Committee on Economics and Social Sciences

Updates to Roles and Responsibilities

Guiding Documents

- Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and Striped Bass Conservation Act contain no requirements for conducting fisheries socioeconomics studies or incorporating socioeconomic information into management decisions
- Section 6 of the ISFMP Charter
  - The Commission recognizes that an effective fishery management program must be carefully designed in order to fully reflect the varying values and other considerations that are important to the various interest groups involved in coastal fisheries. **Social and economic impacts and benefits must be taken into account.** Management measures should focus on conservation while allowing states to make allocation decisions. Above all, an FMP must include conservation and management measures that ensure the long-term biological health and productivity of fishery resources under management."

CESS Management Restructure

- How can we best utilize CESS?
- Proposed developing an RFP
- CESS members are volunteers!
- CESS as a steering committee
  - Active role in TC/PDT discussions
  - Form guidance for the Policy Board towards specific socioeconomic issues
  - Help PB choose the appropriate consultants/researchers etc. to collect or analyze data

CESS Purpose

- Nominate individual CESS members to serve on each ASMFC species technical committee (TC) or socioeconomic subcommittee and plan development team (PDT), in order to provide technical support for the development of socioeconomic sections of fishery management plans (including amendments and in some cases addenda).

CESS Purpose

- Establish subcommittees of the CESS or other work groups as necessary to serve on TCs/PDTs when a significant management action is anticipated for a species. This will allow for sufficient distribution of workload as well as provide multiple regional perspectives.

Primary Activities

- According to the guidelines, there will be at least one member appointed to each species PDT and TC (the same individual/s for a given species). While it is at the member's discretion upon reviewing the agenda to decide whether their participation at specific PDT and TC meetings is needed, they are expected to participate frequently enough to identify pertinent economics and social science issues. Regulatory actions considered by PDTs will require the most participation, but the members should also be familiar with the biological and/or other rationales for management as put forward by the TCs. When significant management actions are anticipated, the CESS species representatives may request CESS members form a workgroup for assistance.

Primary Activities

- CESS will meet at least annually to review current socioeconomic topics and issues pertaining to ASMFC species. Committee members assigned to each species TC/PDT will be responsible for reporting out to the group on their specific species, when appropriate. This will keep other CESS members informed of upcoming management actions, allowing members to have a more active knowledge of ASMFC species and to give advice. These meetings will also form the basis of the development of the socioeconomic research needs list.

Primary Activities

- Developing a socioeconomic research needs list. CESS will prepare a report at least every three years for ISFMP Policy Board that will outline the greatest critical gaps in socioeconomic knowledge for ASMFC species. This report should be used to guide recommendations for the development of future socioeconomic data collection and/or analysis initiatives, and subsequent ASMFC request for proposals (RFPs).

Primary Activities

- Serve in an advisory role to the ISFMP Policy Board, as well as individual species Management Boards, to decide what socioeconomic analyses and related data are needed. CESS will guide the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of ASMFC coastal fishery management strategies through their role as a steering committee.
- Serve as a steering committee for ASMFC RFPs. The CESS will provide counsel on appropriate parties to distribute socioeconomic RFPs. The CESS will review proposals (with the assistance of CESS-identified outside peer reviewers if necessary) and decide how to distribute ASMFC RFP funding.

Primary Activities

- Provide periodic educational activities to the ASMFC on socioeconomic topics to maintain member awareness and understanding of relevant issues and considerations. These educational as will be created by request to ensure that topics are of ASMFC interest.

CESS Membership

Vacant	ME	Ray Rhodes	SC
Rob Robertson	NH	Vacant	GA
Madeleine Hall-Arber	MA (Chair)	Manoj Shivlani	FL
Caroline Karp	RI	Sabrina Lovell	NMFS HQ
Syma Ebbin	CT (Vice-Chair)	Tara Scott	NMFS HQ
Antoinette Clemetson	NY	Vacant	NEFMC
Vacant	NJ	Jose Montanez	MAFMC
Vacant	PA	Brian Cheuvront	SAFMC
Jim Falk	DE	Matt McPherson	NERO
Jorge Holzer	MD	Stephen Holiman	SERO
Andrew Scheld	VA	James Caudill	USFWS
John Hadley	NC	Winnie Ryan	(addtl member)

- Up to five additional members should also be considered based on need and willingness to serve.

Future Directions for Socioeconomics

- Two Part Question:
- What do you want in FMPs?
  - Simple vs. Comprehensive socioeconomic advice?
  - Rely on Commissioner expertise, or CESS/contractor studies
- How do you want CESS to operate?
  - Committee work voluntary → variable productivity
  - Steering Committee to guide contractor projects

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management

Draft Amendment 6 to the 2006 Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan

February 2015

Outline

- Introduction
- SEDAR 34 Stock Assessment
  - Atlantic sharpnose and bonnethead sharks
- Range of Alternatives
  - Permit stacking
  - Commercial shark retention limits
  - Regional and sub-regional quotas in Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico (GOM)
  - Commercial vessel upgrading restrictions
- Timeline

Current Issues Facing the Atlantic Shark Fisheries

- Commercial landings that exceed the quotas
- Declining numbers of fishing permits since limited access was implemented
- Increasing complexity of regulations
- Derby fishing conditions due to small quotas and short seasons
- Increasing numbers of regulatory discards
- Declining market prices

Objectives

- Continuing to rebuild overfished shark stocks
- Preventing overfishing of shark stocks
- Increasing the efficiency in the Large Coastal Shark (LCS) and Small Coastal Shark (SCS) fisheries
- Maintaining or increasing equity across all shark fishermen and regions
- Promoting economic viability for the shark fishery participants
- Obtaining optimum yield from the LCS and SCS fisheries
- Maintaining or increasing management flexibility for the shark fisheries
- Decreasing dead discards of sharks

SEDAR 34 Stock Assessment: Small Coastal Sharks

Species	SEDAR 13 (2007)	SEDAR 34 (2013)
Bonnethead Shark	Not overfished and no overfishing occurring	Atlantic: Unknown
		Gulf of Mexico: Unknown
Atlantic Sharpnose Shark	Not overfished and no overfishing occurring	Atlantic: Not overfished and no overfishing occurring
		Gulf of Mexico: Not overfished and no overfishing occurring

Based on the results of SEDAR 34, NMFS is proposing SCS TACs and modifying the commercial non-blacknose SCS quotas

Range of Alternatives

Alternative A - Permit Stacking

Alternative B - Commercial Shark Retention Limits

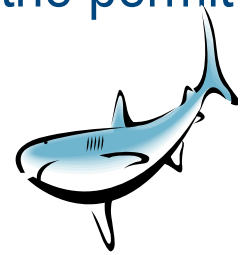
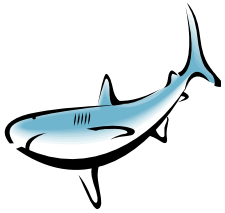
Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas

Alternative C - Atlantic Regions, Quotas, and Linkages

Alternative D - Gulf Regions, Quotas, and Linkages

Alternative E - Modifying Commercial Vessel Upgrading Restrictions

Alternative A - Permit Stacking

- ***Alternative A1:*** *No Action – Do not implement permit stacking – Preferred Alternative*
- Alternative A2: Implement permit stacking for directed limited access permit holders where 2 permits would allow the permit holder to harvest a maximum of 2 retention limits per trip
  - 2 directed permits per  = 72 
- Alternative A3: Implement permit stacking for directed limited access permit holders where 3 permits would allow the permit holder to harvest a maximum of 3 retention limits per trip
  - 3 directed permits per  = 108 

Range of Alternatives

Alternative A - Permit Stacking

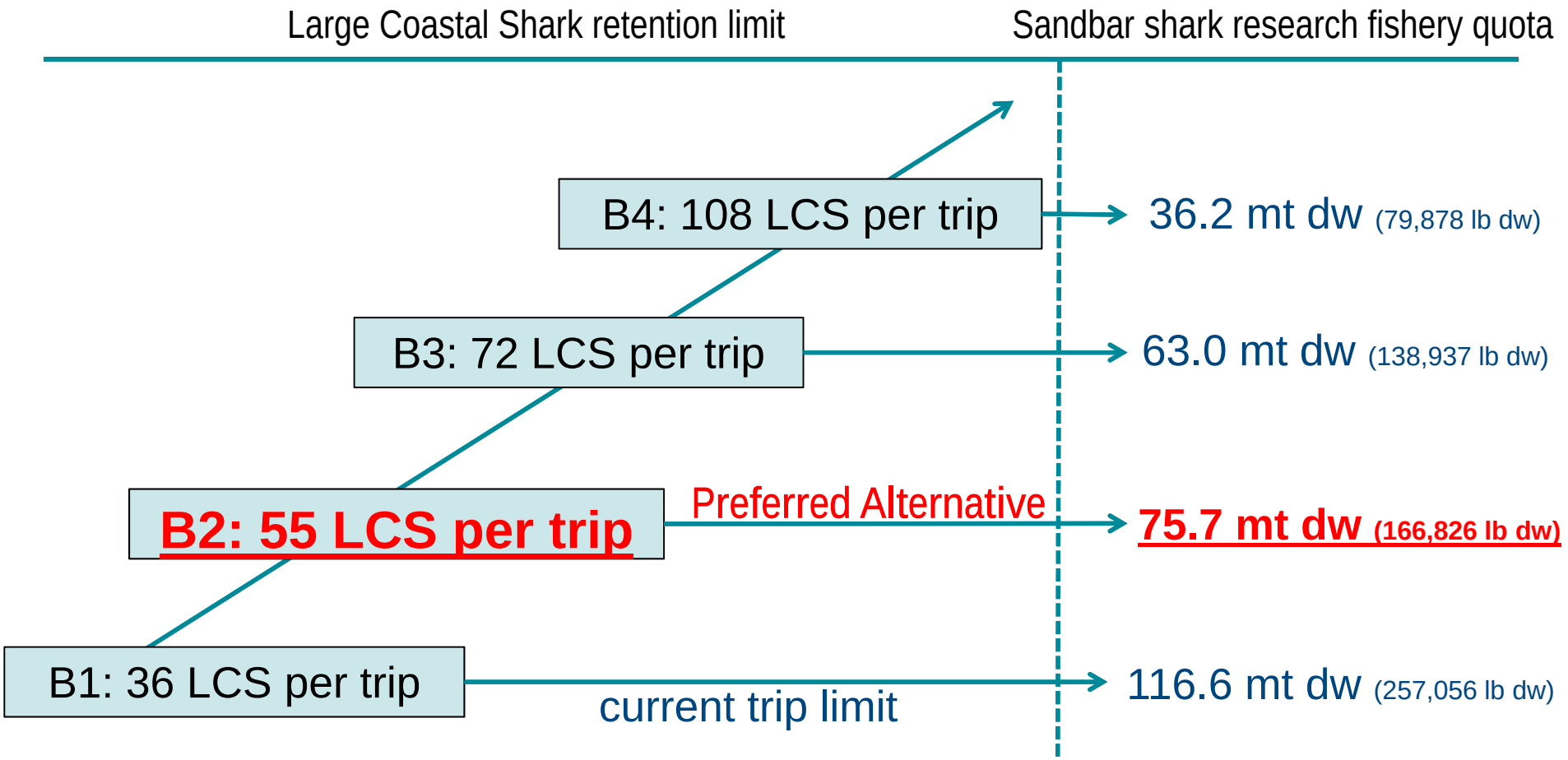
Alternative B - Commercial Shark Retention Limits

Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas

- Alternative C - Atlantic Regions, Quotas, and Linkages
- Alternative D - Gulf Regions, Quotas, and Linkages

Alternative E - Modifying Commercial Vessel Upgrading Restrictions

Alternative B - Commercial Shark Retention Limits



The Large Coastal Shark retention limit is increased by utilizing an unused portion of the sandbar shark research fishery quota

Range of Alternatives

Alternative A - Permit Stacking

Alternative B - Commercial Shark Retention Limits

Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas

- Alternative C - Atlantic Regions, Quotas, and Linkages
- Alternative D - Gulf Regions, Quotas, and Linkages

Alternative E - Modifying Commercial Vessel Upgrading Restrictions

Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional and Sub-regional Quotas

Objective and Rationale

- Commenters have requested different shark season opening dates based on sub-regional differences in the shark fisheries.
- Comments raised on Predraft:
  - Sub-regional quotas could account for regional differences by allowing for different season opening dates.
  - There is a potential for unequal distribution of sub-regional quotas if historical landings are used.
  - The location of the split between the sub-regions would impact potential quotas.
  - There needs to be flexibility to move quotas between sub-regions.
- Based on these comments, we considered a number of options in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions.

Range of Alternatives

Alternative A - Permit Stacking

Alternative B - Commercial Shark Retention Limits

Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas

Alternative C - Atlantic Regions, Quotas, and Linkages

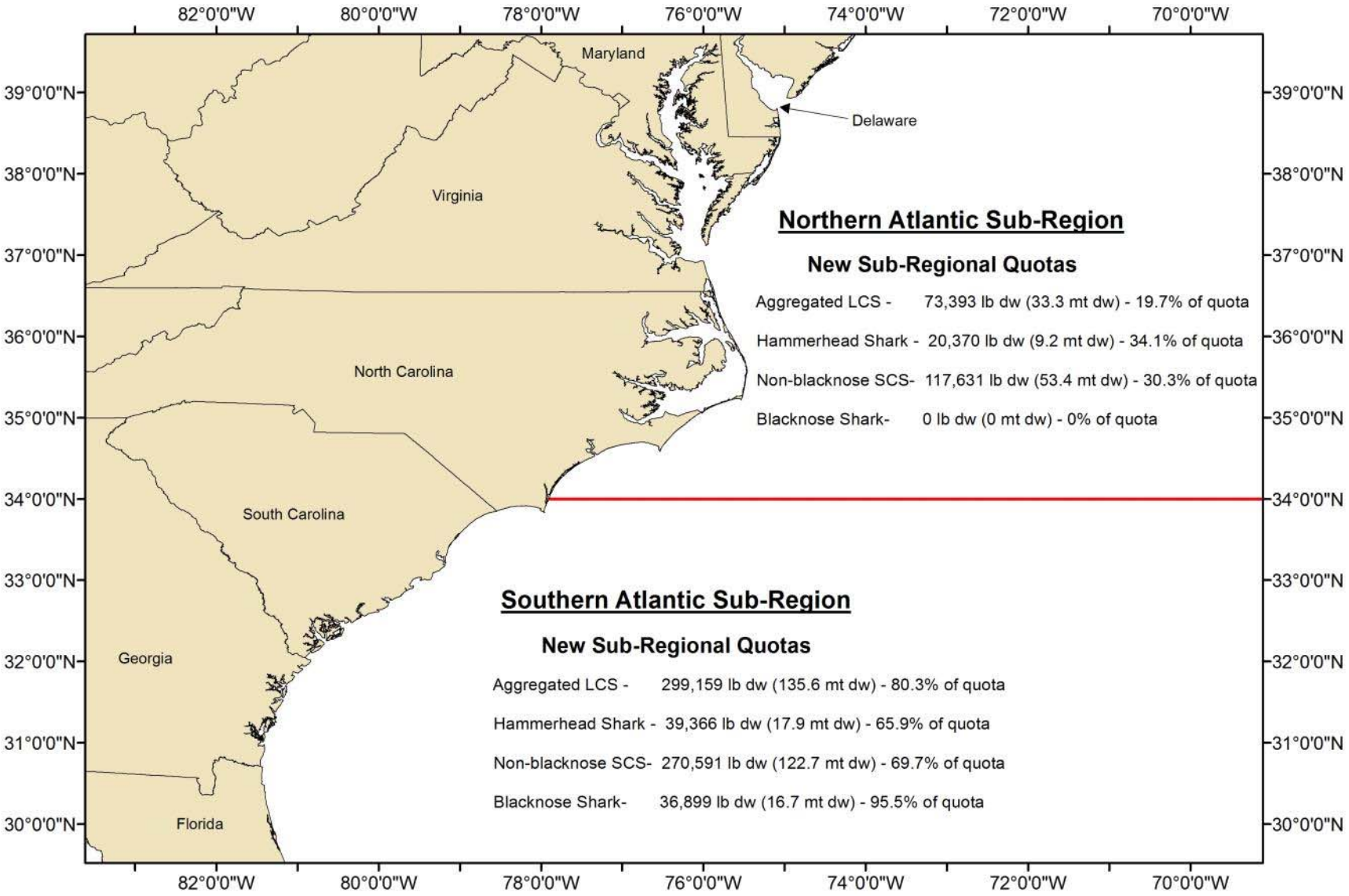
Alternative D - Gulf Regions, Quotas, and Linkages

Alternative E - Modifying Commercial Vessel Upgrading Restrictions

Alternative C - Atlantic Sub-regional Quotas and Quota Linkages

- Establishing sub-regional quotas in the Atlantic region
  - NMFS considered breaks for sub-regional quotas at the 33° and 34° lines (only showing proposed line)
  - Landing history used:
    - Aggregated LCS and Hammerhead – 2008-2013
    - Non-blacknose SCS and blacknose – 2011-2012
- Modifying the quota linkages in the Atlantic sub-regions
- Prohibiting the harvest of blacknose sharks in the Atlantic region or one of the Atlantic sub-regions

Proposed Atlantic Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas



Atlantic SCS TAC and non-blacknose SCS Quotas

- Current Atlantic non-blacknose SCS base quota = 176.1 mt dw (388,22 lb dw)
- We are proposing the following TAC and commercial quota options, based on the 2013 assessment results:

Alternative C5: TAC = 353.2 mt dw ⟷ Decrease current commercial base quota to 128 mt dw (282,238 lb dw)

Alternative C6: TAC = 401.3 mt dw ⟷ ***Maintain the current commercial base quota of 176.1 mt dw (388,222 lb dw)***

Preferred Alternative

Alternative C7: TAC = 489.3 mt dw ⟷ Increase the current commercial base quota to 264.1 mt dw (582,333 lb dw)

Range of Alternatives

Alternative A - Permit Stacking

Alternative B - Commercial Shark Retention Limits

Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas

Alternative C - Atlantic Regions, Quotas, and Linkages

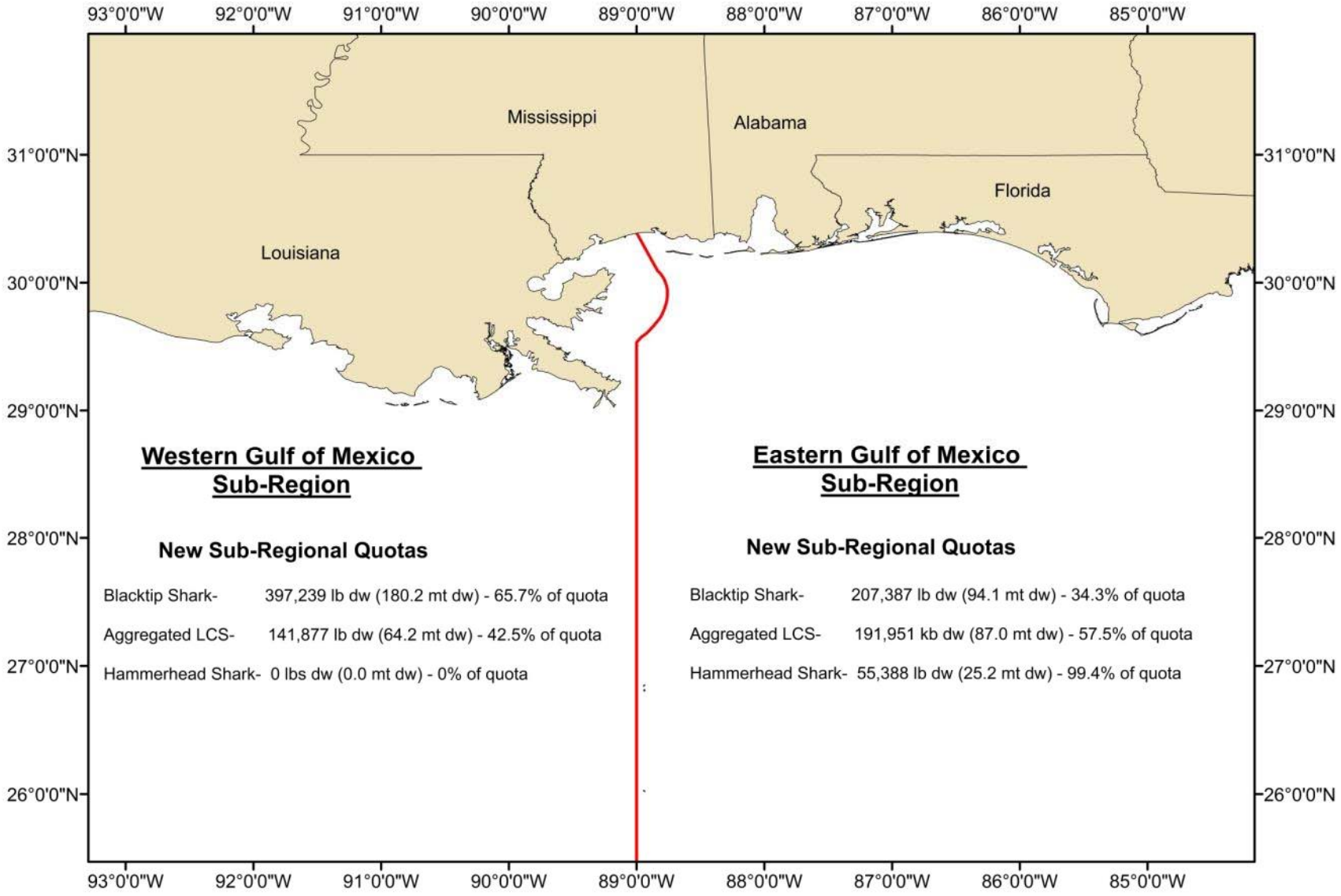
Alternative D – Gulf Regions, Quotas, and Linkages

Alternative E - Modifying Commercial Vessel Upgrading Restrictions

Alternative D - GOM Regional and Sub-regional Quotas and Linkages

- Implementing sub-regional quotas in the GOM region
  - NMFS considered breaks for sub-regional quotas at the 88° and 89° lines (only showing proposed line)
  - Landing history used:
    - Blacktip, Aggregated LCS, and Hammerhead – 2008-2013
- Adjusting the quota linkages in the GOM region
- Prohibiting the harvest of hammerhead sharks in the Gulf of Mexico region or one of the Gulf of Mexico sub-regions

Proposed Gulf of Mexico Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas



GOM SCS TAC and Non-Blacknose SCS Quotas

- Current GOM non-blacknose SCS base quota = 45.5 mt dw (100,317 lb dw)

- We are proposing the following TAC and commercial quota options, based on the 2013 assessment results:

Alternative D5: TAC = 931.9 mt dw ⟷ Maintain the current commercial base quota of 45.5 mt dw (100,317 lb dw)

Alternative D6: TAC = 954.7 mt dw ⟷ ***Increase the current commercial base quota to the 2014 adjusted annual quota of 68.3 mt dw (150,476 lb dw)***

Preferred Alternative

Alternative D7: TAC = 1,064.9 mt dw ⟷ Increase the current commercial base quota to 178.5 mt dw (393,566 lb dw)

- This TAC/Quota would be for the entire GOM, not split by sub-regions

Range of Alternatives

Alternative A - Permit Stacking

Alternative B - Commercial Shark Retention Limits

Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas

- Alternative C - Atlantic Regions, Quotas, and Linkages
- Alternative D - Gulf Regions, Quotas, and Linkages
- Handling Sub-Regional Annual Quota Adjustments

Alternative E - Modifying Commercial Vessel Upgrading Restrictions

Alternative E - Commercial Vessel Upgrading Restrictions

- The current upgrading restrictions for shark limited access permits (LAP) are:
  - Increases cannot exceed 20 percent of the horsepower of the permit's baseline vessel
  - Increases cannot exceed 10 percent of the size (length overall, gross tonnage, or net tonnage) of the permit's baseline vessel
- We are proposing to remove the current upgrading restrictions for shark LAP holders:
  - Alternative E1: No Action - Do not remove current upgrading restrictions for shark limited access permit holders
  - ***Alternative E2: Remove current upgrading restrictions for shark limited access permit holders - Preferred Alternative***

Timeline

1) Proposed rule published on Jan 20, 2015
2) Proposed rule public hearings in Feb and March 2015
3) Comment Period Ends – April 3, 2015
4) Target effective date summer 2015

Amendment 6 Public Hearing Schedule

Venue	Date and Time	Location
Public Hearing	Feb. 17– 5pm to 8 pm	St. Petersburg, FL
Public Hearing	Feb. 18– 5pm to 8 pm	Melbourne, FL
Public Hearing	Feb. 23– 5pm to 8 pm	Belle Chasse, LA
Public Hearing	Feb. 26– 5pm to 8 pm	Manteo, NC
Conference call / Webinar	Mar. 25– 2 pm to 4 pm	To participate in conference call, call: (877) 918-1344 Passcode: 7371832 To participate in webinar, RSVP at: https://noaaevents2.webex.com/noaaevents2/onstage/g.php?d=998580989&t=a, A confirmation email with webinar log-in information will be sent after RSVP is registered.

Request for Public Comments

Comment period closes on:

April 3, 2015

Please submit comments to:
http://www.regulations.gov
Keyword - "NOAA-NMFS-2010-0188"

Comments can also be submitted via fax: 301-713-1917, Attn: Guy` DuBeck / LeAnn Hogan

Or Mail: NMFS SF1, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Please identify comments with NOAA-NMFS-2010-0188

For more information go to: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/

Additional Questions?

guy.dubeck@noaa.gov / leann.southward-hogan@noaa.gov or 301-427-8503

Additional Questions or Comments?

Please share them with us!

Karyl Brewster-Geisz, LeAnn Hogan, Guý DuBeck,
Delisse Ortiz or Alexis Jackson

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Division
301-427-8503

The following slides are for the Amendment 6 Public Hearing Presentation

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management

- Draft Amendment 6 to the 2006 Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan

February 2015

NOAA FISHERIES

Outline

- Introduction
- SEDAR 34 Stock Assessment
  - Atlantic sharpnose and bonnethead sharks
- Range of Alternatives
  - Permit stacking
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SEDAR 34 Stock Assessment: Small Coastal Sharks

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Based on the results of SEDAR 34, NMFS is proposing SCS TACs and modifying the commercial non-blacknose SCS quotas

Range of Alternatives

Alternative A - Permit Stacking

Alternative B - Commercial Shark Retention Limits

Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas

- Alternative C - Atlantic Regions, Quotas, and Linkages
- Alternative D - Gulf Regions, Quotas, and Linkages
- Handling Sub-Regional Annual Quota Adjustments

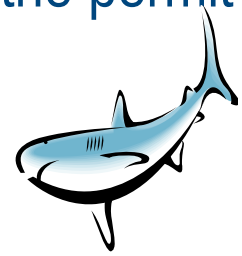
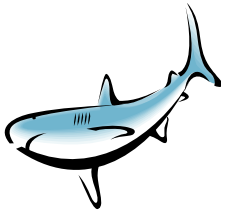
Alternative E - Modifying Commercial Vessel Upgrading Restrictions

Alternative A - Permit Stacking

Objective and Rationale

- NMFS has received comments stating that increased trip limits would provide more efficiency and improve market conditions.
- If NMFS were to implement permit stacking, fishermen with multiple limited access permits could use them concurrently on one vessel, which would result in aggregated, and thus higher, trip limits.
- Permit stacking could provide additional opportunities and more efficient use of resources for fishermen with access to more than one permit.
- However, permit stacking could also result in quotas being harvested more quickly due to higher trip limits.

Alternative A - Permit Stacking

- ***Alternative A1:*** *No Action – Do not implement permit stacking – Preferred Alternative*
- Alternative A2: Implement permit stacking for directed limited access permit holders where 2 permits would allow the permit holder to harvest a maximum of 2 retention limits per trip
  - 2 directed permits per  = 72 
- Alternative A3: Implement permit stacking for directed limited access permit holders where 3 permits would allow the permit holder to harvest a maximum of 3 retention limits per trip
  - 3 directed permits per  = 108 

Range of Alternatives

Alternative A - Permit Stacking

Alternative B - Commercial Shark Retention Limits

Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas

- Alternative C - Atlantic Regions, Quotas, and Linkages
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- Handling Sub-Regional Annual Quota Adjustments

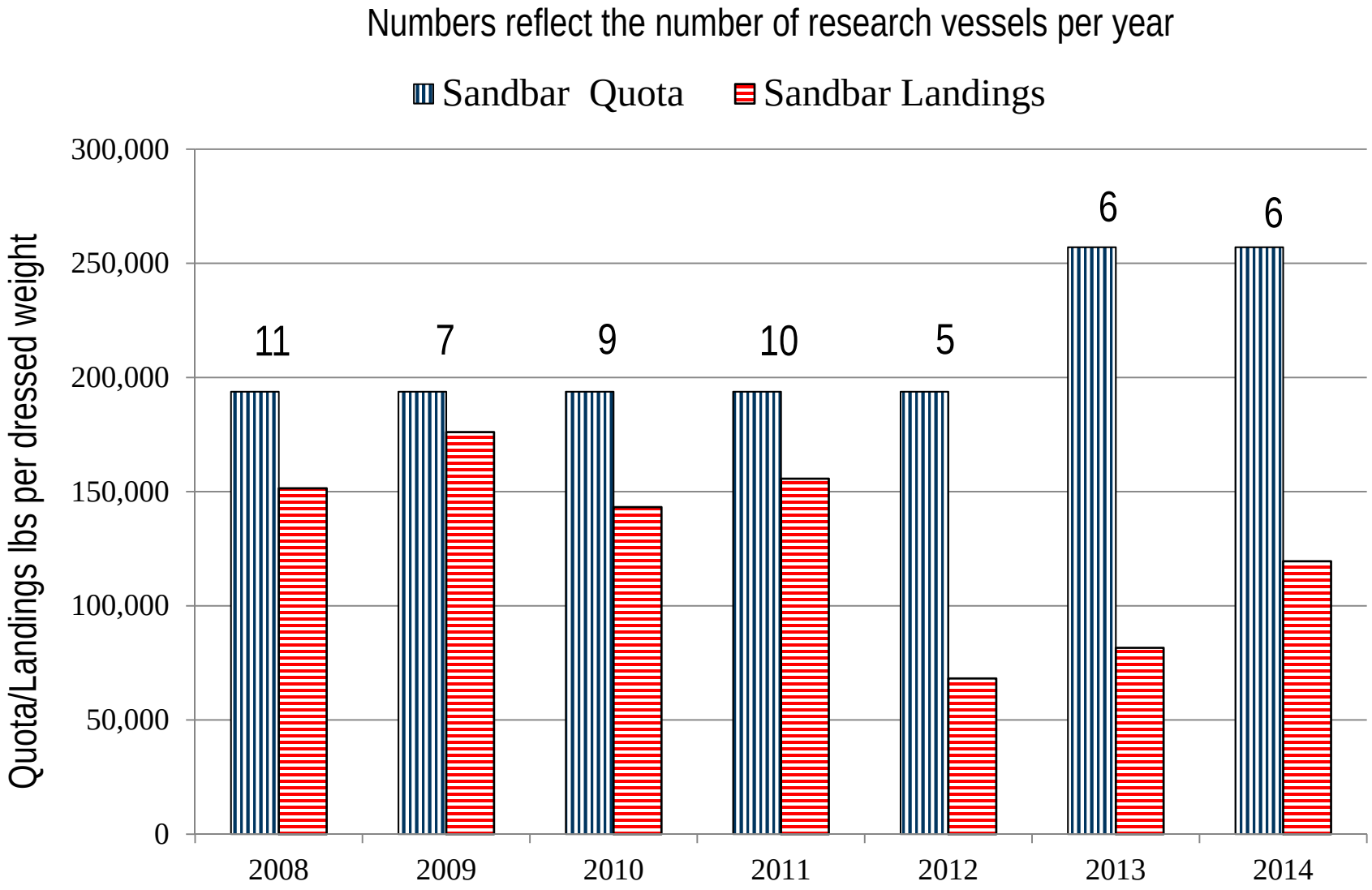
Alternative E - Modifying Commercial Vessel Upgrading Restrictions

Alternative B - Commercial Shark Retention Limits

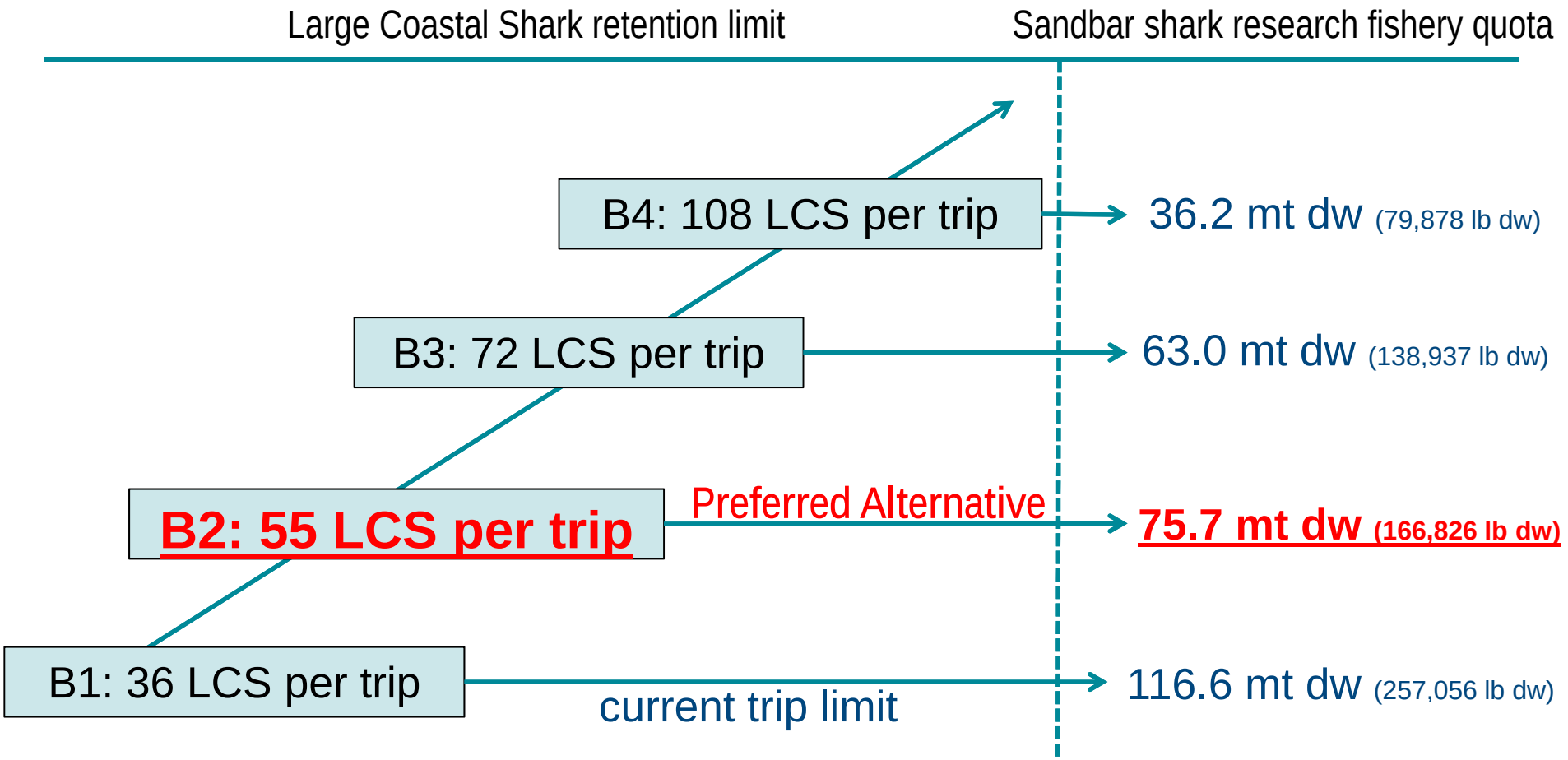
Objective and Rationale

- Over the past few years, the shark research fishery has not been catching the full sandbar quota (on average only 64%, or 76,332 lb dw, of quota caught)
- In the predraft for Amendment 6, NMFS considered creating a commercial sandbar fishery
- NMFS received negative comments from HMS AP members on re-establishing a commercial sandbar shark quota due to the risk of re-opening a commercial fishery for sandbar sharks, targeting an overfished stock, and the potential linkage with dusky sharks
- NMFS also received comments requesting an increase in the commercial LCS retention limit as an alternative to permit stacking
- In Amendment 2, the current retention limit (36 LCS other than sandbar sharks per trip) was based in part on how many sandbar sharks would be discarded dead from the number of shark trips that were expected to interact with sandbar sharks

Atlantic Shark Research Fishery Landings



Alternative B - Commercial Shark Retention Limits



The Large Coastal Shark retention limit would be increased by utilizing an unused portion of the sandbar shark research fishery quota

Range of Alternatives

Alternative A - Permit Stacking

Alternative B - Commercial Shark Retention Limits

Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas

- Alternative C - Atlantic Regions, Quotas, and Linkages
- Alternative D - Gulf Regions, Quotas, and Linkages
- Handling Sub-Regional Annual Quota Adjustments

Alternative E - Modifying Commercial Vessel Upgrading Restrictions

Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional and Sub-regional Quotas

Objective and Rationale

- Commenters have requested different shark season opening dates based on sub-regional differences in the shark fisheries.
- Comments raised on Predraft:
  - Sub-regional quotas could account for regional differences by allowing for different season opening dates.
  - There is a potential for unequal distribution of sub-regional quotas if historical landings are used.
  - The location of the split between the sub-regions would impact potential quotas.
  - There needs to be flexibility to move quotas between sub-regions.
- Based on these comments, we considered a number of options in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions.

Range of Alternatives

Alternative A - Permit Stacking

Alternative B - Commercial Shark Retention Limits

Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas

Alternative C - Atlantic Regions, Quotas, and Linkages

Alternative D - Gulf Regions, Quotas, and Linkages

Handling Sub-Regional Annual Quota Adjustments

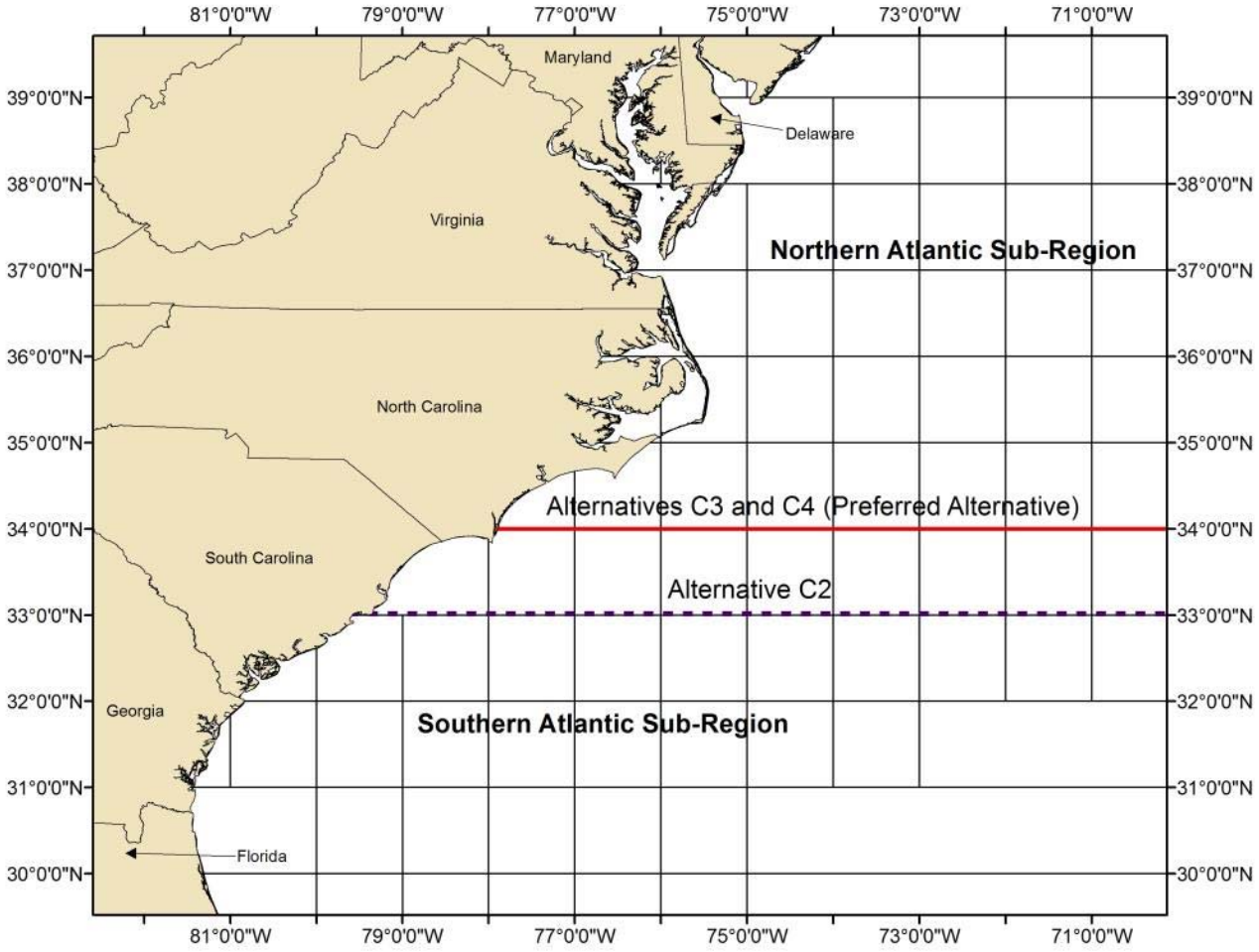
Alternative E - Modifying Commercial Vessel Upgrading Restrictions

Alternative C - Atlantic Sub-regional Quotas and Quota Linkages

- Establishing sub-regional quotas in the Atlantic region
- Modifying the quota linkages in the Atlantic sub-regions
- Prohibiting the harvest of blacknose sharks in the Atlantic region or one of the Atlantic sub-regions

Alternative C - Atlantic Sub-Regions

- Apportion the Atlantic commercial quotas for LCS and SCS along 33° 00' N. Lat. or ***34 ° 00'N. Lat.*** into northern and southern sub-regional quotas.



Alternative C – Atlantic Sub-regions

- **Alternative C1:** No Action –
  - Do not implement sub-regional quotas in the Atlantic region
  - Do not adjust the non-blacknose SCS quota to reflect the results of the 2013 assessments for Atlantic sharpnose and bonnethead sharks
  - Do not adjust the quota linkages in the Atlantic region
  - Do not prohibit the harvest of blacknose sharks in the Atlantic region or any portion of the Atlantic region.

Sub-regional Quotas for Atlantic LCS

Alternative C2: Apportion the Atlantic regional commercial quotas for certain LCS* and SCS management groups along 33° 00' N. Lat. (approximately at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina) into northern and southern sub-regional quotas.

- Landings history: Agg LCS and Hammerhead – 2008-2013

Management Group	Sub-region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Landings	2014 Quota (lb dw)	New Sub-Regional Quotas	
					lb dw	mt dw
Aggregated LCS	Northern Atlantic	500,647	24.5	372,552	91,275	41.4
	Southern Atlantic	1,539,943	75.5		281,277	127.5
Hammerhead Shark	Northern Atlantic	64,661	34.1	59,736	20,370	9.2
	Southern Atlantic	124,786	65.9		39,366	17.9

*Certain LCS refers to the aggregated LCS and hammerhead shark management groups

Sub-regional Quotas for Atlantic LCS

Alternative C3: Apportion the Atlantic regional commercial quotas for certain LCS* and SCS along 34° 00' N. Lat. (approximately at Wilmington, North Carolina) into northern and southern sub-regional quotas.

- Landings history: Agg LCS and Hammerhead – 2008-2013

Management Group	Sub-region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Landings	2014 Quota (lb dw)	New Sub-Regional Quotas	
					lb dw	mt dw
Aggregated LCS	Northern Atlantic	402,858	19.7	372,552	73,393	33.3
	Southern Atlantic	1,637,724	80.3		299,159	135.6
Hammerhead Shark	Northern Atlantic	64,661	34.1	59,736	20,370	9.2
	Southern Atlantic	124,786	65.9		39,366	17.9

*Certain LCS refers to the aggregated LCS and hammerhead shark management groups

Alternative C4: *Apportion the Atlantic regional commercial quotas for certain LCS* and SCS management groups along 34° 00' N. Lat. (approximately at Wilmington, North Carolina) into northern and southern sub-regional quotas and maintain SCS quota linkages in the southern sub-region of the Atlantic region; remove the SCS quota linkages in the northern sub-region of the Atlantic region and prohibit the harvest and landings of blacknose sharks in the North Atlantic region – Preferred Alternative*

- Landings history: Agg LCS and Hammerhead – 2008-2013

Management Group	Region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Quota	New Sub-Regional Quotas		Quota Linkages
				lb dw	mt dw	
Aggregated LCS	Northern Atlantic	402,858	19.7	73,393	33.3	Maintain
	Southern Atlantic	1,637,724	80.3	299,159	135.6	Maintain
Hammerhead Shark	Northern Atlantic	64,661	34.1	20,370	9.2	Maintain
	Southern Atlantic	124,786	65.9	39,366	17.9	Maintain

*Certain LCS refers to the aggregated LCS and hammerhead shark management groups

Sub-regional Quotas for Atlantic SCS

Alternative C2: Apportion the Atlantic regional commercial quotas for certain LCS and SCS* management groups along 33° 00' N. Lat. (approximately at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina) into northern and southern sub-regional quotas.

- Landings history: Non-Blacknose and Blacknose – 2011-2012

Management Group	Sub-region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Landings	2014 Quota (lb dw)	New Sub-Regional Quotas	
					lb dw	mt dw
Non-Blacknose SCS	Northern Atlantic	211,777	32.2	Depends on Alternatives C5, C6 and C7		
	Southern Atlantic	1,539,943	67.8			
Blacknose SCS	Northern Atlantic	2,866	4.5	38,638	1,739	0.8
	Southern Atlantic	60,189	95.5		36,638	16.7

*Certain SCS refers to the non-blacknose SCS and blacknose shark management groups

Sub-regional Quotas for Atlantic SCS

Alternative C3: Apportion the Atlantic regional commercial quotas for certain LCS and SCS* along 34° 00' N. Lat. (approximately at Wilmington, North Carolina) into northern and southern sub-regional quotas.

- Landings history: Non-Blacknose and Blacknose – 2011-2012

Management Group	Sub-region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Landings	2014 Quota (lb dw)	New Sub-Regional Quotas	
					lb dw	mt dw
Non-Blacknose SCS	Northern Atlantic	199,058	30.3	Depends on Alternatives C5, C6 and C7		
	Southern Atlantic	458,236	69.7			
Blacknose Shark	Northern Atlantic	2,866	4.5	38,638	1,739	0.8
	Southern Atlantic	60,189	95.5		36,638	16.7

*Certain SCS refers to the non-blacknose SCS and blacknose shark management groups

Alternative C4: *Apportion the Atlantic regional commercial quotas for certain LCS and SCS* management groups along 34° 00' N. Lat. (approximately at Wilmington, North Carolina) into northern and southern sub-regional quotas and maintain SCS quota linkages in the southern sub-region of the Atlantic region; remove the SCS quota linkages in the northern sub-region of the Atlantic region and prohibit the harvest and landings of blacknose sharks in the North Atlantic region – Preferred Alternative*

- Landings history: Non-Blacknose and Blacknose – 2011-2012

Management Group	Sub-region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Landings	New Sub-Regional Quotas		Quota Linkages
				lb dw	mt dw	
Non-Blacknose SCS	Northern Atlantic	199,058	30.3	Depends on Alternatives C5, C6 and C7		Remove+
	Southern Atlantic	458,236	69.7			Maintain
Blacknose Shark	Northern Atlantic	2,866	4.5	0	0	Remove+
	Southern Atlantic	60,189	95.5	36,638	16.7	Maintain

* Certain SCS refers to the non-blacknose SCS and blacknose shark management groups

+ We are proposing to remove quota linkages, and prohibit harvest and landings of blacknose sharks in northern region due to small blacknose quota

Atlantic SCS TAC and non-blacknose SCS Quotas

- Current Atlantic non-blacknose SCS base quota = 176.1 mt dw (388,22 lb dw)
- We are proposing the following TAC and commercial quota options, based on the 2013 assessment results:

Alternative C5: TAC = 353.2 mt dw ⟷ Decrease current commercial base quota to 128 mt dw (282,238 lb dw)

Alternative C6: TAC = 401.3 mt dw ⟷ ***Maintain the current commercial base quota of 176.1 mt dw (388,222 lb dw)***

Preferred Alternative

Alternative C7: TAC = 489.3 mt dw ⟷ Increase the current commercial base quota to 264.1 mt dw (582,333 lb dw)

Atlantic Non-Blacknose SCS Quotas

Alternative C5 –
TAC = 353.2 mt dw, decrease commercial quota to 128 mt dw

Boundary	Region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Quota	Potential Sub-Regional Quotas		Potential Quota Linkage
				lb dw	mt dw	
34° 00' N. Lat.	Northern Atlantic	199,058	30.3	85,518	38.8	Remove+
	Southern Atlantic	458,236	69.7	196,720	89.2	Maintain

+ We are proposing to remove quota linkages, and prohibit harvest and landings of blacknose sharks in northern region due to small blacknose quota

Atlantic Non-Blacknose SCS Quotas

Alternative C6 (Preferred Alternative) –
TAC = 401.3 mt dw and maintain commercial base quota of 176.1 mt dw

Boundary	Region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Quota	Potential Sub-Regional Quotas		Potential Quota Linkage
				lb dw	mt dw	
34° 00' N. Lat.	Northern Atlantic	199,058	30.3	117,631	53.4	Remove+
	Southern Atlantic	458,236	69.7	270,591	122.7	Maintain

+ We are proposing to remove quota linkages, and prohibit harvest and landings of blacknose sharks in northern region due to small blacknose quota

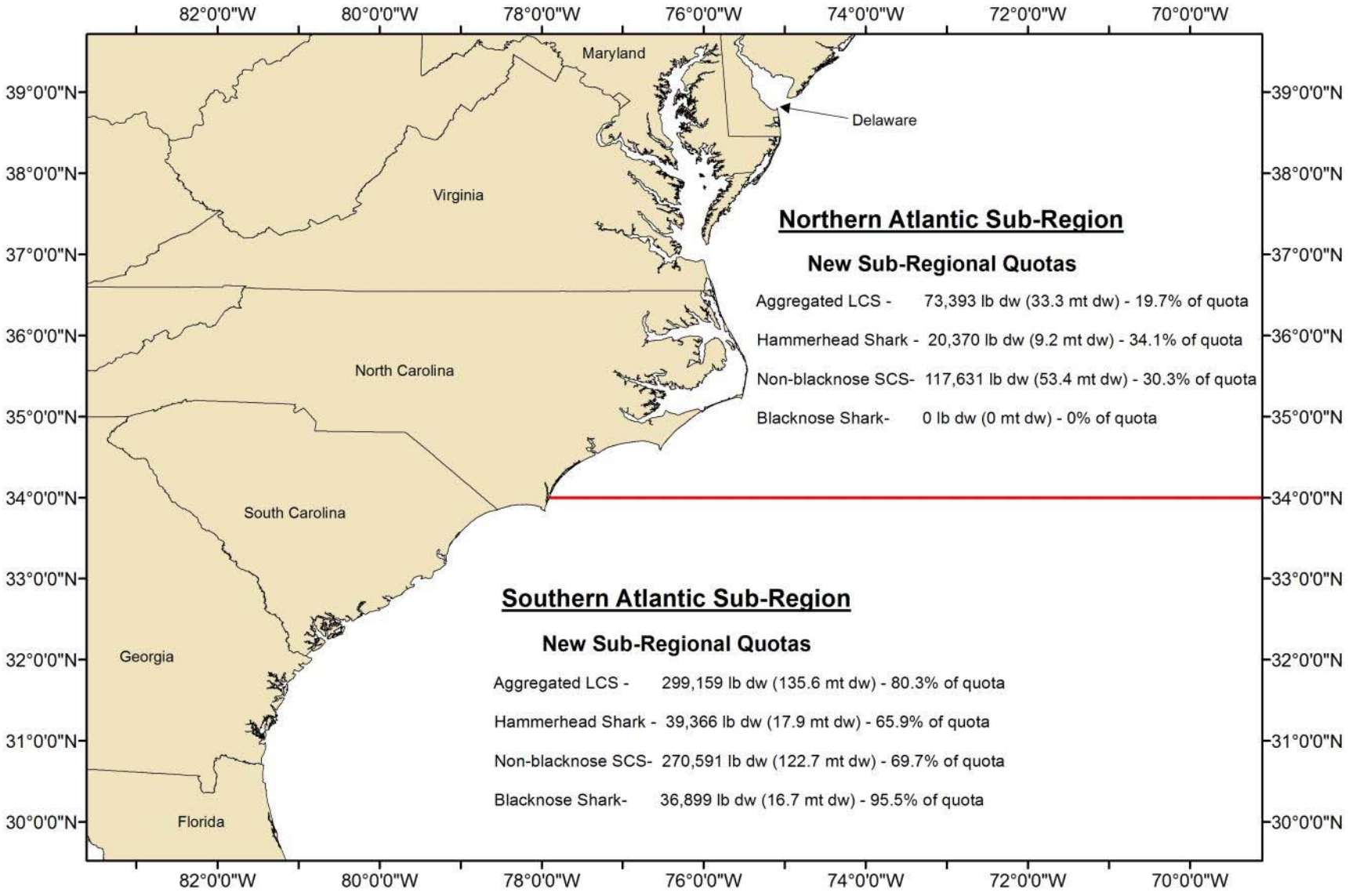
Atlantic Non-Blacknose SCS Quotas

Alternative C7 –
TAC = 489.3 mt dw and increase commercial quota to 264.1 mt dw

Boundary	Region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Quota	Potential Sub-Regional Quotas		Potential Quota Linkage
				lb dw	mt dw	
34° 00' N. Lat.	Northern Atlantic	199,058	30.3	176,447	80.0	Remove+
	Southern Atlantic	458,236	69.7	405,886	184.1	Maintain

+ We are proposing to remove quota linkages, and prohibit harvest and landings of blacknose sharks in northern region due to small blacknose quota

Proposed Atlantic Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas



Range of Alternatives

Alternative A - Permit Stacking

Alternative B - Commercial Shark Retention Limits

Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas

Alternative C - Atlantic Regions, Quotas, and Linkages

Alternative D – Gulf Regions, Quotas, and Linkages

Handling Sub-Regional Annual Quota Adjustments

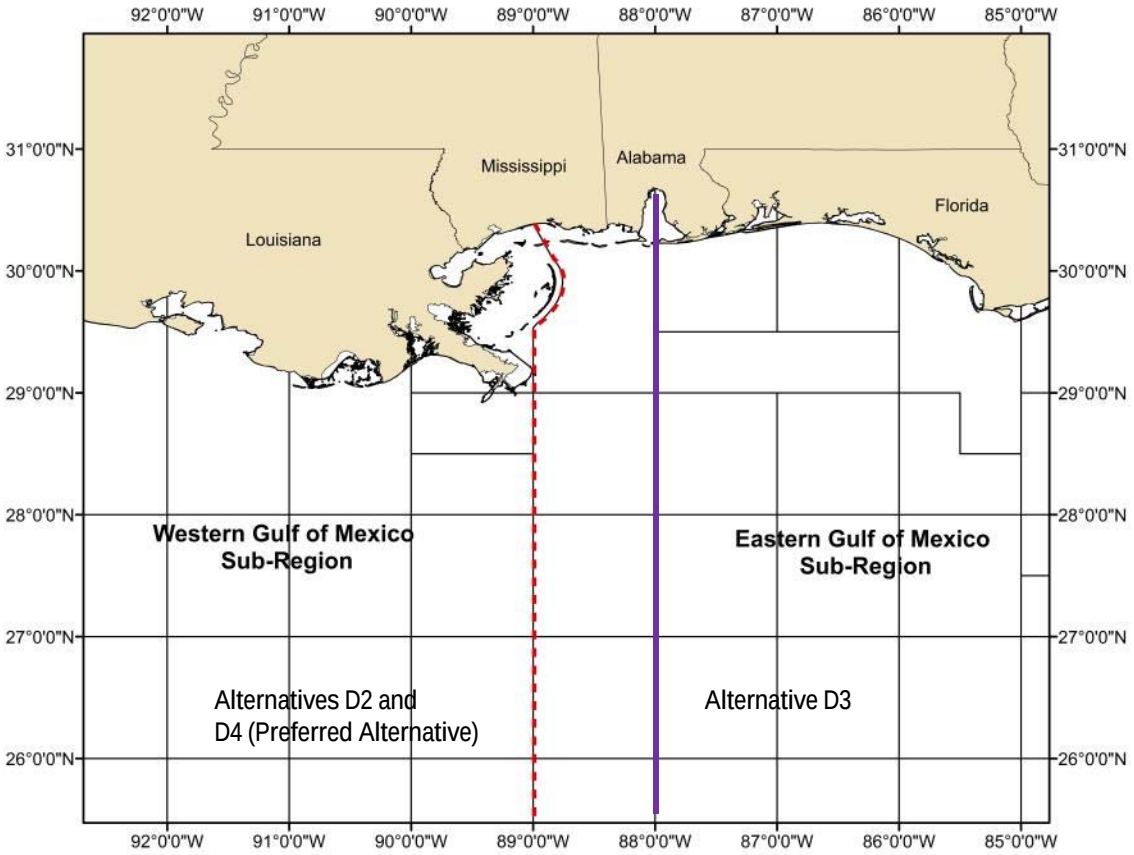
Alternative E - Modifying Commercial Vessel Upgrading Restrictions

Alternative D - GOM Regional and Sub-regional Quotas and Linkages

- Implementing sub-regional quotas in the GOM region
- Adjusting the quota linkages in the GOM region
- Prohibiting the harvest of hammerhead sharks in the Gulf of Mexico region or one of the Gulf of Mexico sub-regions

Alternative D - GOM Sub-Regions

- Apportion the Gulf of Mexico commercial quotas for aggregated LCS, blacktip, and hammerhead sharks along 88° 00' W Long. or ***89° 00' W Long.*** into western and eastern sub-regional quotas; not looking at sub-regions for SCS fisheries



Alternative D – Gulf of Mexico Sub-regions

- **Alternative D1:** No Action –
  - Do not implement sub-regional quotas in the Gulf of Mexico region
  - Do not adjust the non-blacknose SCS quota to reflect the results of the 2013 assessments for Atlantic sharpnose and bonnethead sharks
  - Do not adjust the quota linkages in the Gulf of Mexico region
  - Do not prohibit the harvest of hammerhead sharks in the Gulf of Mexico region or any portion of the Gulf of Mexico region.

Sub-regional Quotas for Gulf of Mexico LCS

Alternative D2: Apportion the Gulf of Mexico regional quotas for aggregated LCS, blacktip, and hammerhead sharks along 89° 00' W Longitude into western and eastern sub-regional quotas

- Landings history: Blacktip, Agg LCS and Hammerhead – 2008-2013

Management Group	Sub-region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage Landings	Percentage Landings	New Sub-Regional Quotas	
					lb dw	mt dw
Blacktip Shark	Eastern Gulf	1,257,104	34.3	604,626	207,387	94.1
	Western Gulf	2,409,960	65.7		397,239	180.2
Aggregated LCS	Eastern Gulf	1,537,298	57.5	333,828	191,951	87.0
	Western Gulf	1,133,965	42.5		141,877	64.2
Hammerhead Shark	Eastern Gulf	286,634	99.4	55,722	55,388	25.2
	Western Gulf	1,740	0.6		334	0.1

Sub-regional Quotas for Gulf of Mexico LCS

Alternative D3: Apportion the Gulf of Mexico regional commercial quotas for aggregated LCS, blacktip, and hammerhead sharks into western and eastern sub-regional quotas along 88° 00' W Longitude

- Landings history: Blacktip, Agg LCS and Hammerhead – 2008-2013

Management Group	Sub-region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage Landings	Percentage Landings	New Sub-Regional Quotas	
					lb dw	mt dw
Blacktip Shark	Eastern Gulf	1,144,115	31.2	604,626	188,643	85.6
	Western Gulf	2,522,949	68.8		415,983	188.7
Aggregated LCS	Eastern Gulf	1,419,926	53.2	333,828	177,596	80.4
	Western Gulf	1,251,336	46.8		156,232	70.8
Hammerhead Shark	Eastern Gulf	286,634	99.4	55,722	55,388	25.2
	Western Gulf	1,740	0.6		334	0.1

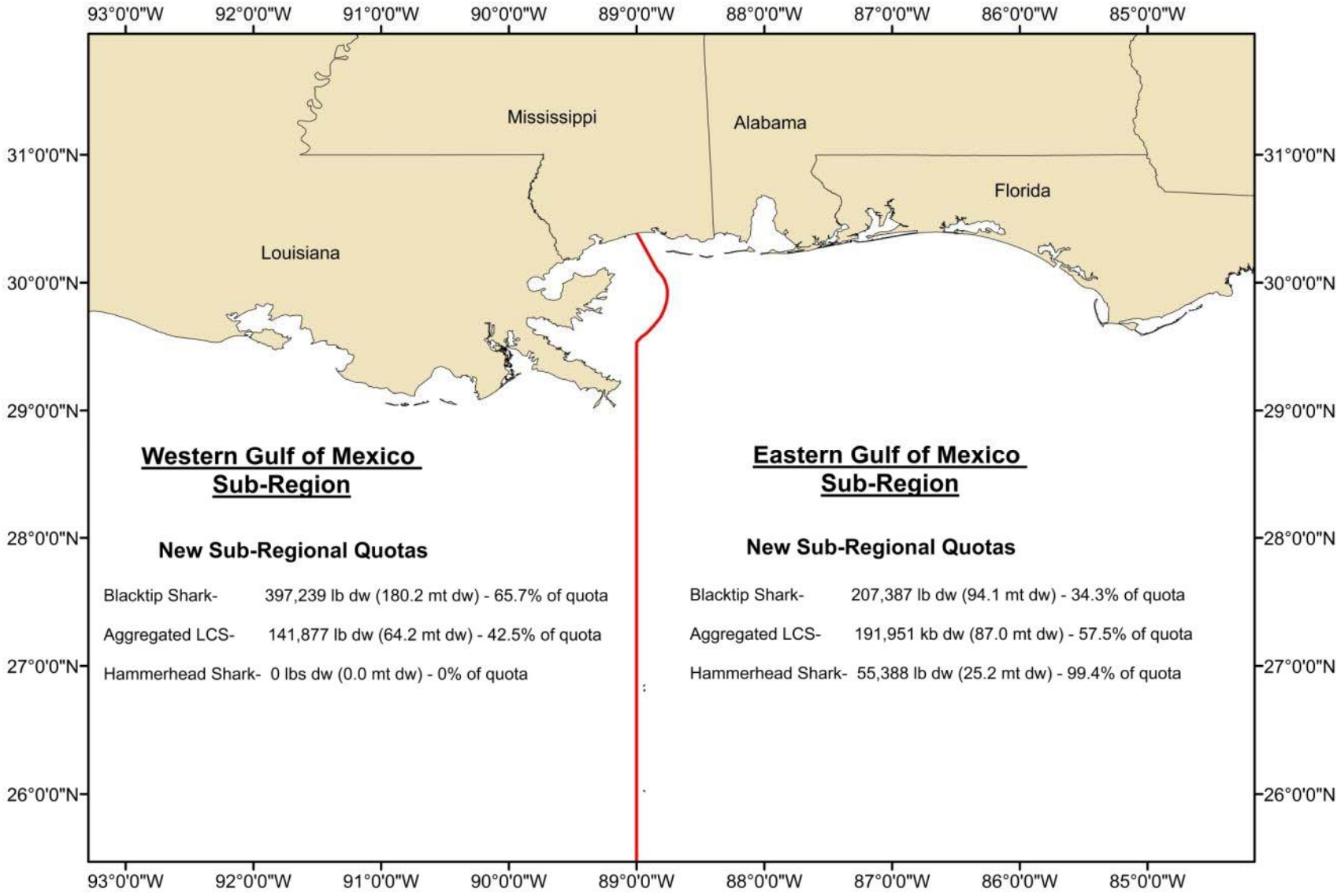
Alternative D4: *Apportion the Gulf of Mexico regional commercial quotas for aggregated LCS, blacktip, and hammerhead sharks along 89° 00' W Longitude into western and eastern sub-regional quotas and maintain the LCS quota linkages for aggregated LCS and hammerhead sharks in the eastern sub-region of the Gulf of Mexico region; remove the linkage in the western sub-region of the Gulf of Mexico region and prohibit the harvest and landing of hammerhead sharks in that sub-region – Preferred Alternative*

- Landings history: Blacktip, Agg LCS and Hammerhead – 2008-2013

Management Group	Region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Quota	New Sub-Regional Quotas		Quota Linkages
				lb dw	mt dw	
Blacktip Shark	Eastern Gulf	1,257,104	34.3	207,387	94.1	N/A
	Western Gulf	2,409,960	65.7	397,239	180.2	N/A
Aggregated LCS	Eastern Gulf	1,537,298	57.5	191,951	87.0	Maintain
	Western Gulf	1,133,965	42.5	141,877	64.2	Remove*
Hammerhead Shark	Eastern Gulf	286,634	99.4	55,388	25.2	Maintain
	Western Gulf	1,740	0.6	0	0	Remove*

* Prohibit harvest and landings of hammerhead sharks within sub-region due to the small hammerhead shark quota

Proposed Gulf of Mexico Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas



GOM SCS TAC and Non-Blacknose SCS Quotas

- Current GOM non-blacknose SCS base quota = 45.5 mt dw (100,317 lb dw)

- We are proposing the following TAC and commercial quota options, based on the 2013 assessment results:

Alternative D5: TAC = 931.9 mt dw ⟷ Maintain the current commercial base quota of 45.5 mt dw (100,317 lb dw)

Alternative D6: TAC = 954.7 mt dw ⟷ ***Increase the current commercial base quota to the 2014 adjusted annual quota of 68.3 mt dw (150,476 lb dw)***

Preferred Alternative

Alternative D7: TAC = 1,064.9 mt dw ⟷ Increase the current commercial base quota to 178.5 mt dw (393,566 lb dw)

- This TAC/Quota would be for the entire GOM, not split by sub-regions

Range of Alternatives

Alternative A - Permit Stacking

Alternative B - Commercial Shark Retention Limits

Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas

Alternative C - Atlantic Regions, Quotas, and Linkages

Alternative D - Gulf Regions, Quotas, and Linkages

Handling Sub-Regional Annual Quota Adjustments

Alternative E - Modifying Commercial Vessel Upgrading Restrictions

Example of Regional and Sub-Regional Quota Adjustment Scenarios

Baseline Quota = 100 mt dw
- -Sub-Region A quota (50% of baseline) = 50 mt dw
- -Sub-Region B quota (50% of baseline) = 50 mt dw

Scenario 1: Overall underharvest
- -Sub-Region A Landings = 30 mt dw
- -Sub-Region B Landings = 40 mt dw
- -Overall Landings = 70 mt dw
- -Underharvest = 30 mt dw (split per baseline split)

Overfished, overfishing, unknown stocks

Following year adjusted quota = 100 mt dw
- -Sub-Region A quota (50%) = 50 mt dw
- -Sub-Region B quota (50%) = 50 mt dw

No overfished and no overfishing stocks

Following year adjusted quota = 130 mt dw
- -Sub-Region A quota (50%) = 65 mt dw
- -Sub-Region B quota (50%) = 65 mt dw

Scenario 2A: Overharvest by BOTH sub-regions
- -Sub-Region A Landings = 60 mt dw
- -Sub-Region B Landings = 60 mt dw
- -Overall Landings = 120 mt dw
- -Overharvest = 20 mt dw (split per baseline split)

Following year adjusted quota = 80 mt dw
- -Sub-Region A quota (50%) = 40 mt dw
- -Sub-Region B quota (50%) = 40 mt dw

Scenario 2B: Overharvest by ONE sub-region
- -Sub-Region A Landings = 45 mt dw
- -Sub-Region B Landings = 75 mt dw
- -Overall Landings = 120 mt dw
- -Overharvest = 20 mt dw (counted against sub-region that overharvested)

Following year adjusted quota = 80 mt dw
- -Sub-Region A quota = 50 mt dw
- -Sub-Region B quota = 30 mt dw

Range of Alternatives

Alternative A - Permit Stacking

Alternative B - Commercial Shark Retention Limits

Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas

- Alternative C - Atlantic Regions, Quotas, and Linkages
- Alternative D - Gulf Regions, Quotas, and Linkages
- Handling Sub-Regional Annual Quota Adjustments

Alternative E - Modifying Commercial Vessel Upgrading Restrictions

Alternative E - Commercial Vessel Upgrading Restrictions

- The current upgrading restrictions for shark limited access permits (LAP) are:
  - Increases cannot exceed 20 percent of the horsepower of the permit's baseline vessel
  - Increases cannot exceed 10 percent of the size (length overall, gross tonnage, and net tonnage) of the permit's baseline vessel
- We are proposing to remove the current upgrading restrictions for shark LAP holders:
  - Alternative E1: No Action - Do not remove current upgrading restrictions for shark limited access permit holders
  - ***Alternative E2: Remove current upgrading restrictions for shark limited access permit holders - Preferred Alternative***

Timeline

1) Proposed rule published on Jan 20, 2015
2) Proposed rule public hearings in Feb and March 2015
3) Comment Period Ends – April 3, 2015
4) Target effective date summer 2015

Amendment 6 Public Hearing Schedule

Venue	Date and Time	Location
Public Hearing	Feb. 17– 5pm to 8 pm	St. Petersburg, FL
Public Hearing	Feb. 18– 5pm to 8 pm	Melbourne, FL
Public Hearing	Feb. 23– 5pm to 8 pm	Belle Chasse, LA
Public Hearing	Feb. 26– 5pm to 8 pm	Manteo, NC
Conference call / Webinar	Mar. 25– 2 pm to 4 pm	To participate in conference call, call: (877) 918-1344 Passcode: 7371832 To participate in webinar, RSVP at: https://noaaevents2.webex.com/noaaevents2/onstage/g.php?d=998580989&t=a, A confirmation email with webinar log-in information will be sent after RSVP is registered.

Request for Public Comments

Comment period closes on:

April 3, 2015

Please submit comments to:
http://www.regulations.gov
Keyword - "NOAA-NMFS-2010-0188"

Comments can also be submitted via fax: 301-713-1917, Attn: Guy` DuBeck / LeAnn Hogan

Or Mail: NMFS SF1, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Please identify comments with NOAA-NMFS-2010-0188

For more information go to: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/

Additional Questions?

guy.dubeck@noaa.gov / leann.southward-hogan@noaa.gov or 301-427-8503

Additional Questions or Comments?

Please share them with us!

Karyl Brewster-Geisz, LeAnn Hogan, Guý DuBeck,
Delisse Ortiz or Alexis Jackson

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Division
301-427-8503

Weakfish Terms of Reference

Katie Drew

ISFMP Policy Board

February 3, 2015

Stock Assessment TORs

- Purpose: to guide the TC and SASC in developing the assessment and the review panel in evaluating it
- One set for TC/SASC
- One set for Peer Review Panel

Assessment TORs

1. Characterize precision and accuracy of fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data used in the assessment.

Assessment TORs

2. Review evidence for constant or recent systematic changes in natural mortality, predator-prey dynamics, productivity, and/or discard mortality.

Assessment TORs

3. Develop models to estimate population parameters (e.g., F, biomass, abundance) and biological reference points, and analyze model performance.

Assessment TORs

4. Characterize uncertainty of model estimates and biological or empirical reference points.

5. Perform retrospective analyses, assess magnitude and direction of retrospective patterns detected, and discuss implications of any observed retrospective pattern for uncertainty in population parameters (e.g., F, SSB), reference points, and/or management measures.

Assessment TORs

6. Recommend stock status as related to reference points (if available). For example:
   - Is the stock below the biomass threshold?
   - Is F above the threshold?

Assessment TORs

7. Develop detailed short and long-term prioritized lists of recommendations for future research, data collection, and assessment methodology. Highlight improvements to be made by next benchmark review.

8. Recommend timing of next benchmark assessment and intermediate updates, if necessary relative to biology and current management of the species.

Review TORs

1. Evaluate the thoroughness of data collection and the presentation and treatment of fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data in the assessment, including the following but not limited to:

2. Evaluate evidence for constant or recent systematic changes in natural mortality, predator-prey dynamics, productivity, and/or discard mortality.

3. Evaluate the methods and models used to estimate population parameters (e.g., F, biomass, abundance) and biological reference points, including but not limited to:

Review TORs

4. Evaluate the diagnostic analyses performed, including but not limited to:

5. Evaluate the methods used to characterize uncertainty in estimated parameters. Ensure that the implications of uncertainty in technical conclusions are clearly stated.

Review TORs

6. If a minority report has been filed, review minority opinion and any associated analyses. If possible, make recommendation on current or future use of alternative assessment approach presented in minority report.

Review TORs

7. Recommend best estimates of stock biomass, abundance, and exploitation from the assessment for use in management, if possible, or specify alternative estimation methods.

8. Evaluate the choice of reference points and the methods used to estimate them. Recommend stock status determination from the assessment, or, if appropriate, specify alternative methods/measures.

Review TORs

9. Review the research, data collection, and assessment methodology recommendations provided by the TC and make any additional recommendations warranted. Clearly prioritize the activities needed to inform and maintain the current assessment, and provide recommendations to improve the reliability of future assessments.

10. Recommend timing of the next benchmark assessment and updates, if necessary, relative to the life history and current management of the species.

11. Prepare a peer review panel terms of reference and advisory report