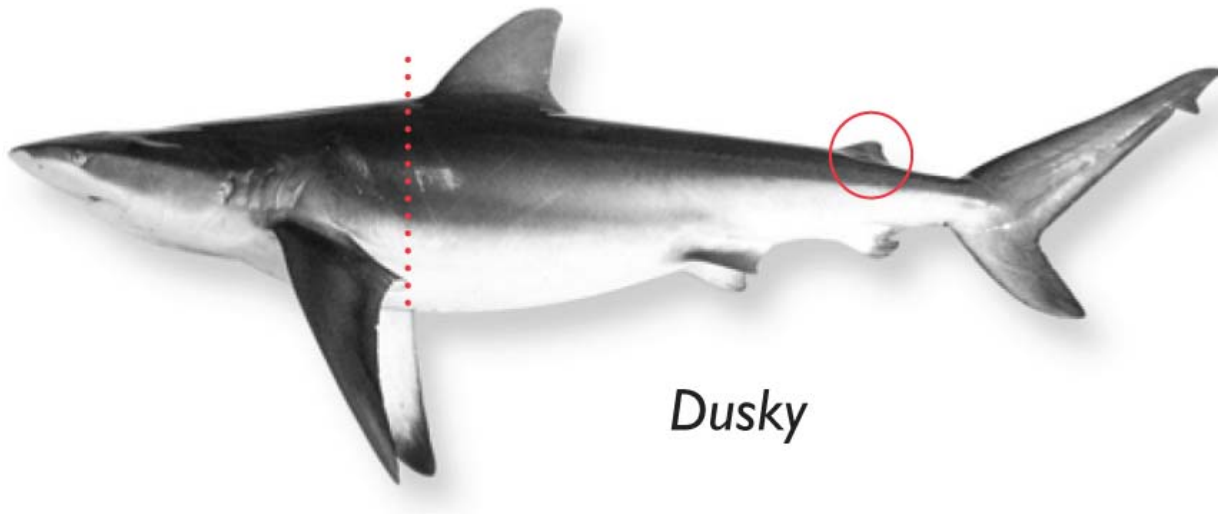


**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

## Amendment 5b - Dusky Sharks: Summary of Final Measures & Implementation



*Dusky*

Presented to:  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
October 2017

# Outline

- Brief Background
- Final A5b Measures and Implementation Status
- Request for Complementary Measures



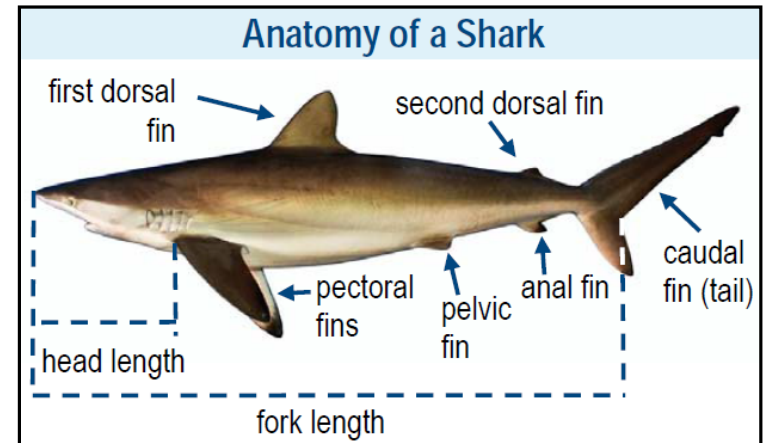
# Brief Background

- SEDAR 21 Stock Assessment Update – July-September 2016
  - Determined dusky sharks were overfished, experiencing overfishing
  - Mortality reduction of 12% needed to end overfishing
  - Mortality reduction of 35% needed to rebuild by 2107 (90 years)
- Proposed Rule published October 18, 2016 (81 FR 71672)
- Final EIS released February 24, 2017 – 30-day “review” period
- Final Rule published April 4, 2017 (82 FR 16478)
  - Some measures effective June 5, 2017; remainder January 1, 2018



# Final Recreational Measures

- **Alternative A2:** Require HMS permit holders fishing for sharks recreationally to obtain a **shark endorsement**, which requires completion of an online shark identification and fishing regulation training course, in order to retain sharks - **Effective January 1, 2018**
  - Built into permit application/renewal website
  - Educational video (~2 minutes)
    - Dusky (Ridgeback) Shark ID
    - Safe handling and release
    - Circle hook requirements
    - Recreational regulations
  - Quiz (~7 multiple choice questions)
    - Educational tool; Everyone passes
  - Additional recreational outreach materials
- **Implementation Status:** Video is available; new and revised placards and Handling and Release guide complete; Quiz set to be available when 2018 permits available



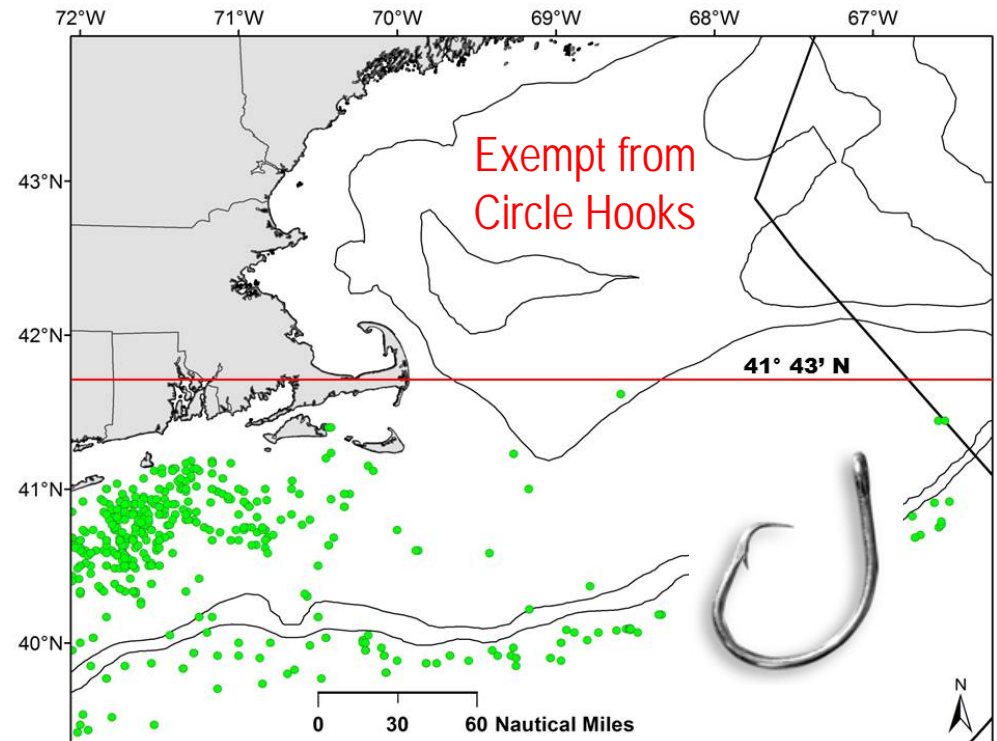
# Final Recreational Measures

- **Alternative A6d:** Require the use of non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks by all HMS permit holders with a shark endorsement when fishing for sharks recreationally south of 41° 43' N latitude, except when fishing with flies or artificial lures – **Effective January 1, 2018**

- Sharks incidentally caught on J-hooks must be released

- Line-by-line basis for circle hooks

- **Implementation Status:**  
Outreach begun



# Final Commercial Measures

- **Alternative B3:** Fishermen with an Atlantic shark limited access permit with pelagic longline gear must release all sharks not being retained using a dehooker or by cutting the gangion less than three feet from the hook, *as safely as practicable* – **Effective June 5, 2017**; *Information provided in mandatory workshops*
- **Alternative B5:** Require completion of shark identification and fishing regulation training as a new part of the Safe Handling, Identification, and Release Workshop for vessel owners and operators of a HMS limited access permitted vessel that fishes with pelagic longline, bottom longline, or shark gillnet gear – **Effective June 5, 2017**; *New information being shown at mandatory workshops*
- **Alternative B6:** Increase dusky shark outreach and awareness through development of additional commercial fishery outreach materials, and require pelagic longline, bottom longline, and shark gillnet vessels with shark limited access permits to abide by a dusky shark fleet communication and relocation protocol – **Effective June 5, 2017**; *Information provided in mandatory workshops*
- **Alternative B9:** Require the use of circle hooks by all shark directed limited access permit holders using bottom longline gear – **Effective January 1, 2018**; *outreach begun and information provided in mandatory workshops*

# Summary

- The final measures will:
  - End overfishing immediately
  - Achieve mortality reduction target recommended by the stock assessment update to rebuild by 2107

## Final Recreational Measures

### Alternative A2

Shark Endorsement Training and Quiz  
– **Effective Jan. 1, 2018**

### Alternative A6d

Non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks for all HMS permit holders with a shark endorsement when fishing for sharks recreationally south of 41° 43' N latitude, except when fishing with flies or artificial lures – **Effective Jan. 1, 2018**

## Final Commercial Measures

### Alternative B3

Shark limited access permit holders fishing with PLL must release all sharks not being retained using a dehooker or cutting the gangion less than three feet from the hook, as safely as practicable – **Effective June 5, 2017**

### Alternative B5

Safe Handling, Identification, and Release Workshops for HMS pelagic longline, bottom longline, and shark gillnet vessel owners and operators  
– **Effective June 5, 2017**

### Alternative B6

Commercial outreach, and require HMS PLL, BLL, and shark gillnet vessels to abide by a dusky shark fleet communication and relocation protocol  
– **Effective June 5, 2017**

### Alternative B9

Require the use of circle hooks by all HMS directed shark permit holders using bottom longline gear – **Effective Jan. 1, 2018**



# Request for Complementary Measures

- Assist with outreach and education; provide links to NOAA Fisheries materials
- Collaborate on development of best practices for the handling and release of sharks when shore and pier fishing
- Consider requiring circle hooks in various state hook and line fisheries (e.g., recreational, short lines, commercial handgear)
- Consider requiring fishermen to maximize gear removal before releasing sharks
- Consider cooperative research with NOAA Fisheries to improve estimates of dusky (and other) sharks caught in state water fisheries – maybe via the shark research fishery





# Questions?



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



# **Coastal Sharks TC Review of Amendment 5b**

Coastal Sharks Management Board  
October 17, 2017

# Background



- Board Meeting in May 2017
  - Request for the Board to consider Cooperative research with NOAA Fisheries to improve estimates of dusky (and other) sharks caught in state water fisheries.
- TC met via conference call on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the provisions of the Amendment

# Amendment 5b



- NOAA Fisheries: interest in collecting additional fishery dependent data for future stock assessments
- Current shark dependent data: 5 commercial vessels with 100% observer coverage in federal waters
  - Gear: Bottom longline and limited to no more than 300 hooks\*
- Fishermen must keep all dead sharks\*\* and are allowed to fish for & sell sandbar sharks.

# Amendment 5b cont'd



## Challenges with extending research into state waters:

- Fishing for sandbar sharks is prohibited in state waters
- Current bottom longline gear length may exceed requirements of “short lines” in state waters
- Fishermen keep over the commercial retention limits
- Fishing for large coastal sharks based on a quota other than the aggregated LCS quota\*
- States requires NMFS to apply for research permit, which is not automatic or easily obtained

# Additional State Notes



## Georgia

- Though allowed in the Coastal Sharks FMP, long lines and gill nets are not allowed in state waters
- No current commercial fishery and no need for fishery independent (FI) data collection
- Over 17+ season of FI data collection, no documented dusky sharks in territorial waters
  - 5 species are though (Atlantic sharpnose, bonnethead, blacknose, blacktip, and sandbar)

# Additional State Notes



**North Carolina** has two concerns about shark research in state waters:

- 1) The NC scientific permit application requires the applicant to be affiliated with research institution
- 2) accurate reporting of research versus commercial landings
- Currently one NC fishermen participates and is not affiliated with research institution
  - NOAA Fisheries is responsible for the scientific permit, though legally they are not\*\*\*
  - Potential fix on commercial vs research landings

# Additional State Notes



- **South Carolina**

- State will allow HMS research fishery in state waters if the individual has a SC scientific research permit.

- **Virginia and Florida**

- Request on the call about allowable gear types in state water and if they allow the HMS research fishery in state waters.
- FL: ban on longlines and gillnets in state waters and will not be lifted for shark research





# NOAA Shark Tagging Program

- Questions on angler participation in program
  - SC: anglers must have a scientific research permit to tag a fish.
  - FL; requires special activity license for all fish tagging
  - MA, MD, NC, GA do not require anglers participating in cooperative tagging efforts to have scientific research permits.



**Questions?**



# **State Feedback on Amendment 5b**

Coastal Sharks Management Board

October 17, 2017

# Outline



- Background
  - Questions
- State Feedback (Combined summarized by questions)
  - New York- Florida provided responses

# Background



Following May Meeting, the states were polled on the following questions regarding Amendment 5b provisions:

- 1) Does your state have communication materials to address best practices when fishing for sharks from the shore or piers?
- 2) Does your state require circle hooks when fishing for sharks or any other species?
- 3) Does your state have measures to maximize gear removal before releasing sharks (e.g. release using a dehooker or by cutting gangion less than 3 ft from hook)?

# Question #1



- 1) Does your state have communication materials to address best practices when fishing for sharks from the shore or piers?
  - Nearly even split (4 'Yes' and 5 'No')
  - Some qualified answers
  - Nearly all were in favor of 1a. Question of requiring communication materials
    - Many not interested in making it mandatory
    - Many noted that Commission and/or NOAA should develop these materials
    - Materials information should be consistent across states

# Question #2



2) Does your state require circle hooks when fishing for sharks or any other species?

- Predominately **'Yes'**
- NJ, DE, NC, FL all require circle hooks for other specific species
- MD, VA, NC, SC regulate short lines for the commercial fishery

Sub-question: Should the Commission require circle hooks

- 'Evenly' split (2 'No', 3 'Yes', and 4 either didn't answer or are neutral)

# Question #3



3) Does your state have measures to maximize gear removal before releasing sharks (e.g. release using a dehooker or by cutting gangion less than 3 ft from hook)?

- A majority of states do not
- Only 3 states currently have this measure or similar measure in place (NY, DE, VA)





**Questions?**



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

Proposed Rule to  
Establish the Quotas, Opening Dates, and  
Retention Limits for the 2018 Atlantic Shark  
Commercial Fishing Season  
*Atlantic Region Only*

Presented to ASMFC

October 2017

# Shark 2018 Proposed Shark Season Rule

- Published on 8/22/2017 (82 FR 39735)
- Proposed one adjustment due to over- and underharvests
  - ↑ Increase the Atlantic smoothhound shark management group quota based on a 600.9 mt dw (1,324,634 lb dw) underharvest
- Proposed to open all shark management groups approx. 1/1/2018
- Proposed 25 LCS other than sandbar sharks/vessel/trip commercial retention limits for directed permit holders
  - If quota is landed too quickly (e.g. if approximately 20 percent of quota is caught at the beginning of the year), NMFS anticipates inseason reduction (e.g., to 3 or fewer LCS other than sandbar sharks/vessel/trip). We would consider an inseason increase (for example, to 36 LCS other than sandbar sharks/vessel/trip) after considering the criteria for inseason adjustments around July 15, 2018
- Comment Period Ended September 21, 2017

# 2018 Proposed Adjusted Quotas, Retention Limits, and Opening Dates

Region or Sub-region	Management Group	2018 Annual Adjusted Quota	Quota Linkage	Commercial Retention Limits for Directed Shark Limited Access Permit Holders (inseason adjustments are possible)	Season Opening Dates
Atlantic	Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks	168.9 mt dw (372,552 lb dw)	Linked	25 large coastal sharks other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip  If quota is landed too quickly (e.g. if approx. 20% of quota is caught at the beginning of the year), NMFS anticipates inseason reduction (e.g. to 3 or fewer large coastal sharks other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip). We would consider an inseason increase (for example, 36 large coastal sharks other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip) after considering the criteria for inseason adjustments around July 15, 2018.	Jan 1, 2018
	Hammerhead Sharks	27.1 mt dw (59,736 lb dw)			
	Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks	264.1 mt dw (582,333 lb dw)	Linked (South of 34° N. lat. only)	N/A	
	Blacknose Sharks (South of 34° N. lat. only)	17.2 mt dw (37,921 lb dw)			
	Smoothhound Sharks	1,802.6 mt dw (3,973,902 lb dw)*	Not Linked	N/A	
No regional quotas	Non-Sandbar LCS Research	50.0 mt dw (110,230 lb dw)	Linked	N/A	Jan 1, 2018
	Sandbar Shark Research	90.7 mt dw (199,943 lb dw)			
	Blue Sharks	273.0 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	Not Linked	N/A	
	Porbeagle Sharks	1.7 mt dw (3,748 lb dw)			
	Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue	488.0 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)			

\*Base quota adjusted based on underharvest in 2017.