



NOAA
FISHERIES

Office of
Sustainable
Fisheries

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

HMS Management Overview

March 7, 2018

Goal of Presentation

Brief update of recent actions

Defer issues to be discussed later in meeting:

- ICCAT 2017 Update
- Shortfin Mako Emergency Interim Final Rule
- Research in Fishery Closed Areas
- Amendment 7 3-year Review
- HMS Recreational Issues
- Caribbean Management Updates
- Shark Fishery Closure Criteria
- ESA Listing of Oceanic Whitetip and PLTRT status
- Upcoming Rulemakings
 - Amendment 11;
 - Bluefin and Northern Albacore Quota Rule, Landing Condition for Shark Damaged Tuna Carcasses;
 - Shark Fishery Closure Criteria;
 - PLL Bluefin Area-Based and Weak Hook Management

Rulemaking/Operations

Since the September 2017 AP meeting:

4 Final Rules:

1. 2018 Shark Specification
2. HMS Charter/Headboat Commercial Sales Endorsement
3. IBQ Quarterly Accountability
4. Emergency Interim Final Rule on Shortfin Mako

Inseason actions:

Action	Target
Retention Limit Adjustments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BFT• SWO Gen Comm• ALCS & HH Sharks
Closures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BFT
Quota Transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BFT

Operations:

Action	#
EFP/SRP/LOA	1
Shark Research Fishery Permits	6
HMS Tournaments Registered (2018)	70
Shark ID & Protected Species Workshops (2018)	7
Atlantic HMS News Subscribers	~5797

Shark 2018 Specifications Final Rule

- Final rule published on November 22, 2017 (82 FR 55512)
- All shark management groups opened on January 1, 2018
- All quotas were the annual base quotas except the following quotas that are increased due to underharvest:
 - Western Gulf of Mexico (wGOM) Blacktip: 347.2 mt dw (765,392 lb dw)
 - Eastern GOM Blacktip (eGOM): 37.7 mt dw (83,158 lb dw)
 - GOM Smoothhound: 504.6 mt dw (1,112,441 lb dw)
 - Atlantic Smoothhound: 1,802.6 mt dw (3,973,902 lb dw)
- Final LCS retention limits for Directed Permit Holders: eGOM = 45; wGOM = 45; Atl = 25

Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) Renewals

OMB 0216: Billfish Certificate of Eligibility:

PRA approval pending with OMB

Purpose of Billfish Certificate of Eligibility

- On-site evidence of product trail through commerce to final consumer (chain of custody)
- Not submitted to Agency and no need to do so

Seeking input on method of tracking

- Paper form...electronic?

Comments? – see Nic Alvarado or Randy Blankinship

PRA Renewals (cont'd)

OMB 0327: HMS Permit Family of Forms

- Covers Atlantic Tunas, HMS Angling, HMS Charter/Headboat, Swordfish General Commercial, and Tuna Dealer permits
- Comment period ends March 27th

OMB 0040: HMS Dealer Reporting Family of Forms

- Comment period ends March 26th

Comments requested on both regarding:

- Necessity of proposed information collections for agency performance,
- Accuracy of agency burden estimates including hours and cost,
- Ways to enhance quality of information to be collected, and
- Ways to minimize respondent burden including new technologies.

Submit comments to Jennifer Jessup at pracomments@doc.gov

Rulemaking/Operations

Atlantic Tournament Registration and Reporting

Selection of HMS tournaments for tournament reporting (currently only billfish and swordfish tournaments)

- 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)

National Policy Updates

- Allocation Criteria – no updates at this time
- National Standard 1 Guidelines - internal discussions underway; anticipate regular check-ins with AP as actions progress
- Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) Implementation Roadmap
- Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) final rule/implementation
- National Bycatch Reduction Strategy Implementation Plan

National Policy Updates - EBFM

- EBFM Policy and Road Map released in 2016
- HMS Division staff are drafting a Road Map Implementation Plan, as discussed at May 2017 AP meeting
 - HMS Division staff are participating in a national workgroup to coordinate plans
- Draft implementation plan anticipated in summer 2018- will share with the AP at the fall 2018 meeting
- Deadline for final implementation plans is December 2018

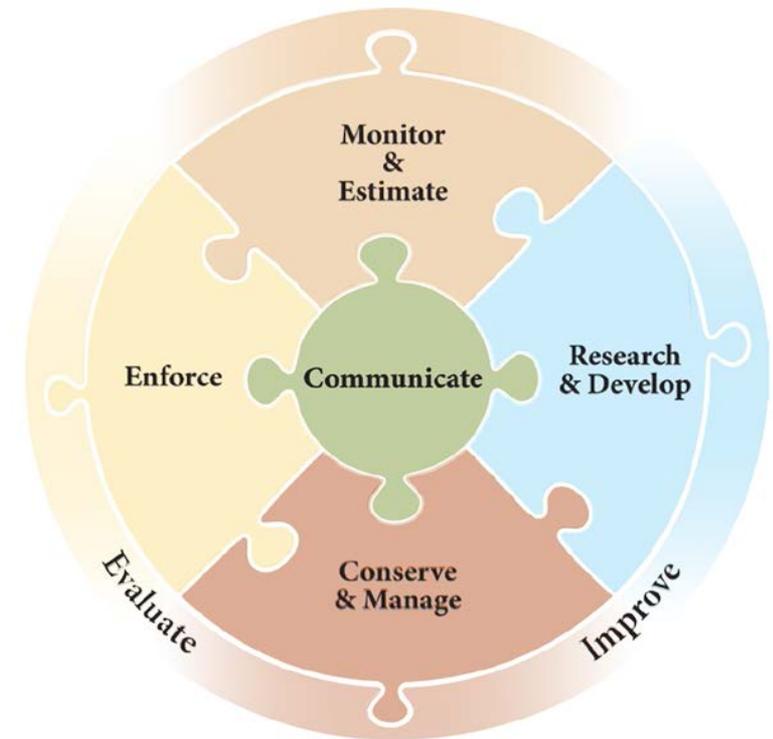
National Bycatch Reduction Strategy

5 objectives

- Monitor and Estimate
- Conduct Research
- Conserve and Manage
- Enforce
- Communicate

HMS Regional Implementation Plan

- Drafting will follow final EBFM Road Map Implementation Plan



National Policy Updates - SBRM

- HMS Division staff completed a review of the SBRM final rule & 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP
- Initial determination is that an FMP amendment is likely needed to add descriptions of SBRM for spearfishing, buoy gear, and greenstick; however, rulemaking is not expected
- In the near-term, we will update/expand SBRM descriptions/bycatch data in the annual SAFE Report to keep information up-to-date and address certain requirements of the SBRM rule (e.g., consideration of data uncertainty and other considerations)
- All FMPs must be consistent with the SBRM rule by Feb 2022
- Anticipate an update at Fall 2018 HMS Advisory Panel meeting as amendment progresses

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
 - 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 on all HMS captures that occur while fishing for BFT
 - All BFT will be reported through the normal General category methods
- Status: Reviewing Vessel Monitoring Plans (VMP)
 - No fishing has occurred.
 - NMFS must approve all VMPs before vessels can fish

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
- Charter/Headboat permit holders added based on feedback received at 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
- 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
 - 3,971 issued to 7,689 qualifying permit holders (51.7%)
 - 2,727 HMS Angling, 928 HMS Charter/Headboat, 316 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, 1,323 HMS Charter/Headboat permits have been issued, 473 of those have the endorsement (35.8%)

Data current through Feb 15, 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

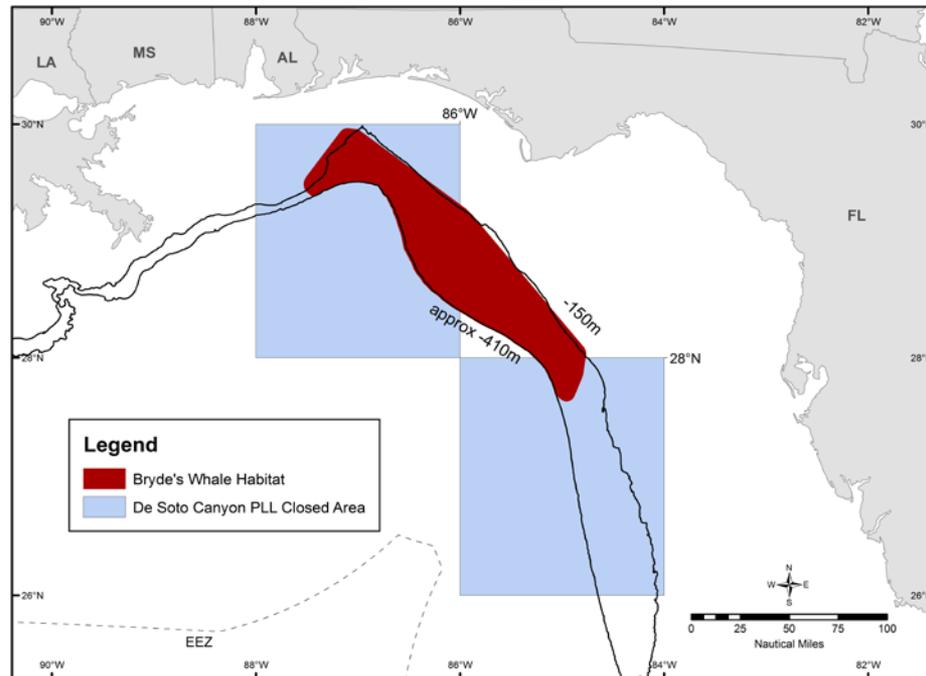
Bryde's Whale – Gulf of Mexico

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)
 - Florida (3) and Louisiana (7)
- 7 vessels participated in program in 2017 (March - June 2017)
- 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>

Reporting, Permitting, & Other Issues

- Electronic HMS logbook pilot complete, expected to be ready for use on a voluntary basis in 2018
- SouthEast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) – charter/headboat electronic reporting for Gulf and South Atlantic Council fisheries. HMS Division staff are participating in NMFS implementation team. May consider HMS CHB electronic reporting in future.

New Website - <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species>

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Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

Highly migratory species (HMS) travel long distances and often cross domestic and international boundaries. NOAA Fisheries manages HMS fisheries—tunas, sharks, swordfish, and billfish—in U.S. Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean waters. We:

- Develop and implement fishery management plans in cooperation with the HMS advisory panel.
- Monitor commercial and recreational catches to ensure compliance with domestic and international quotas and/or catch limits.
- Issue permits for commercial and recreational HMS fishing and scientific research.
- Implement domestic requirements of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) and support international negotiations for ICCAT, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

MORE INFORMATION //

- > [Atlantic HMS Fishery Management Plan and Amendments](#)
- > [Compliance Guides](#)
- > [Landings Updates](#)
- > [Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation Reports](#)
- > [HMS Permits and Reporting Forms](#)
- > [Register/Report Your HMS Tournament](#)
- > [Sign up for Atlantic HMS News](#) ↗



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Looking Ahead

Upcoming Dates:

- Amendment 11 scoping – spring 2018
- Bluefin tuna area-based and weak hook scoping – spring 2018
- EBFM Road Map draft implementation plan- summer 2018
- Draft IBQ Program 3-year review document – fall 2018

Upcoming Final Actions:

- Technical amendment – spring 2018

Upcoming Proposed Rules/Actions/Notices:

- Shark closure – wGOM blacktip, agg LCS, and HH
- Adjusted 2018 swordfish/albacore/bluefin tuna quotas
- Amendment 12 (Intl. stock status determinations, FMP objectives, SBRM, Allocation criteria)

Communication Goal: No Surprises

- Goals for All
 - Advisors/Public aware, informed, and engaged
 - Agency aware, informed, and engaged
- 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 meeting
- Operational activities require substantial agency resources

Looking forward,

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

Questions?

Thank you!