



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Completed and Future Actions for Coastal Sharks

**Karyl Brewster-Geisz
Highly Migratory Species Management Division**

May 2, 2023

This presentation is an update on various actions...

Completed Actions

- Amendment 14 to the HMS FMP (ABC control rule)
- Shark Fishery Review (SHARE) document



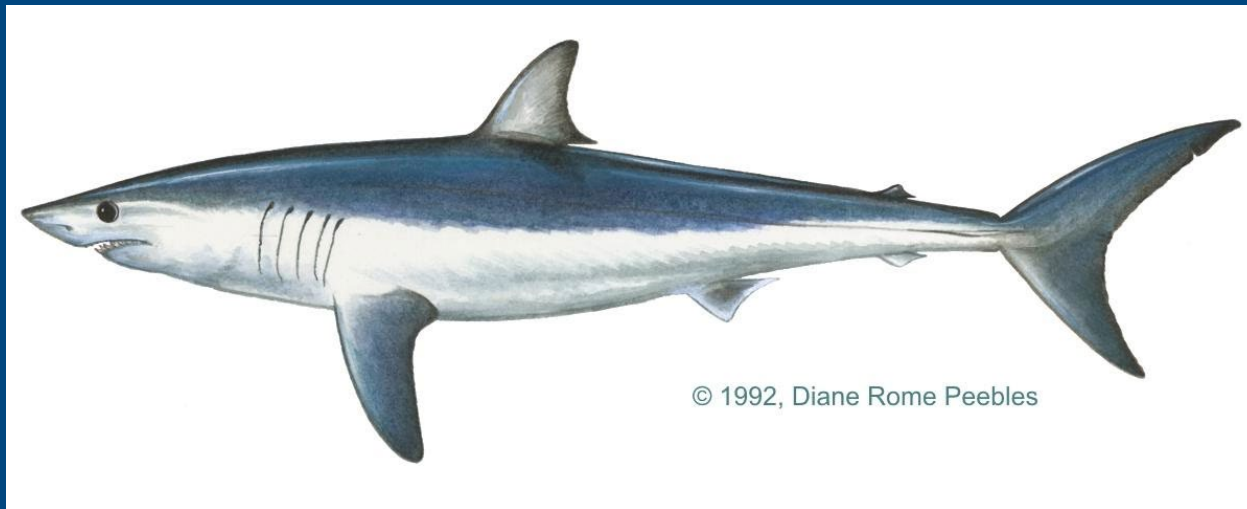
Proposed or Upcoming Actions

- Prohibition of oceanic whitetip shark - Proposed rule
- Amendment 16 to the HMS FMP (Shark quotas) - Scoping
- Electronic reporting - Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- Amendment 15 to the HMS FMP (Spatial management and electronic monitoring) - Proposed rule

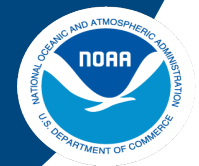


NOAA
FISHERIES

Completed Actions



© 1992, Diane Rome Peebles

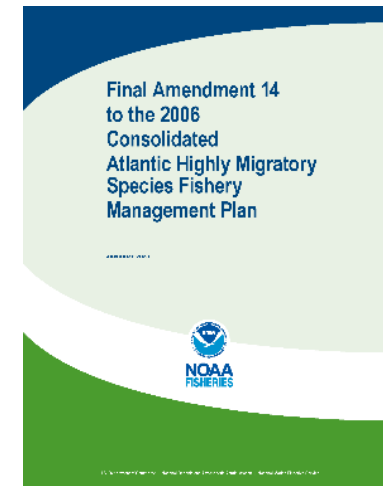


NOAA
FISHERIES

Amendment 14 to the HMS FMP

Released on 01/24/2023 (88 FR 4157)

- Preferred Management Options:
 - Create a tiered acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rule
 - Allow consideration of phase-in ABC control rules for any modifications in ABC
 - Actively manage all sector annual catch limits (ACLs) (commercial and recreational)
 - Establish an ACL for each Atlantic shark management group without commercial ACL quota linkages
 - Allow carry-over only for underharvest of commercial quotas (landings only) under certain conditions (i.e., the stock is not overfished and not experiencing overfishing)
 - Compare a three-year average of fishing mortality estimates to the overfishing limit to determine overfishing status
- Any operational changes as a result of Amendment 14 will be considered in Amendment 16



Shark Fishery Review (SHARE) Document

Released on 03/20/2023 (88 FR 16944)

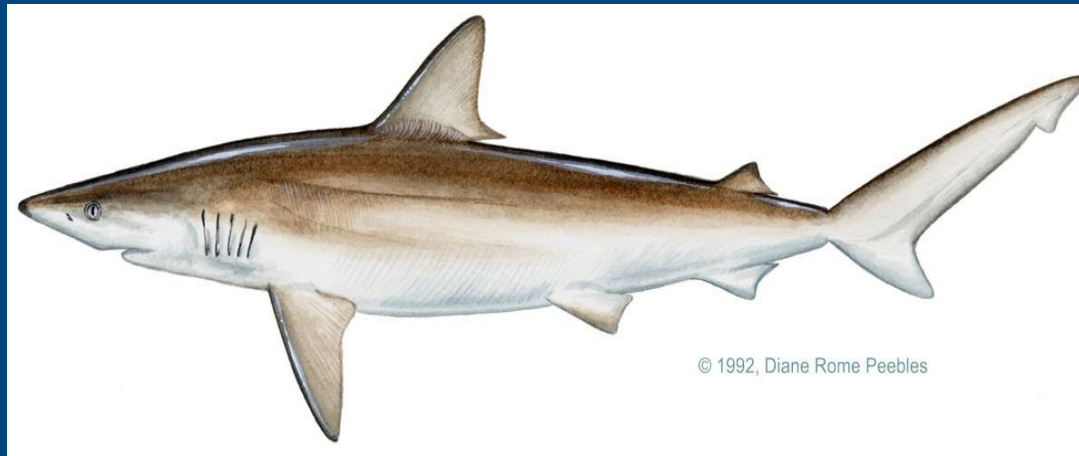
Potential Ways Forward

- Potential modifications to:
 - Vessel permit structure: Changing incidental limited access permits to open access permits
 - Commercial retention limits: LCS, blacknose, and other shark management groups
 - Regional and sub-regional quotas
 - Recreational size and retention limits
- Additionally, beyond the regulations, NOAA Fisheries could:
 - Improve communication and outreach within and outside the shark fishery
 - Communicate best practices for commercial and recreational fishermen to mitigate shark depredation events

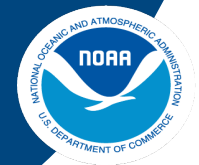


NOAA
FISHERIES

Proposed and Upcoming Actions



© 1992, Diane Rome Peebles



NOAA
FISHERIES

Prohibition of Oceanic Whitetip (everywhere) and Hammerhead Sharks (Caribbean only)

- Proposed rule published 03/22/2023; comment period ends 05/22/2023
- Purpose:
 - Responsive to two 2020 HMS Biological Opinions
 - Reduce mortality given oceanic whitetip sharks and the Central and Southwest Atlantic Distinct Population Segment of scalloped hammerhead sharks are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Proposed rule would:
 - Add oceanic whitetip sharks to the prohibited shark species group
 - Prohibit the commercial and recreational retention of great, smooth, and scalloped hammerhead sharks in the U.S. Caribbean region



NOAA
FISHERIES

Amendment 16 - Scoping

- Notice publishes soon; comment period expected end date 08/18/2023
- Consistent with Amendment 14 and Scientific Advice, the purpose of Amendment 16 is to...
 - Establish acceptable biological catch (ABCs) and annual catch limits (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



NOAA
FISHERIES

Amendment 16 Looks At *Everything*

- Establishing ACLs for stock under various tiers
 - Examples in the scoping document include Atlantic blacktip (tier 1), bull (tier 4), sandbar (rebuilding)
- Management group structure
 - Options include status quo, creating groups for assessed v. unassessed stocks, creating groups for stocks caught together
- Regional and sub-regional splits
 - Considers Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico (GOM) split; blacknose Atlantic boundary
- Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) quotas including changes to shark research fishery
- Commercial retention limits
 - Options include revising and removing depending on species and permit
- Recreational retention and size limits
 - Options including revising and removing depending on species

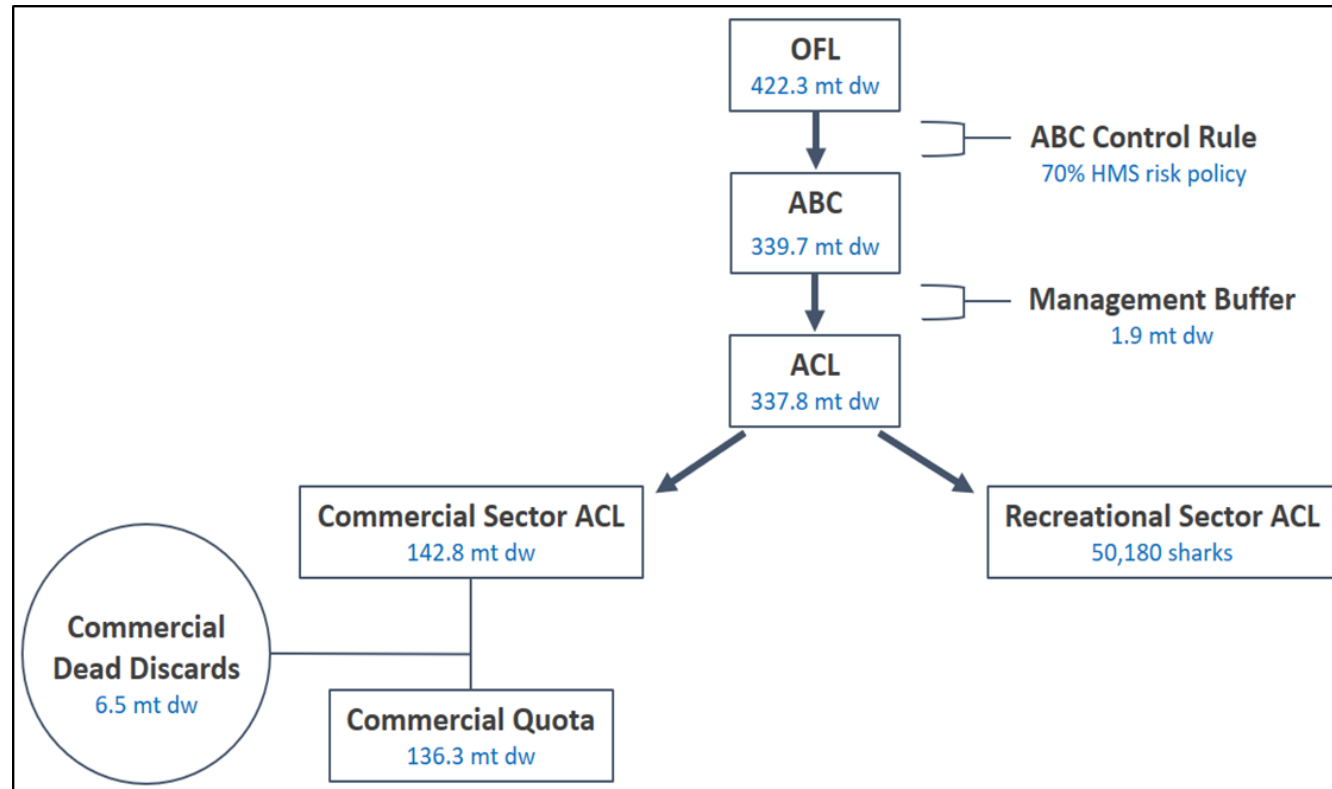


NOAA
FISHERIES

Amendment 16 - Atlantic Blacktip Example

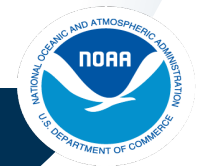
Tier 1 stock with an HMS risk policy of 70% (Option B1)

- Commercial quota = 136.3 mt dw; current harvest level ~38%
- Rec. sector annual catch limit (ACL) = 50,180 sharks; current harvest level ~89%



Electronic Reporting - Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

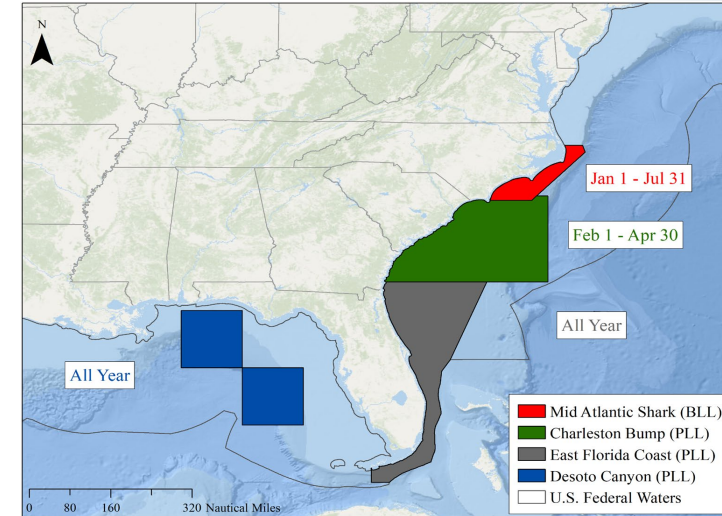
- Notice publishes shortly; comment period expected end date 08/18/2023
- Purpose:
 - Streamline and modernize logbook reporting
 - Expand logbook reporting to for-hire and commercial vessel owners via electronic logbooks
 - Collect additional vessel and dealer information for fishery management
 - Incentivize HMS reporting compliance
 - Offer an electronic reporting platform for HMS EFP Program permit holders
- Potential changes to vessel reporting, dealer reporting, and HMS EFP Program reporting
- Considering various reporting options for commercial and recreational entities including expanding requirements and timing of submitting reports



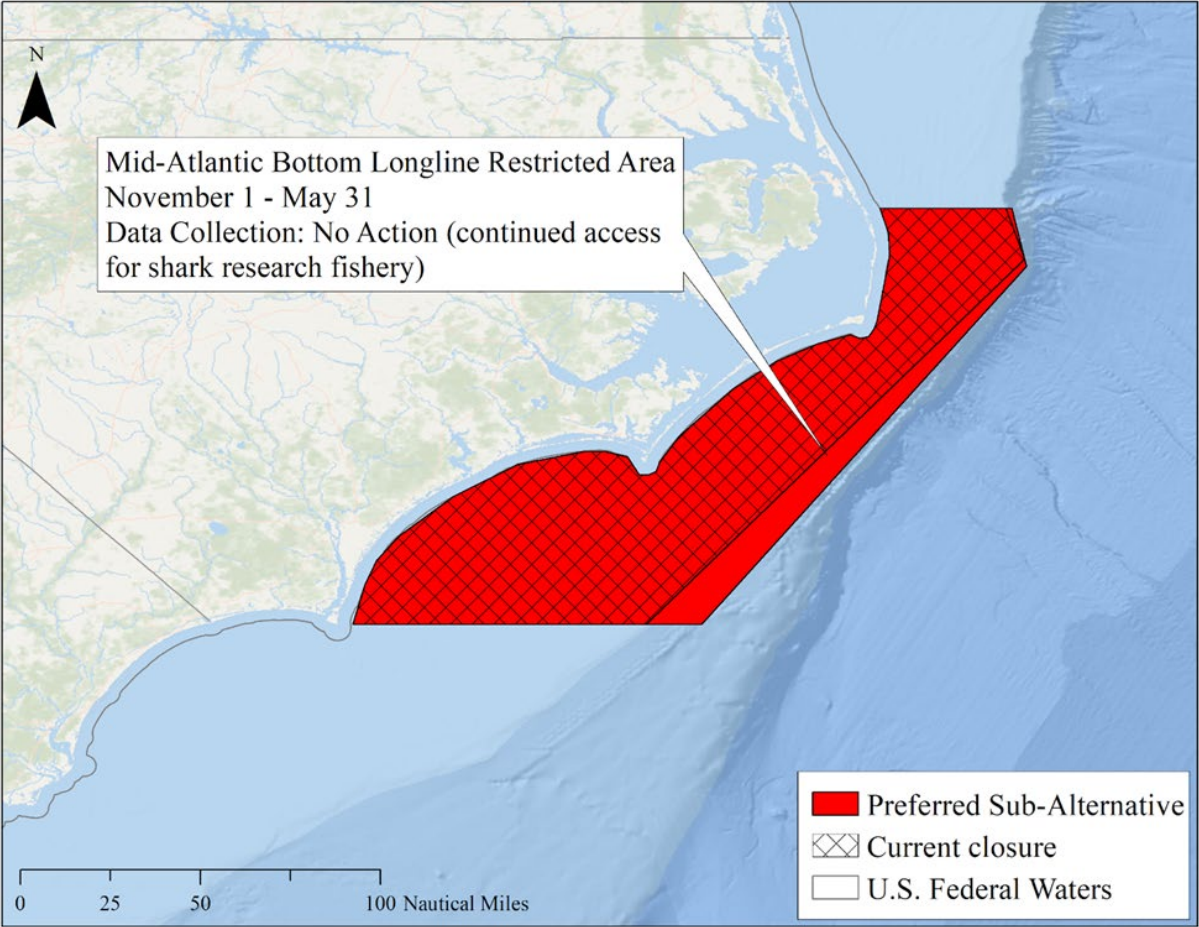
NOAA
FISHERIES

Amendment 15 - Spatial Management and Electronic Monitoring

- Rule publishes 05/5/2023; Comment period ends 09/15/2023
- Two broad components:
 - Spatial Management: Consider modifications, data collection, and assessment for 4 spatial management areas
 - Pelagic Longline Electronic Monitoring (EM) Cost Allocation: Consider shifting pelagic longline EM sampling costs from the Agency to industry
- For the spatial management component, we looked at:
 - “A” Alternatives: Evaluation and modification of the areas
 - “B” Alternatives: Commercial data collection programs
 - “C” Alternatives: Evaluation timing of the areas



Preferred Alternative Package: Mid-Atlantic Shark Area



Alternative	Preferred Alternative
“A” - Evaluation and Modification of Areas	A1d - Extend eastern boundary; Shift closed timing to November 1 – May 31
“B” - Commercial Data Collection	High Bycatch Risk Area: B1 - No Action, maintain current data collection programs
	Low Bycatch Risk Area: B1 - No low-bycatch-risk area defined
“C” - Evaluation Timing	C2 - Evaluate every 3 years
	C4 - Triggered evaluation

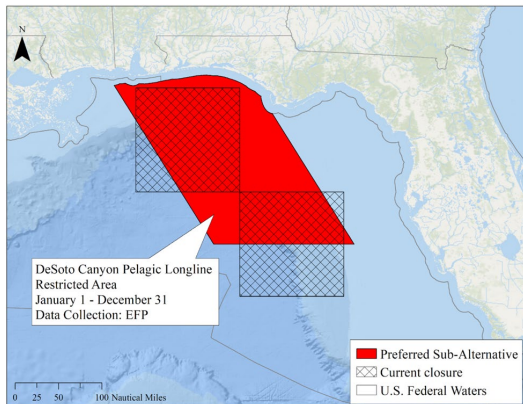
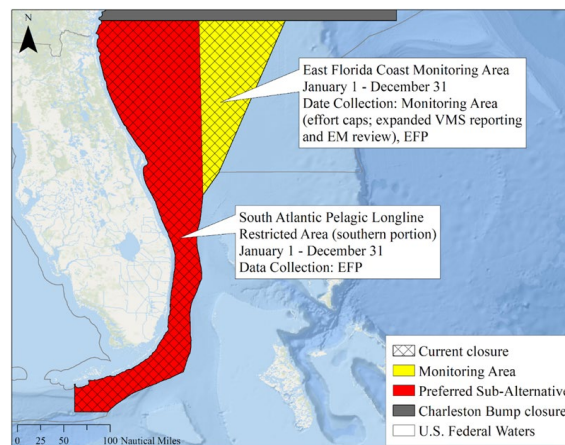
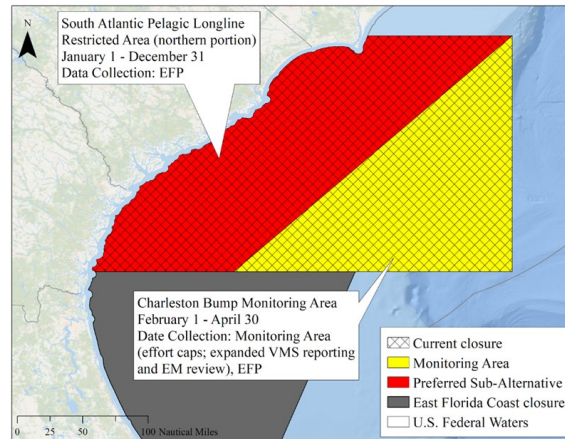
Ecological, Social, and Economic impacts expected to be neutral due to low effort



Other preferred alternatives:

- Preferred Pelagic Longline Area Alternatives

- **Alternative E2:** Add regulatory provisions for review of spatial management areas to 50 CFR 635.35(c)
- **Alternative F2:** Transfer EM Sampling Costs to Industry
 - Industry pays 100% of sampling costs (e.g., equipment purchase, installation, maintenance; video review and storage; service provide fees)
 - Phased-in over 3 years
 - There are 4 components to this alternative: vendor requirements, vessel requirements, vessel monitoring plan, and modification of EM Individual Bluefin Quota spatial/temporal requirements



Further Information Available:

Action	Comment Period Ends	Webpage
Amendment 14 - Shark ABC Control Rule	NA - Final	https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-14-2006-consolidated-hms-fishery-management-plan-shark-quota-management
Shark Fishery Review (SHARE)	NA - Final	https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/final-atlantic-shark-fishery-review
Oceanic whitetip and hammerhead sharks (Proposed)	5/22/2023	https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/proposed-rule-retention-prohibition-oceanic-whitetip-sharks-us-atlantic-waters-and
Amendment 16 - Shark Quotas and Management (Scoping)	<i>Expected</i> 8/18/2023	<i>Will be:</i> https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/scoping-amendment-16-2006-consolidated-atlantic-highly-migratory-species-fishery-management
Electronic Reporting (ANPR)	<i>Expected</i> 8/18/2023	<i>Will be:</i> https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/advance-notice-proposed-rulemaking-electronic-reporting-requirements
Amendment 15 - Spatial management and Electronic Monitoring (Proposed)	9/15/2023	https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-15-2006-consolidated-hms-fishery-management-plan-spatial-management-EM



Questions?

HMS Management Division - Regulations Branch

(301) 427-8503

Branch Chief: Karyl Brewster-Geisz, karyl.brewster-geisz@noaa.gov

Sharks (any rule listed above):

Guy DuBeck, guy.dubeck@noaa.gov

Ann Williamson, ann.williamson@noaa.gov

Amendment 15:

Steve Durkee, steve.durkee@noaa.gov

Larry Redd, Jr., larry.redd@noaa.gov

Electronic Reporting:

Carrie Soltanoff, carrie.soltanoff@noaa.gov

Thank you!



**NOAA
FISHERIES**