

Shark Depredation Discussion

HMS Advisory Panel Meeting
Silver Spring
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NOAA
FISHERIES

Issue

- Commercial and recreational fishermen using all gear types in all regions have reported increasing shark depredation on target catch.
- Both South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils have requested action to solve this problem.
- It is unclear which species are causing the problem; reports of dusky and sandbar sharks in some areas.
- While the status of some shark species is healthy, others continue to be overfished or experiencing overfishing.



Questions for Discussion

- Are there fishing techniques/strategies (e.g., chumming, chunking, setting multiple lines, running the motor) that appear to attract sharks? What changes in fishing techniques might result in fewer interactions?
- Does this appear to be a seasonal issue?
- What are the impacts to fishing profits? How is this issue affecting for-hire charter bookings?
- How do we better quantify the extent of the problem?



Additional Thoughts?

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