



*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations
for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful
restoration well in progress by 2015*



**Performance of 2011/2012 Spiny
Dogfish Fishery**
February 2012

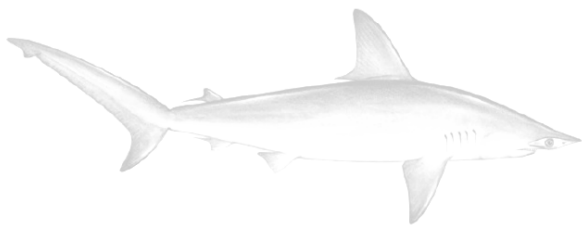




Background



- **Staff asked to put together a review of 2011/2012 fishery for this meeting**
 - **Concern about Northern Region overage**
- **Provide data for Board discussion**
- **Follows Whitepaper from briefing CD**

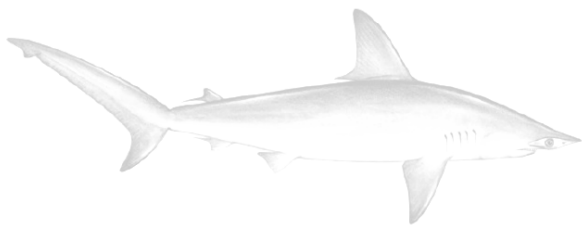




Federal Management

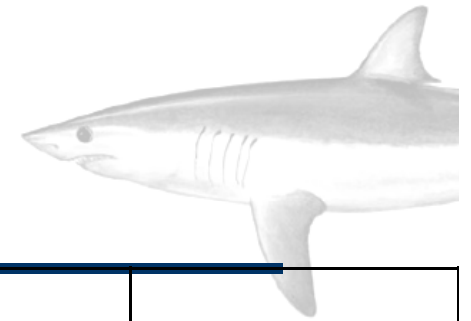


- **20 million pound quota and 3,000 pound possession limit in 2011/2012**
- **Seasonal quota allocation**
- **Period 1: May 1 – October 31 allocated 57.9% of Coastwide (= 11,580,000 lbs)**
- **Period 2: November 1 – April 30 allocated 42.1% of Quota (=8,420,000 lbs)**





Landings for Federal



	Landings (Pounds)	Quota (Pounds)	Overage (Pounds)	2011/2012 Closure Date	2010/2011 Closure Date	Possession Limit
Federal Period 1	12,800,377	11,580,000	1,220,377	26-Aug-11	27-Aug-10	3,000 lbs
Federal Period 2	6,981,982	8,420,000		13-Jan-12	1-Apr-11	3,000 lbs
Total	19,782,280	20,000,000				





ASMFC Management

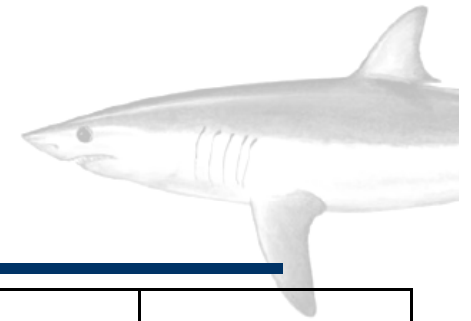


- **20,000,000 million pound quota**
- **Northern Region: Maine – Connecticut; 58% of coastwide quota = 11,600,000 lbs (prior to overage deductions for 2010/2011 season)**
- **Northern Region possession limit = 3,000 pounds**
- **Addendum III state shares for NY – NC. First season**
- **NY – NC set their own possession limit**
- **Overages are paid back by region or state the following season. A state does not lose quota if another region/state exceeds their allocation earlier in a fishing season**
- **Rollovers up to 5%**





Landing for ASMFC



	2011_2012 Landings	Percent Allocation	2011/2012 Quotas Adjusted for 2010/2011 overages (Pounds)	2011/2012 Remaining Quota (negative value indicates overage)	2011/2012 (Current Season) Closure Date	2010/2011 (Last Year) Closure Date
ME	350,437	58%	11,145,453	-1,280,157	01-Sep-11	25-Aug-10
NH	1,526,288					
MA	9,095,274					
RI	1,266,654					
CT	186,957					
NY	351,250	2.707%	538,698	187,448	Open	25-Mar-11 (was Southern Region in 2010/2011)
NJ	1,555,338	7.644%	1,521,170	-34,168	08-Jan-12	
DE	20,769	0.896%	178,306	157,537	Open	
MD	959,325	5.920%	1,178,091	218,766	Open	
VA	2,228,366	10.795%	2,148,224	-80,142	07-Dec-11	
NC	2,241,622	14.036%	2,738,552	496,930	Variable	Variable
Total	19,782,280					



Overages



- In previous years thought to be result of late reports and increased catch rates
- Lower amounts

Fishing Year	Coastwide Quota	Northern Region Quota	Northern Region Overage	% of Northern Quota	% of Coastwide Quota
2008/2009	8,000,000	4,572,067	49,619	1.1%	0.6%
2009/2010	12,000,000	6,910,381	427,552	6.2%	3.6%
2010/2011	15,000,000	8,272,448	454,547	5.5%	3.0%
2011/2012	20,000,000	11,145,453	1,280,157	11.5%	6.4%

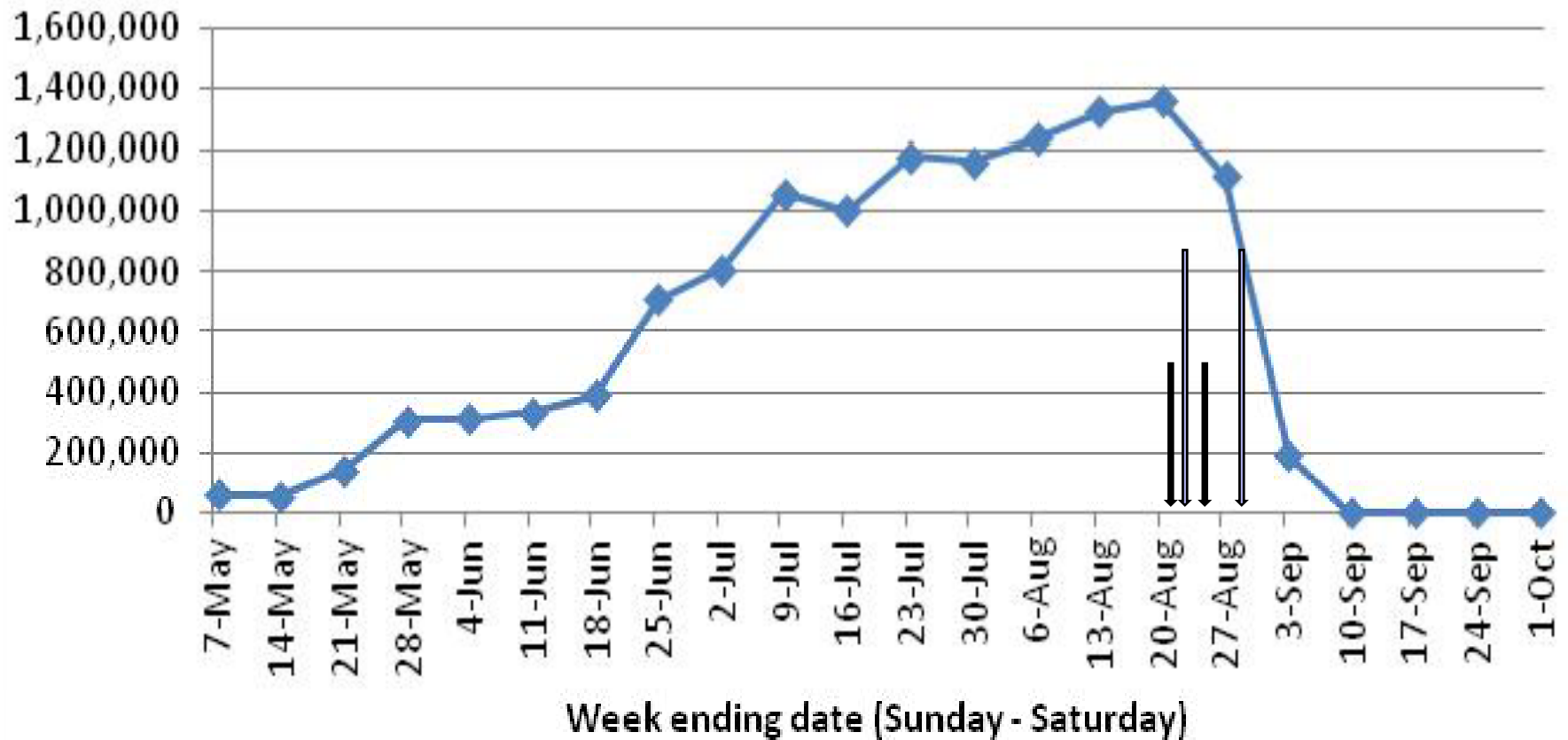




Landing Rates?



Weekly Spiny Dogfish Landings

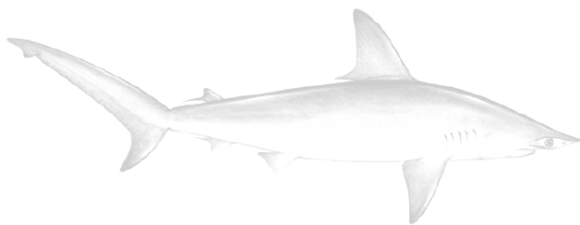




Late Landings?



State	Sept 1 - present (after closure)
ME	
NH	
MA	4,847
RI	316
CT	
Total	5,163



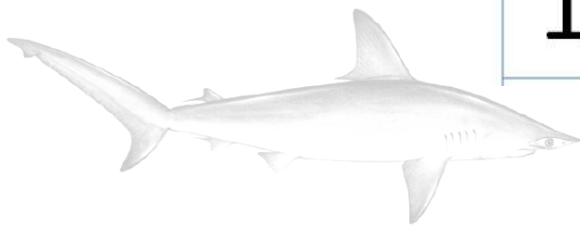


Late Reports?



- **Must report for Sunday – Saturday by Tuesday at midnight.**
- **Maximum 9 days (Sunday – Tuesday) difference to comply**

AUGUST 2011						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20





Late Reports for Week Before Closure?

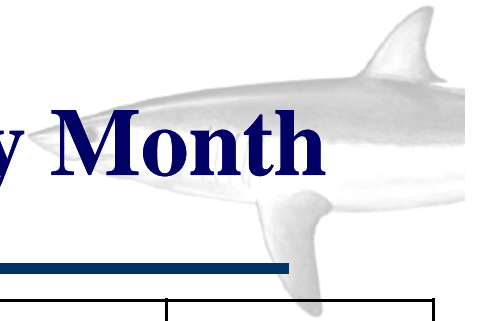


State	August 31 – Present (Tuesday after NMFS Closure)	September 7 – Present (Tuesday after NMFS Closure)
ME	60,021	***
NH	***	***
MA	808,033	246,773
RI	58,601	3,283
CT	***	
Total	1,054,916	383,136

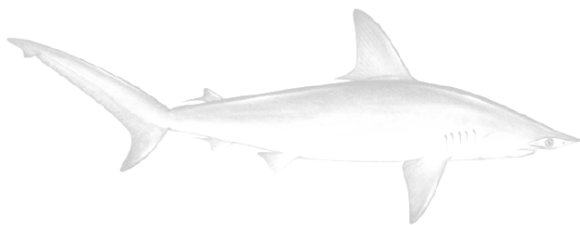




Late Reports (pounds) by Month



Month	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	Total
May			115,780	36,949	1,530	154,259
June	30,266	***	462,790	66,419	18,810	581,065
July	81,644	29,191	1,138,542	20,934		1,270,311
August	13,467	80,783	765,458	7,653	1,300	868,661
Sept.			***			584
Oct				***		15
Dec			***			3,000
Total	125,377	112,754	2,486,154	131,970	21,640	2,877,895

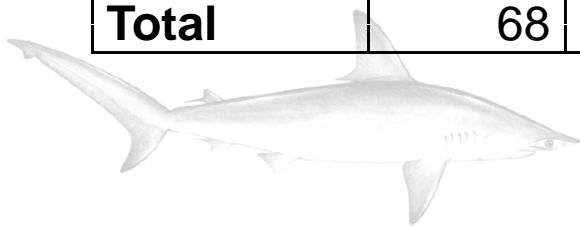




Number of Late Reports



Month	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	Total
May			204	71	3	278
June	20	***	344	117	12	494
July	42	17	503	74		636
August	6	32	343	34	2	417
Sept.			***			***
Oct				***		***
Dec			***			***
Total	68	50	1,396	297	17	1,828

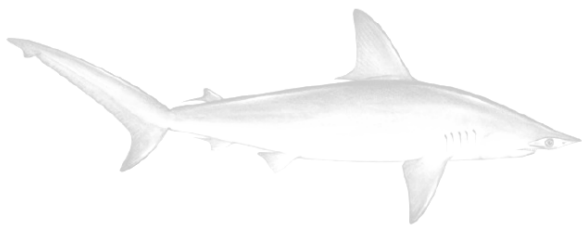




Potential Solutions?



- **Reduce late reports**
- **Direct staff to close at 95%**





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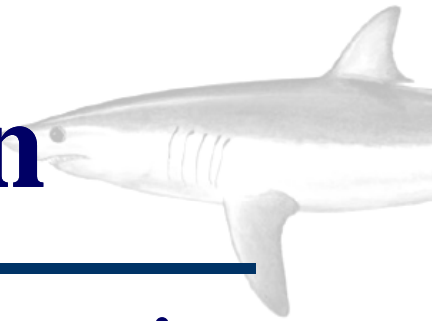


TC Recommendations for Spiny Dogfish Overfishing Definition

February 2012



Current Definition



- **$F_{\text{threshold}} = 1$ pup per female that recruit...**
- **$F_{\text{target}} = 1.5$ pups per female that recruit...**
- **Adopted based on MAFMC plan (2002 FMP)**
- **Quota derived from F rate**
 - **Calculate quota that achieves F rate (total harvest)**
 - **Subtract estimated discards, Canadian harvest, and recreational.**

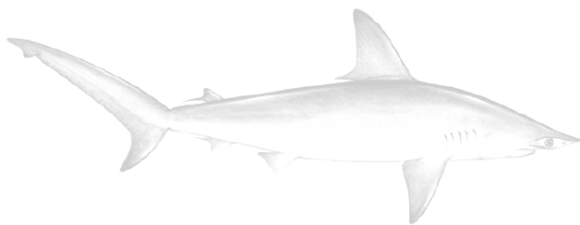




MAFMC Council



- **Framework 2 replaced previous overfishing definition with $F_{\text{threshold}}$ only (no target) as:**
 - F_{MSY} (or a reasonable proxy thereof) as a function of productive capacity, and based upon the best scientific information consistent with National Standards 1 and 2





TC Comments



- **ASMFC overfishing definition outdated, not based on best available science.**
- **Never uses ASMFC target or threshold definitions when setting quota. Previously used $F_{rebuild} = 0.11$**
- **Council has updated their definition.**
- **Complementary management harder to achieve with different quota starting points.**
 - **ASMFC $F_{threshold} = 0.207$**
 - **MAFMC $F_{threshold} = 0.243$**





TC Recommendations



Initiate an addendum to update the spiny dogfish overfishing definition

1. Fthreshold

A. Status quo

B. F_{MSY} (or a reasonable proxy thereof) as a function of productive capacity, and based upon the best available science. Currently 0.2439



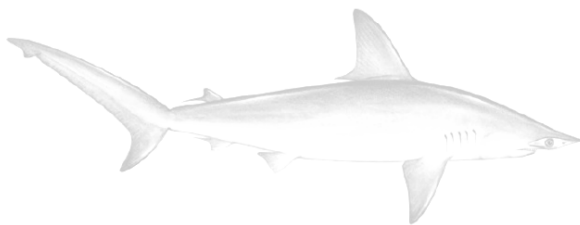


Addendum Cont.



1. F_{target}

- A. **Status quo:** Allows for the production [of] 1.5 female pups per female [that] recruit to the spawning stock biomass.
- B. $F_{target} = 75\%$ of $F_{threshold}$
- C. $F_{0.1}$: F level where the slope of the yield curve is 10% of the slope at $F = 0.0$
- D. The TC will recommend an F_{target} when making annual quota recommendations.



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Scoping and Comments for Amendment 5 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP





Scalloped Hammerhead Shark

Overfished; Overfishing occurring

Challenges and Potential Measures

General Challenges

- Overfished with overfishing occurring, yet not generally targeted in commercial shark fisheries
- High at-vessel mortality rates in the commercial bottom longline and gillnet fisheries
- Recreational landings averaged ~1,000 sharks per year from 2006-2009
- Retention prohibited in ICCAT (Com. and Rec.) fisheries

Management Options

- Develop a TAC and ACL for scalloped hammerhead sharks and create appropriate quotas
- Soak time, longline length, number of hooks restrictions
- Gear tending requirements for bottom longline
- Should scalloped hammerhead quota be linked with non-sandbar large coastal shark quota
- Time/Area closures
- Adjust bag limit/quotas for commercial and/or recreational fisheries
- Add to prohibited species list; add to shark research fishery priorities
- Employ gear technology to reduce mortality (electropositive metals, weak hooks)



Dusky Shark

Overfished; Overfishing occurring

Challenges and Potential Measures

General Challenges

- Prohibited from recreational and commercial retention, yet F needs to be reduced by 2/3 to meet rebuilding goals.
- High at-vessel mortality rates in the commercial bottom longline and gillnet fisheries
- Reported landings in recreational fisheries

Management Options

- Explore management options that minimize dusky shark interactions with fishing gear
- Soak time, longline length, number of hooks restrictions
- Gear tending requirements for bottom longline
- Time/Area closures
- Education/outreach to recreational fishery participants
- Employ gear technology to reduce mortality (electropositive metals, weak hooks)



Sandbar Shark

Overfished; Overfishing not occurring

Challenges and Potential Measures

General Challenges

- Stock is still overfished, but the rebuilding timeframe has improved from the previous assessment
- Overfishing is no longer occurring, and the current TAC (220 mt) should allow for rebuilding to continue

Management Options

- Stock rebuilding should continue with the status quo TAC, so are additional management measures necessary?



Blacknose Shark

Atlantic: **Overfished; Overfishing occurring**

Gulf of Mexico: **Overfished Unknown; Overfishing Unknown**

Challenges and Potential Measures

General Challenges

- Previous stock assessment addressed one stock of blacknose shark. Most recent stock assessment split the population into two stocks; Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico
- Atlantic: Overfished with overfishing occurring. TAC rebuilding estimate of 7,300 sharks
- Gulf of Mexico: Assessment rejected due to lack of model fit with some data; therefore, the overfishing and overfished statuses are unknown; no TAC estimate for Gulf of Mexico

Management Options

- Will need to set TACs and ACLs for both blacknose shark stocks
- How should quotas be set for each region with only a recommendation for the Atlantic?
 - Previous TAC (19,200) - Atlantic recommendation (7,300) = Gulf of Mexico TAC? (11,900)
 - Gulf of Mexico percentage of previous TAC (51%) = Gulf of Mexico TAC? (~9,800)
- Should blacknose quota continue to be linked with the small coastal shark quota?



Some Comments

General

- The science is not reflecting what fishermen are seeing on the water
- NMFS needs to provide more information about catch location, species distribution, and the contribution of each gear type, sector, and fishery to total mortality
- Need to examine incidental mortality in other fisheries and address that mortality there as well
- Speed up implementation of Amendment 6 and apply catch shares to address mortality issues

Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks

- If NMFS can identify a discrete area where scalloped hammerheads congregate, a time/area closure might be appropriate
- Add scalloped, smooth and great hammerhead sharks to the prohibited list

Dusky Sharks

- Since the species is already prohibited, time/area closures might be the only option
- The necessary fishing mortality reduction could be achieved solely through the recreational fishery



Some Comments

Sandbar Sharks

- Since the species can rebuild under the current TAC, no action should be taken
- The sandbar population appears to very high. Fishermen in the research fishery are seeing a high CPUE for sandbar sharks

Blacknose Sharks

- Split the previous TAC between the GOM and Atlantic using historical landings data (51%/49%), then reduce the Atlantic down to 7,300 sharks
- Set the Atlantic quota equal to 7,300 sharks and give the remainder of the sharks from the last assessment ($19,200 - 7,300 = 11,900$) to the GOM
- De-link the blacknose and SCS quota
- Need to reconsider the policy of discouraging blacknose landings. Even if fishermen aren't landing them, there could still be mortality



Some Comments

Soak time

- Reducing soak times could decrease dead discards
- Soak time restrictions are too difficult to enforce

Gear Tending

- Tending gear reduces incidental mortality. Need to study the feasibility of tended BLL or bottom buoy gear
- NMFS should implement a gear tending requirement. Fishermen should not temporarily abandon gear. This alone could reduce incidental mortality on all LCS

Gear Modifications

- Circle hooks in both the recreational and commercial fisheries could be effective
- If NMFS requires the use of new gear technology, there needs to be science to back it up
- Weak hooks worked in the GOM because it was advantageous that the larger fish are the ones fishermen are trying to avoid, unlike the shark fisheries



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TC Management Recommendations for SEDAR 21 Blacknose, Dusky, and Sandbar Assessment

February 2012

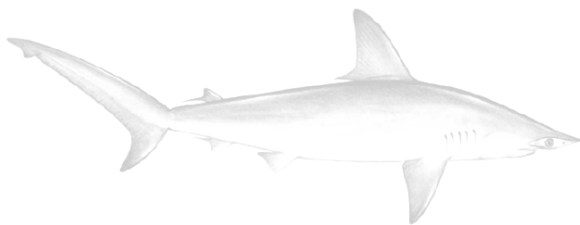




General



- **Management response probably necessary for blacknose and dusky.**
- **Premature to take action at this time**
 - **Complementary managed, federal response is general at this time**
 - **TC will review after Amendment 5 draft is available**

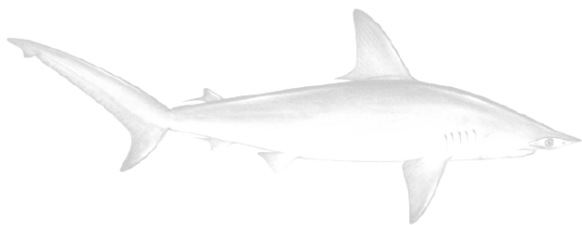




Dusky



- **Prohibited under ASMFC plan**
- **Bycatch reduction may be necessary**
- **Federal measures may be sufficient**
- **States could promote education in the interim**





Blacknose



- **F rate controlled through federal quotas**
- **ASMFC opens and closes with federal waters**
- **Federal quota reduction could suffice**
- **Recreational size limit (54'' fork length)
inconsistent between state and federal waters**
 - **Impact unknown but may recommend in future**



Science, Service, Stewardship



Update of Highly Migratory Species Rulemaking and Draft Amendment 6

Highly Migratory Species (HMS)
Management Division
NMFS/NOAA

February 2012

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Overview

- Issues and Options for Draft Amendment 6 (Catch Shares)
- 2012 Shark Season Specifications
- Other Actions

Science, Service, Stewardship



Draft Amendment 6 (Catch Shares)

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Background

Introduction

- Comments from ANPR topics (Summer/Fall 2010):
 - Quota Structure—species complexes/quotas, regions, retention limits
 - Permit Structure—permit stacking, “use it or lose it”
 - Catch Shares—support and opposition

- Among other comments, NMFS received a catch share proposal from GOM stakeholders:
 - Replace current LCS management structure with an IFQ program
 - Integrate IFQ into existing catch share programs in the GOM
 - Proposal included details on species, participants, qualifying years, and other IFQ issues

- Comments from April 2011 AP Meeting:
 - AP members were generally supportive of a catch share program
 - Fishermen would like to know their landings history before making a decision
 - NMFS needs to hear from all constituents



Amendment 6

Notice of Intent (76 FR 57709)

- NMFS is considering implementing a catch share program for the Atlantic shark fisheries
 - Control Date – September 16, 2011
 - Please **DO NOT** request your landings history at this time
 - Feedback on Catch Share Design Elements for the Atlantic Shark Fishery*
 - Workshops
 - End of Comment Period- March 31, 2012



*NOTE: Topics are discussed more fully in the Catch Shares White Paper for the Atlantic Shark Fisheries.

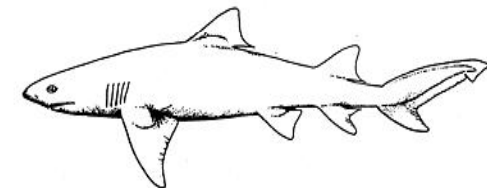


Region

Which regions should be included?



Species Group	Region
LCS	GOM
	ATL
SCS	No regional quotas
blacknose	
blue	
porbeagle	
pelagics	





Which species should be included?

Species

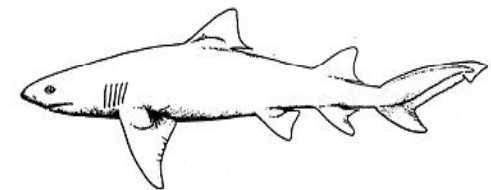
sandbar,
blacknose,
porbeagle,
and blue
sharks

Complex

- **non-sandbar large coastal sharks (LCS):** blacktip, bull, spinner, lemon, nurse, hammerheads
- **non-blacknose small coastal sharks (SCS):** Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, and bonnethead sharks
- **Pelagics:** shorfin mako, thresher, oceanic, whitetip, porbeagle, and blue sharks

Aggregate

non-blacknose SCS,
LCS, and pelagics





Which gears should be included?

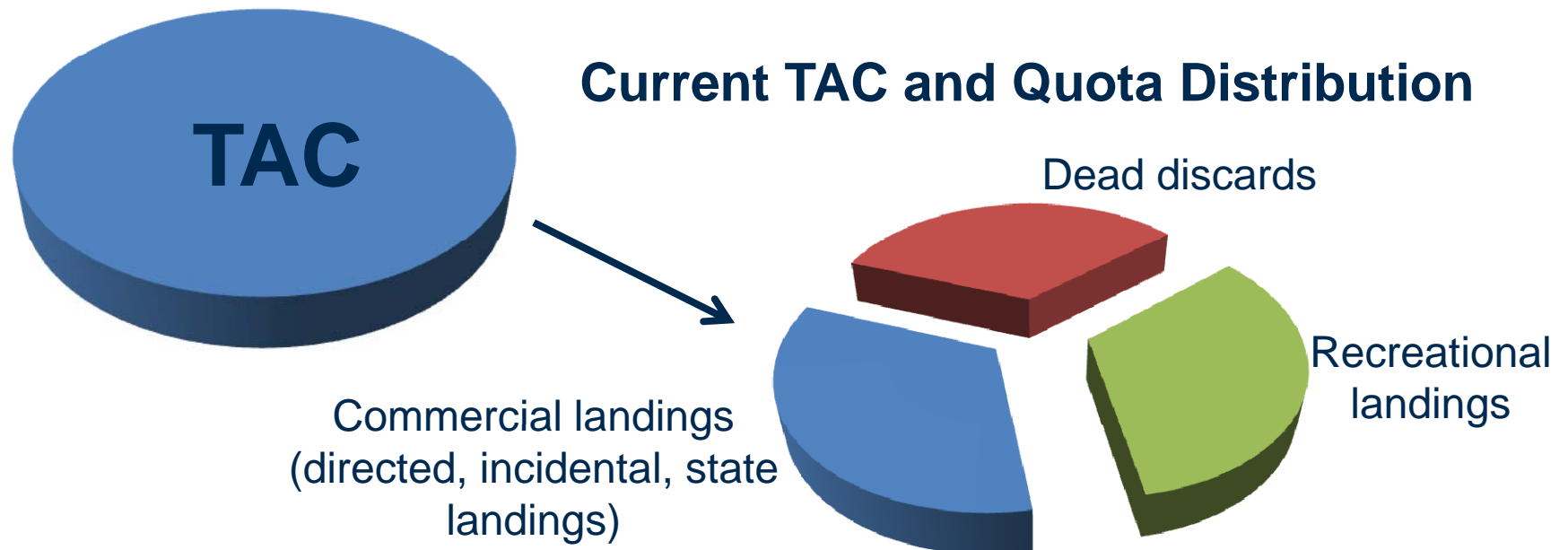
- Bottom longline (BLL)
- Pelagic longline (PLL)
- Handgear (rod and reel, handline and bandit)
- Gillnet





Who should NMFS include in the catch share program?

- Directed, Incidental and Recreational Permit Holders?

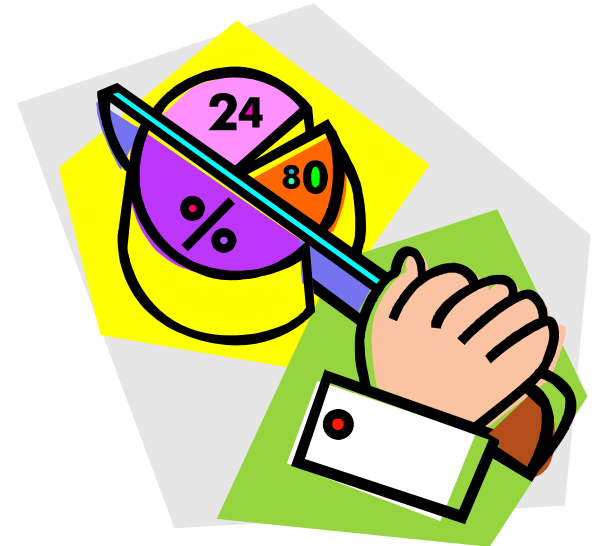




Allocation

How should shares be distributed?

- Allocation Formulas
 - Equal allocation
 - Catch History
 - Level of participation
 - Combination





Management Measures

Additional Management Measures:

- Duration – Length of catch share program
- Transferability – Trading/Selling shares (including who is eligible?)
- Monitoring and data recovery – Logbooks, VMS
- Enforcement - Hail in/out, restrict offloading times, approved landings sites
- Cost Recovery – Cannot exceed 3%



Questions

- Should NMFS encompass all regions (Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico) or only the Gulf of Mexico?
- What shark species should be included?
- Who should be eligible to receive an initial allocation?
- Who should be eligible to receive transfers after the initial allocation (i.e., new entrants)?
- What qualifying years should NMFS use?
- What allocation formulas should NMFS use (e.g., equal allocation, catch history, level of participation, combination)?
- What about the other management issues (duration, transferability, monitoring and data collection, enforcement, cost recovery, referendum)?



Next Steps

- Scoping Workshops – Fall 2011/Spring 2012
- Pre-Draft – Mid 2012
- Proposed Rule – TBD
- Final Rule - TBD

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/sharks/catchshares.htm>



2012 Shark Specifications

- Final rule published January 24, 2012
 - Adjusts quotas based on over- and underharvest from 2010 and 2011
 - Establishes season opening dates
 - Non-Sandbar LCS: GOM – February 15, 2012; Atlantic – July 15, 2012 (or effective date for eDealer, whichever comes first)
 - All other shark fisheries: January 24, 2012



Other HMS Actions

HMS Action	Overview	Dates
Electronic HMS Dealer Reporting (eDealer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Would require all Federally-permitted Atlantic HMS dealers to report commercially-harvested Atlantic sharks, swordfish, and BAYS tunas to NMFS through an electronic reporting system on a more frequent basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on Final Rule • Implementation: Fall 2012
Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)	Requires fishermen to replace currently required MTU VMS units with E-MTU VMS units in Atlantic HMS fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Rule: Published Dec. 2, 2011 • All vessels required to have E-MTU VMS installed and begin providing declarations by March 1, 2012
Shark Conservation Act	Would implement the smoothhound savings clause for the Shark Conservation Act and reconsider the current smoothhound quota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Drafting proposed rule and EA



Other HMS Actions

HMS Action	Overview	Dates
2012 Shark Research Fishery	Cooperative research with commercial shark permit holders and Agency scientists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishery opens January 24, 2012
Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) Workshops	Various data, assessment, and review workshops associated with the SEDAR process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data workshop for GOM blacktip sharks: February 14, 2012
Advisory Panel (AP) Nominations	Biannual Advisory Panel meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next HMS AP meeting March 13-15, 2012 (Silver Spring, MD)



Any Questions?

Contact: Karyl Brewster-Geisz

• Phone: 301-427-8503

• Email: Karyl.Brewster-Geisz@noaa.gov

• HMS Management Division Webpage:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/index.htm>

• Sign up for “Atlantic HMS News” for updates:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/newslist/>

• Atlantic Shark Catch Shares Webpage:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/sharks/catchshares.htm>



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Shark Conservation Act of 2010





Provisions



Amends Magnuson-Stevens Act to prohibit:

- **Removal of any fins of a shark (including the tail) at sea.**
- **Possession of shark fin at sea unless naturally attached to carcass.**
- **Transferring (or receiving) any such fin from one vessel to another.**
- **Landing any such fin that is not naturally attached to carcass.**

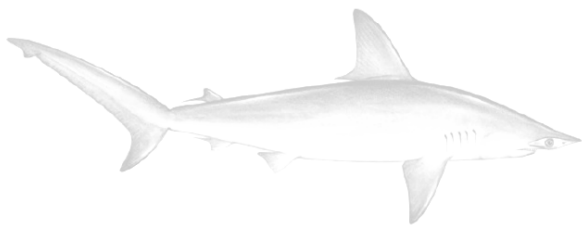




Savings Clause



- **Amendments do not apply to individuals engaged in commercial fishing for smooth dogfish...**
 - **Between shore and 50 nautical miles from shore.**
 - **If individual holds valid state commercial fishing license.**
 - **And total weight of fins do not exceed 12% of total weight of smooth dogfish.**





ASMFC Smooth Dogfish Measures



- **FMP requires that all shark fins must remain attached naturally through landing.**
- **Addendum I:**
 - **Allows commercial fishermen to remove smooth dogfish fins from March 1 – June 30.**
 - **Fins cannot exceed 5% total weight.**
- **HMS plans to implement SCA.**

