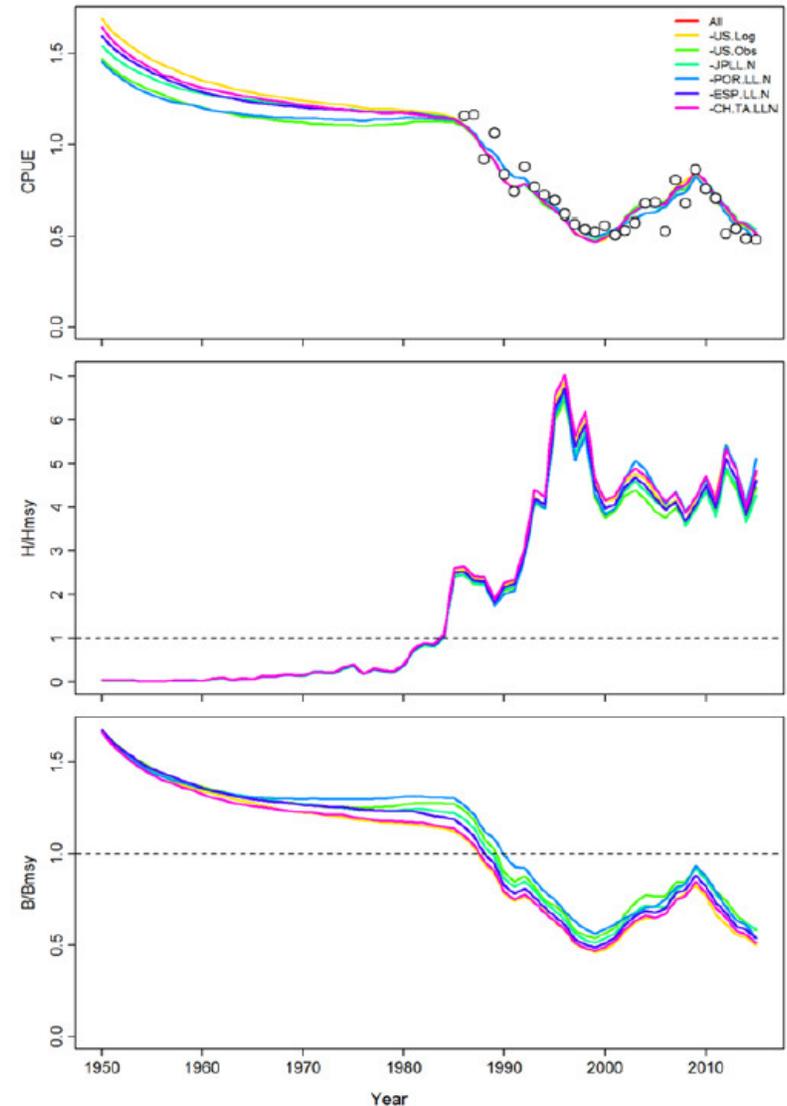
Management History

- U.S. commercial and recreational harvests are evenly split



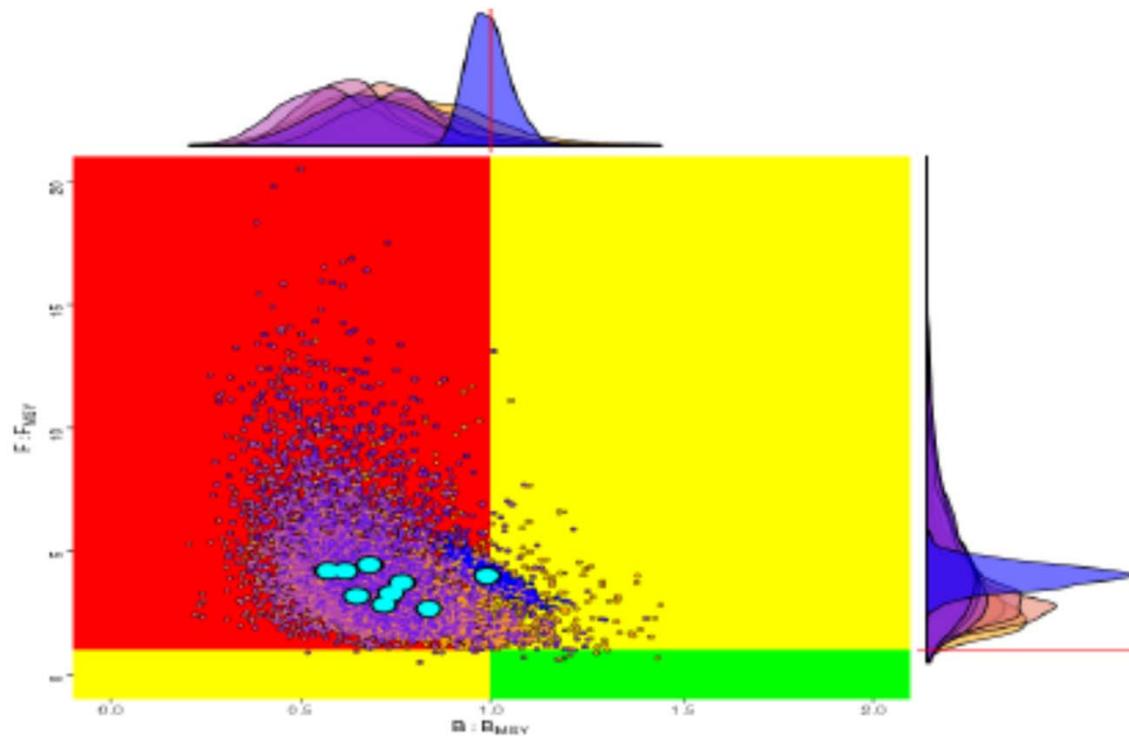
ICCAT 2017 Stock Assessment

- ICCAT's SCRS conducted the assessment in Summer 2017
- Significant data updates from previous assessment (2012)
 - New model structure
 - Longer catch series (1950-2015)
 - Sex-specific biological parameters
 - Updated length compositions
 - New satellite tagging data



ICCAT 2017 Stock Assessment

- Overfished
 - $B_{2015}/B_{MSY} = 0.57-0.85$, $SSF_{2015}/SSF_{MSY} = 0.95$
- Overfishing is occurring
 - $F_{2015}/F_{MSY} = 1.93-4.38$



ICCAT 2017 Stock Assessment

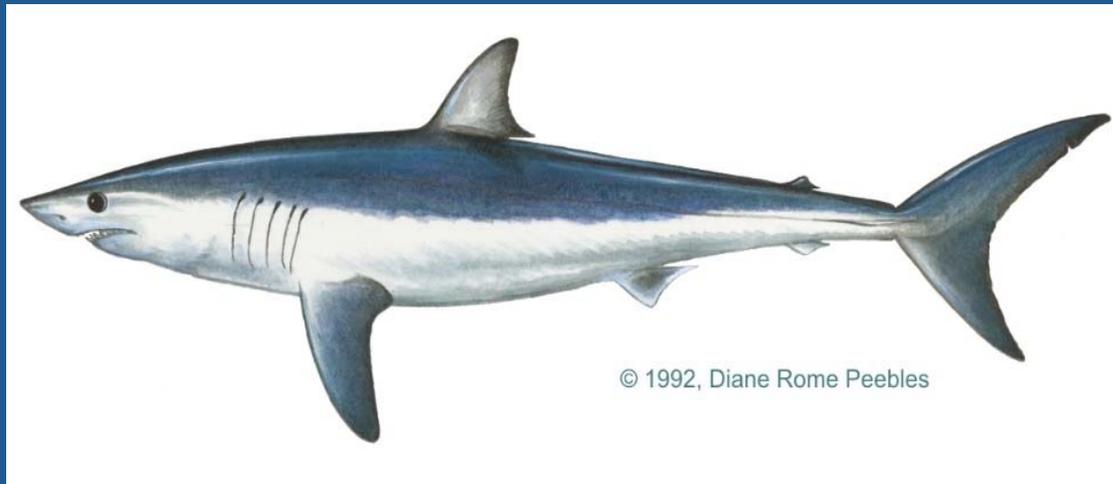
- Recent catches (all nations) are 3,600-4,750 mt per year
- Assessment indicates that catches should be reduced below 1,000 mt (72-79 percent reductions) to prevent further population declines
- A total allowable catch of 0 mt would be necessary to rebuild the stock by 2040



ICCAT Recommendation 17-08

- Adopted in November 2017
- Maximizes live releases
- Retention allowed under limited circumstances
 - If dead at haulback (requires observer and/or electronic monitoring (EM))
 - Minimum Size Limits: 180 cm FL male, 210 cm FL female
- November 2018 - review first six months of 2018 catches
- 2019 – SCRS evaluation of measure effectiveness, establish rebuilding plan
- U.S. is obligated to implement ICCAT recommendations as necessary and appropriate under the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act

Emergency Interim Final Rule (effective March 2, 2018)



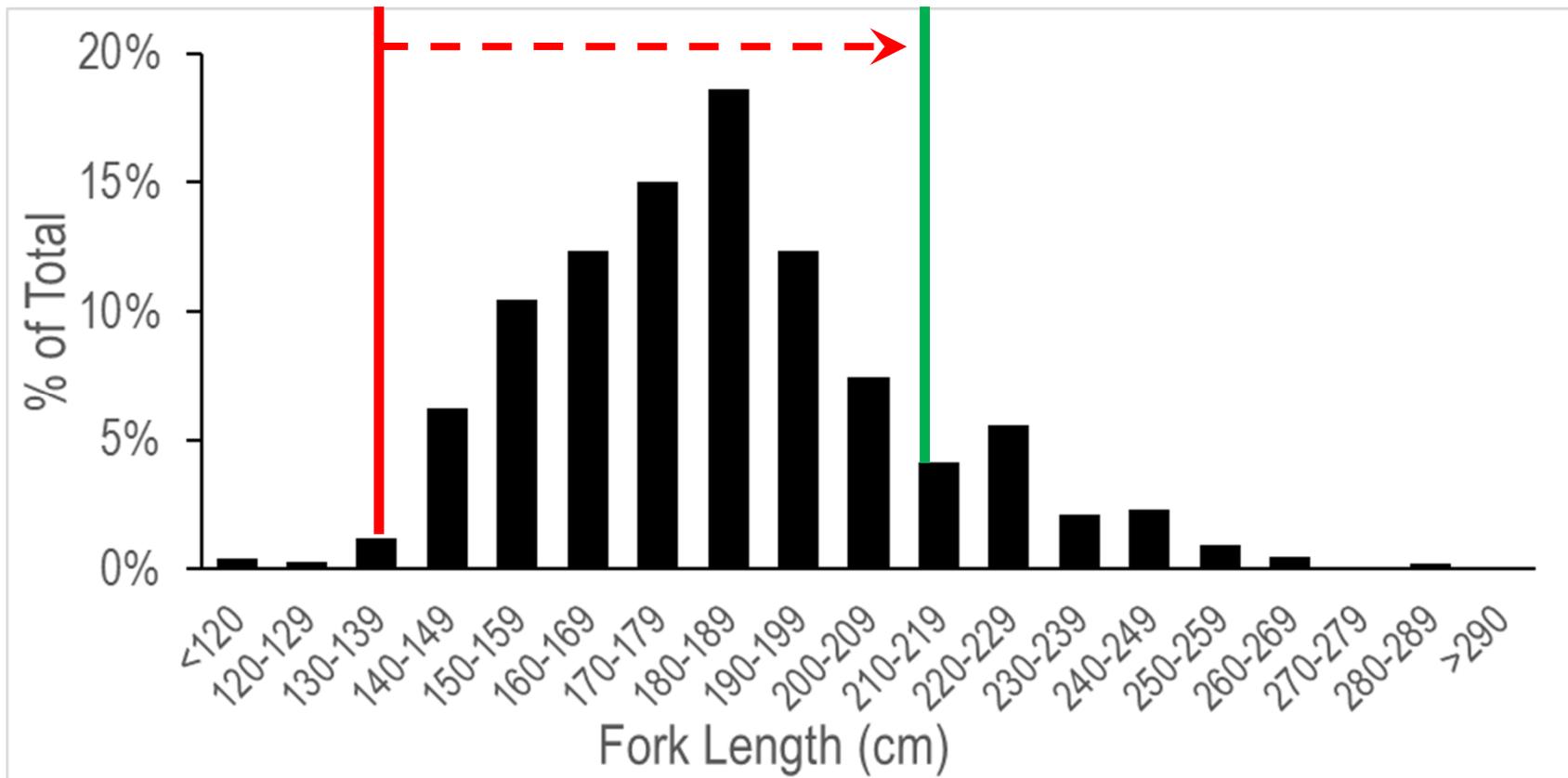
Interim Final Measures

- Live release of shortfin mako sharks in commercial pelagic longline fishery
 - Retention only if shark is dead at haulback and vessel has functioning EM
- Prohibition on retention of shortfin mako sharks caught on commercial gears other than pelagic longline (bottom longline, gillnet, etc.)
- Estimated 75% reduction in U.S. commercial landings



Interim Final Measures

- Increase recreational minimum size limit from 54 in to 83 in FL
- Estimated 83% reduction in U.S. recreational landings



Interim Final Measures

➤ Commercial Fishery Impacts

- 2016 commercial ex-vessel shortfin mako revenues = \$348,000
- ~14% of all commercial shark revenue, ~1% of all HMS commercial revenue
- 75% reduction = losses of ~\$261,000 per year for commercial fishery



Interim Final Measures

- **Recreational Fishery Impacts**
 - Total economic output for recreational shark fisheries (all species and areas) estimated at ~\$5.4 million per year (2011)
 - 5% of charter and 7% of headboat vessels target pelagic sharks (including shortfin mako sharks)
 - 70-80 tournaments per year with pelagic shark categories
 - Recreational catch and release will continue, but fewer opportunities to land a shortfin mako shark of legal size



Next Steps

- Emergency interim final rule is effective for 180 days (until August 29, 2018), with a possible extension of 186 days additional days (until March 3, 2019)
- Accepting public comments until May 7, 2018
- ICCAT will evaluate measures in November 2018
- Emergency interim final rule measures are expected to be replaced/updated by Amendment 11 (normal rulemaking process)



Summary

- Shortfin mako shark is overfished and experiencing overfishing
- ICCAT has recommended management measures
- NMFS has implemented an emergency interim final rule
 - Live release in commercial fisheries
 - Retention on pelagic longline vessels with EM if dead at haulback
 - 83 in FL minimum size limit in recreational fishery
 - ~79% reduction in U.S. landings
- ICCAT will evaluate measures in November 2018
- Emergency interim final rule expected to be replaced by Amendment 11



Request for Public Comments

Comment period closes on:

May 7, 2018

Please submit comments to:

<http://www.regulations.gov>

Keyword - "NOAA-NMFS-2018-0010"

Or Mail: NMFS SF1, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Please identify comments with NOAA-NMFS-2018-0010

For more information go to: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/> or contact Tobey Curtis tobey.curtis@noaa.gov or Karyl Brewster-Geisz karyl.brewster-geisz@noaa.gov at (301) 427-8503

Public Hearing



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