



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Amendment 16 Scoping - Shark Quotas and Management

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Division

Outline

Background

- Amendment 14
- Shark Fishery Review Document

Amendment 16 - Scoping

- Summary of Management Options
- More Information

Background

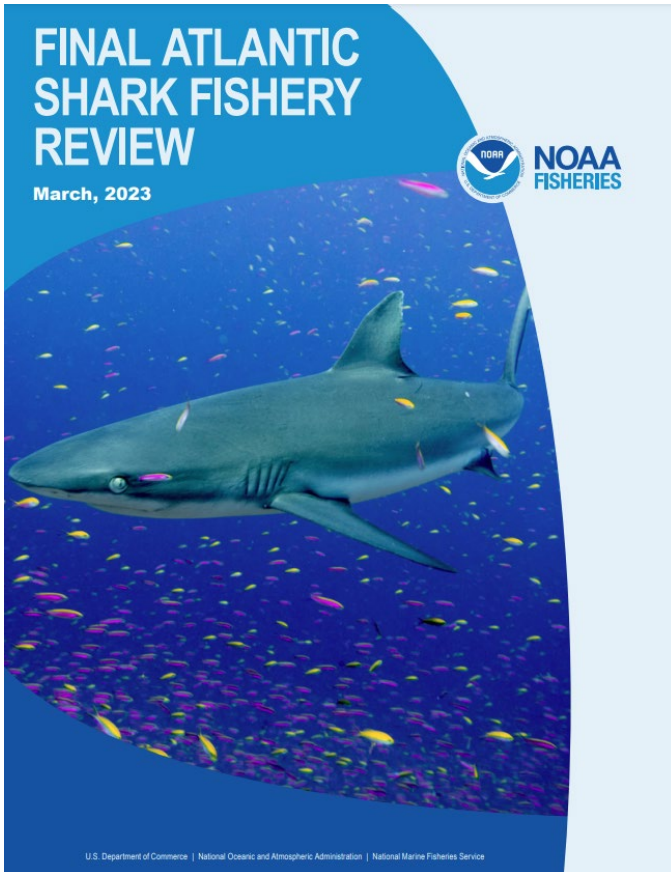


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Amendment 14

- Published on January 24, 2023
- Established a new framework to implement acceptable biological catch (ABCs) and annual catch limits (ACLs) for Atlantic shark fisheries
- Included management options for:
 - ABC control rule
 - Phase-in ABC control rule
 - ACL development
 - Carry-over of underharvested quota
 - Multi-year overfishing status determination criteria

Atlantic Shark Fishery Review (SHARE) Document



- Released on March 21, 2023
- Analyzed trends within the commercial and recreational shark fisheries
- Identified main areas of success and concerns with conservation and management measures with the goal of improving shark fisheries management

SHARE webpage:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/final-atlantic-shark-fishery-review>

Amendment 16 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP

Scoping Document



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Amendment 16 - Scoping Document

- Released on May 8, 2023

Objectives:

Consistent with Amendment 14 and scientific advice...

- Establish ABCs and ACLs for non-prohibited shark species
- Optimize the ability for the commercial and recreational shark fisheries to harvest quotas to the extent practicable
- Increase management flexibility to react to additional factors impacting the Atlantic shark fisheries and account for changes in the distribution of shark harvest among sectors



Tier	Stock Assessment	Potential Placement of Shark Stocks	
Tier 1	Data-rich stage-structured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blacktip (ATL) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoothhound (ATL)
Tier 2	Data-moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic sharpnose (ATL) • Atlantic sharpnose (GOM) • Blacktip (GOM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finetooth • Smoothhound complex (GOM)
Tier 3	Data-limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No shark stocks 	
Tier 4	No accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blacknose (GOM) • Bonnethead (ATL) • Bonnethead (GOM) • Bull • Carolina hammerhead* • Great hammerhead* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lemon • Nurse • Smooth hammerhead* • Spinner • Silky • Tiger

Outside Tier Structure

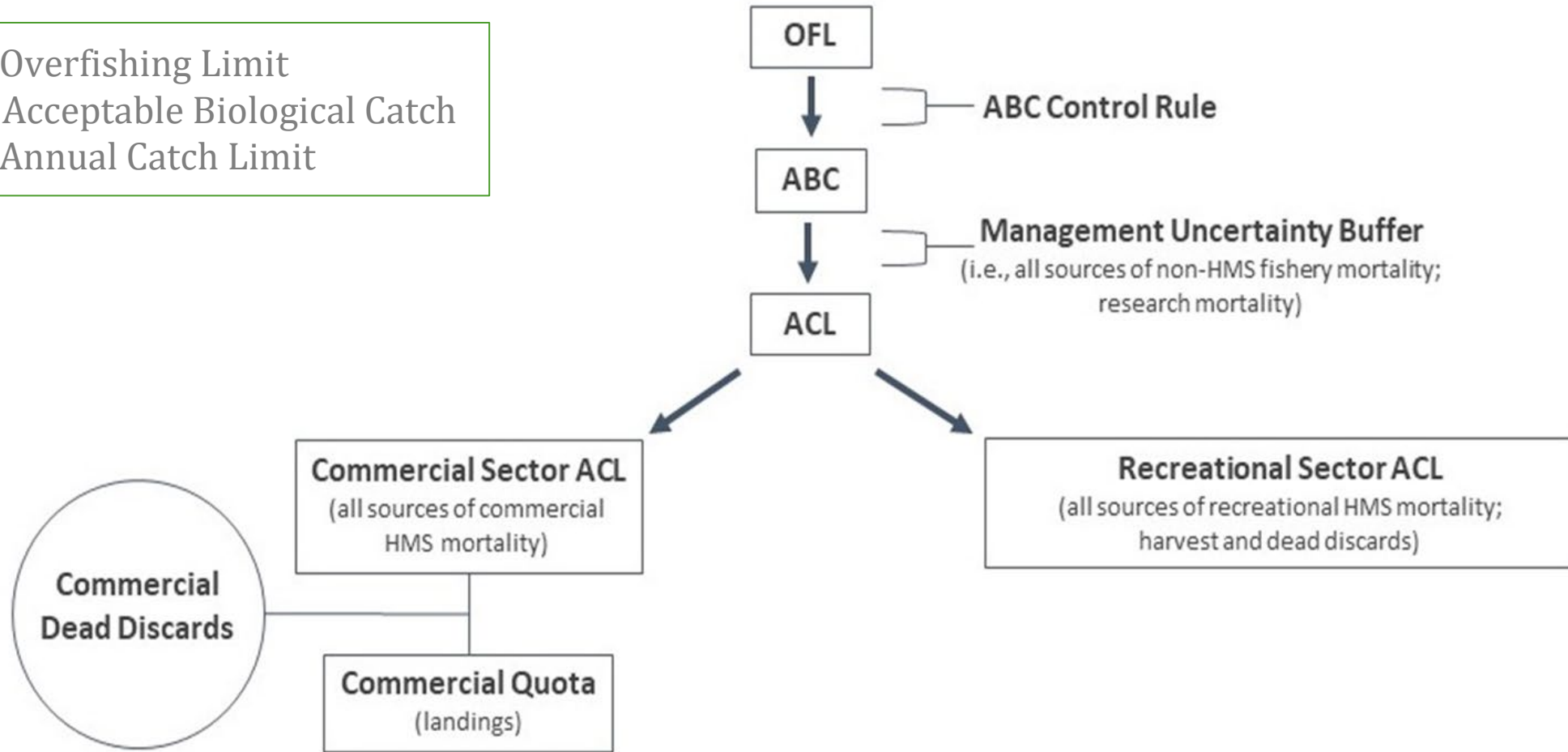
Under Rebuilding Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blacknose (ATL) • Sandbar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scalloped hammerhead*
ICCAT-Assessed and Pelagic Sharks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue (North ATL) • Porbeagle (Northwest ATL) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortfin mako (North ATL) • Thresher

* Hammerhead shark species may move after completion of ongoing assessment (SEDAR 77)

ICCAT = International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

ACL Framework for Non-Prohibited Shark Species

OFL = Overfishing Limit
ABC = Acceptable Biological Catch
ACL = Annual Catch Limit



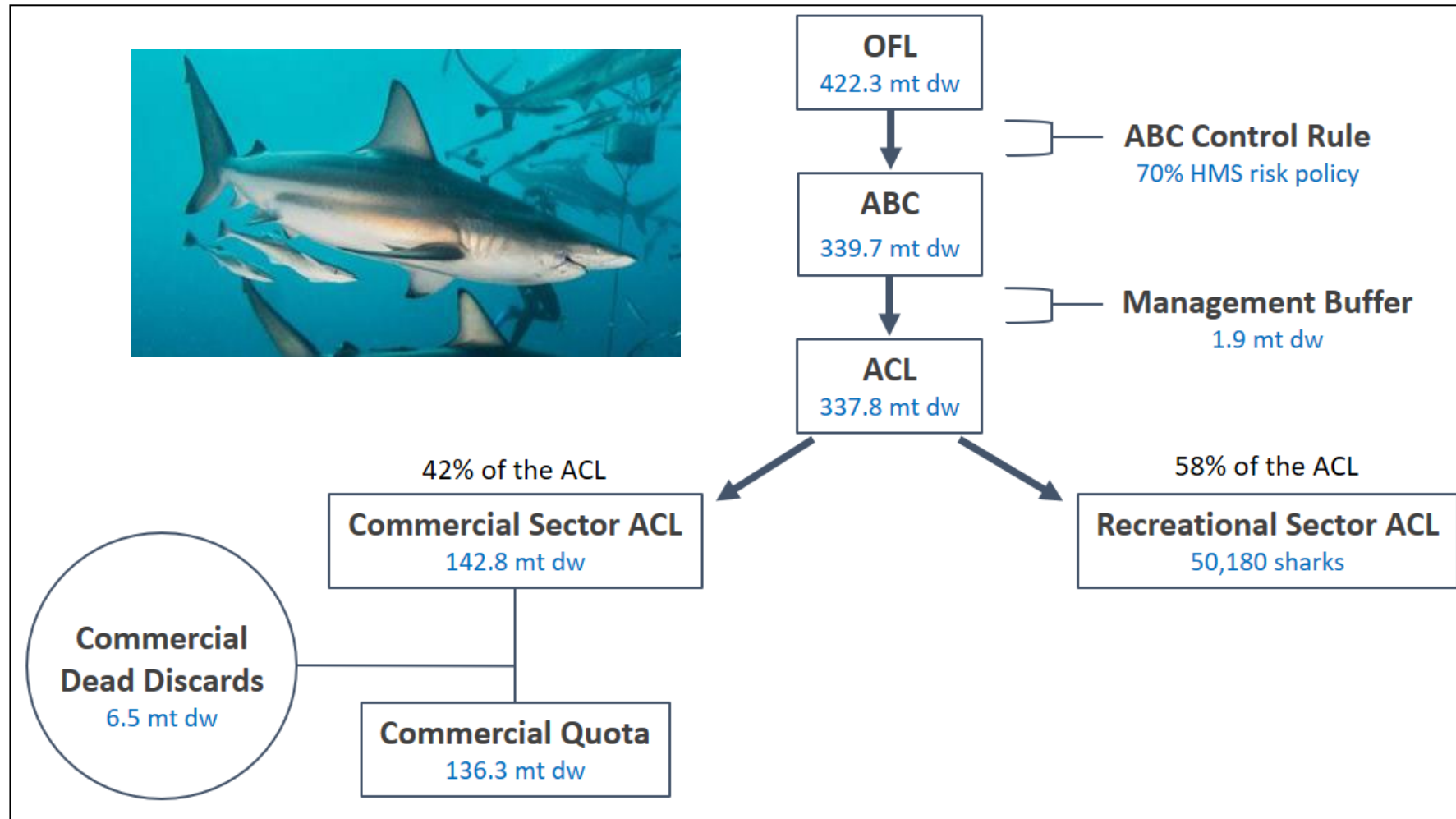
Example ABCs and Resulting ACLs

Tier 1: Blacktip sharks (Atlantic region)

Options

A1 – Use all years of data

B1 – Use 70% HMS risk policy



Management Group Structure (Options E1-4)



- Maintain the current shark management groups
- Create management groups for assessed vs. unassessed stocks
- Create management groups for stocks frequently caught together

Regional & Sub-Regional Quotas (Options F-I)

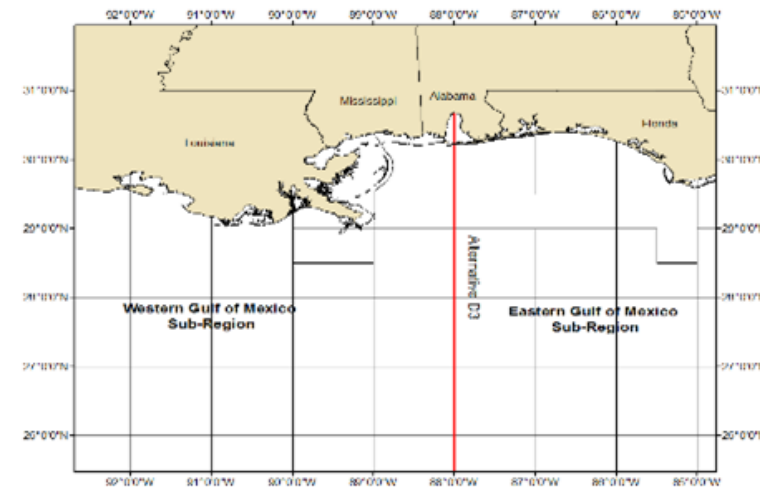
Considers revision or removal of:

- Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico split
- Atlantic blacknose shark management boundary
- Gulf of Mexico sub-regional split



Considers new options for:

- Caribbean shark regional quota



Exempted Fishing Permit Program & Shark Research Fishery (Options J1-4)



- Maintain current quotas
- Revise the quotas
- Allow the transferability of underutilized shark research fishery sandbar quota to the commercial or recreational fishery
- Revise the shark research fishery structure, objectives, and goals

Commercial Retention Limits (Options K1-3)



- Maintain the current commercial retention limits
- Revise the commercial retention limits
- Revise or remove commercial retention limits depending on species and permit

Recreational Fishery Changes (Options L1-3)



- Maintain the current minimum size and bag limits
- Revise the minimum size and bag limits for all authorized shark species
- Remove minimum size and bag limits for some shark species

Comments Received to Date



- General support for changes to the fishery
- Commenters having difficulty understanding the large number of proposed changes
- Need changes now instead of in the future
- NOAA Fisheries needs to help create markets to improve the fishery
- Shark depredation continues to increase
- Shark species need more protection and regulations should not be removed

More Information

Amendment 16 Webpage: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-16-2006-consolidated-atlantic-highly-migratory-species-fishery-management-plan>

Public Comments:

- Upcoming webinar August 7 at 2 pm
- Comment period closes on **August 18, 2023**

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2024 Shark Season Proposed Rule

- Change the regulations to allow the Atlantic shark commercial fishery to automatically open on January 1 each year under base quotas and default retention limits
- Revise the default commercial retention limit for Shark Directed permit holders from 45 to 55 LCS other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip
- Adjust the 2024 quota levels for the various shark stocks and management groups based on underharvests from the 2023 fishing year, consistent with existing regulations

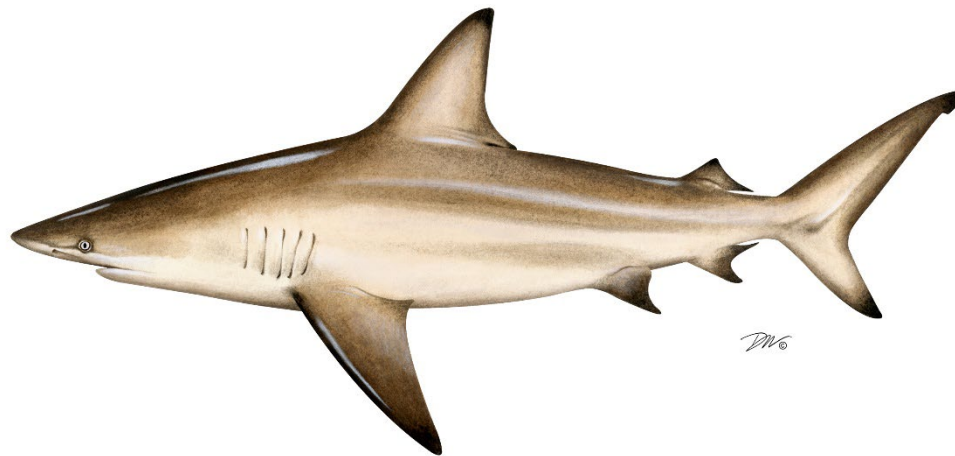


2024 Shark Season Proposed Rule (cont.)

- Public comment closes on **September 1, 2023**
- Please submit comments to: <http://www.regulations.gov>
 - Keyword - “NOAA-NMFS-2023-0081”
- Final rule expected to file in November/December 2023



Coastal Sharks FMP Review of the 2021 Fishing Year



August 1, 2023

FMP Review Outline



- Status of FMP
- Status of Stocks
- Status of the Fishery
- Status of Research and Monitoring
- Status of Management Measures and Issues
- Implementation of FMP Requirements
- PRT Recommendations

Coastal Sharks FMP



Fishery Management Plan (Implemented January 2009)

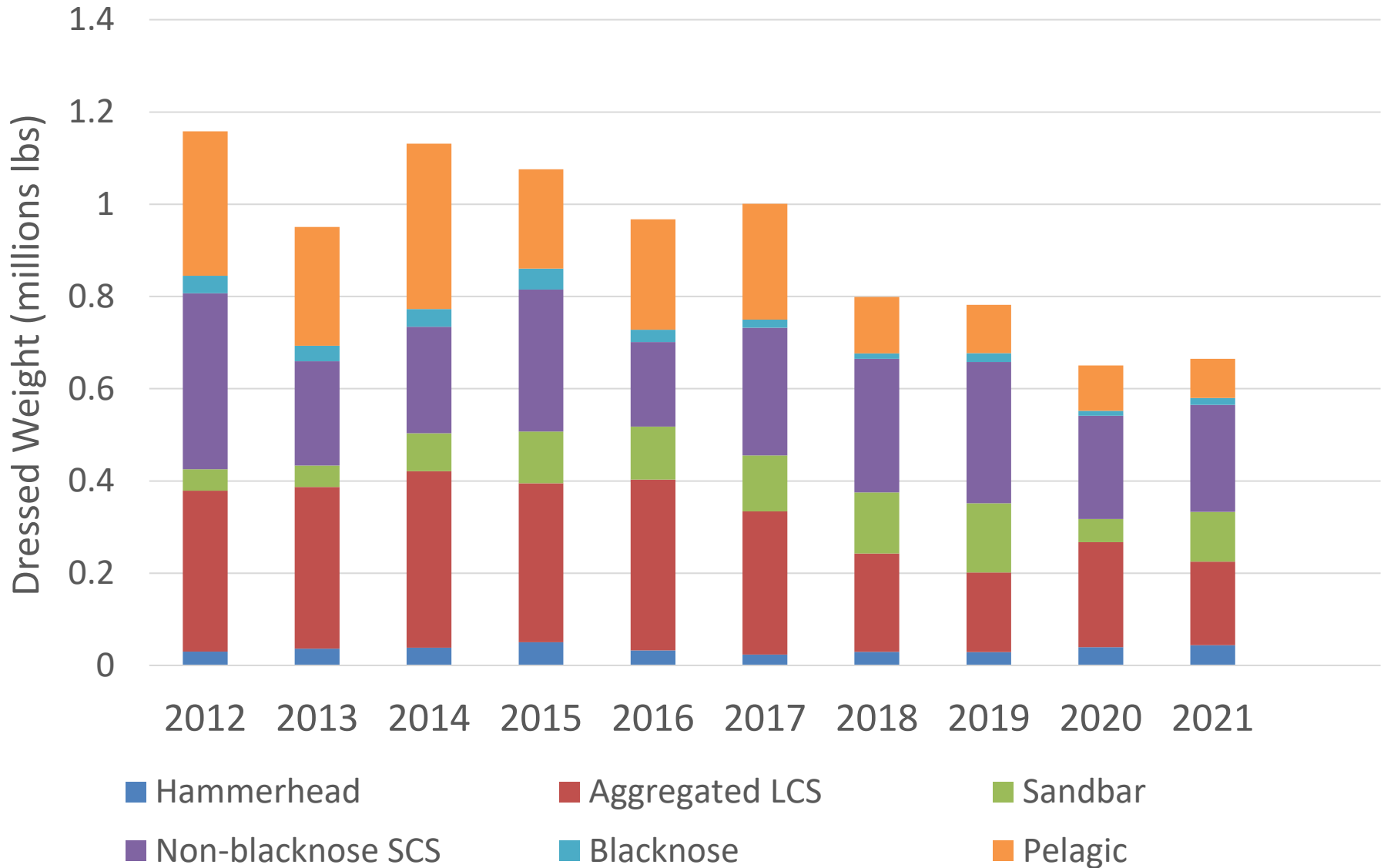
- Addendum I (September 2009)
- Addendum II (May 2013)
- Addendum III (October 2013)
- Addendum IV (August 2016)
- Addendum V (October 2018)

Status of the Stocks

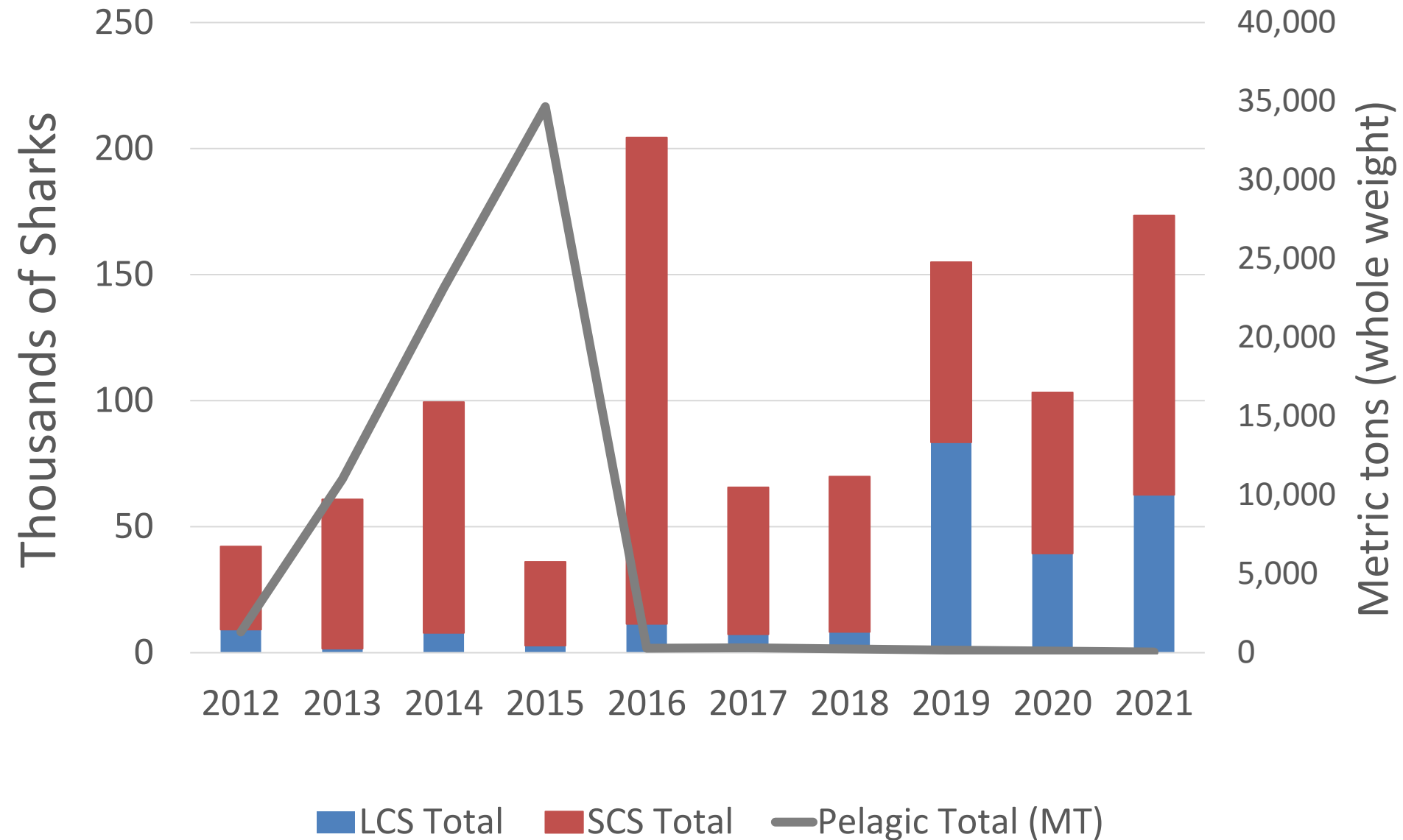


- There have been no changes in status of stocks for managed shark species
- New stock assessments:
 - The Atlantic Blacktip Shark is not overfished and not subject to overfishing (2020)
- HMS Hammerhead Sharks management track assessment is ongoing (SEDAR 77)

Status of the Fishery - Commercial



Status of the Fishery - Recreational



De Minimis



- States can request *de minimis* status on a case-by-case basis.
- Massachusetts is requesting continuation of *de minimis* status for the Aggregated Large Coastal species group and the Hammerhead species group

PRT Comments



- PRT recommends that *de minimis* status be granted to MA for large coastal and hammerhead sharks
- New Jersey's implementation of the non-offset stainless steel circle hooks became effective February 2023
- GA's 2021 recreational regulations not reflective of FMP requirements
 - GA staff indicated the regulations will be updated accordingly

Board Action



- Consider *de minimis* request from Massachusetts, state compliance reports, and approval of FMP Review for the 2021 fishing year
- Consider changing FMP Review format given timeline for data availability
 - Compliance reports due Aug 1
 - Landings data from NOAA's SAFE document available following spring



Questions?