

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Shark Management Board

October 25, 2012
10:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Draft Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary.

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*M. Gibson*) 10:45 a.m.
2. Board Consent 10:45 a.m.
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Proceedings from August 9, 2012
3. Public Comment 10:50 a.m.
4. Set 2013/2014 Spiny Dogfish Specifications **Action** 11:00 a.m.
 - Spawning Stock and Biomass and Reference Point Update (*J. Armstrong*)
 - Technical Committee Recommendations (*D. Chesky*)
5. Update on Draft Amendment 3 to Federal Spiny Dogfish Fishery Management Plan (*D. Chesky*) 11:40 a.m.
6. Set 2013 Coastal Sharks Specifications **Action** (*D. Chesky*) 11:50 a.m.
7. Elect Vice Chair **Action** 12:40 p.m.
8. Other Business/Adjourn 12:45 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Radisson Plaza Warwick Hotel, 220 S. 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA; 215-735-6000

Healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015

MEETING OVERVIEW

Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Shark Management Board Meeting
Thursday, October 25, 2012
10:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Chair: Mark Gibson (RI) Assumed Chairmanship: 10/12	Vice Chair: Vacant	Law Enforcement Committee Representative: Hanlon/Frampton
Spiny Dogfish Technical Committee Chair: Vacant	Spiny Dogfish Advisory Panel Chair: Vacant	Previous Board Meeting: August 9, 2012
Coastal Shark Technical Committee Chair: Greg Skomal (MA)	Coastal Shark Advisory Panel Chair: Lewis Gillingham	
Voting Members: ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, NMFS, USFWS (16 votes)		

2. Board Consent

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceeding from August 9, 2012

3. Public Comment – At the beginning of the meeting public comment will be taken on items not on the Agenda. Individuals that wish to speak at this time must sign in at the beginning of the meeting. For agenda items that have already gone out for public hearing and/or have had a public comment period that has closed, the Board Chair may determine that additional public comment will not provide additional information. In this circumstance the Chair will not allow additional public comment on an issue. For agenda items that the public has not had a chance to provide input, the Board Chair may allow limited opportunity for comment. The Board Chair has the discretion to limit the number of speakers and/or the length of each comment.

4. Set 2013/2014 Spiny Dogfish Specifications (11:00-11:40 p.m.) Action

Background

- The NEFSC updated estimates of spiny dogfish biomass and fishing mortality (F) in September 2012. Spawning stock biomass (SSB) was estimated at 215,444 metric tons in 2012 and SSB has exceeded the target (159,288 mt) for the last 6 years. F is estimated to be 0.114 in 2011, which is below the F_{MSY} (0.2439) (**Briefing CD**).
- The TC held a joint meeting with the MAFMC Monitoring Committee on October 3, 2012 (**Supplemental Materials**).

Presentations

- Spiny dogfish biomass and fishing mortality update by J. Armstrong.
- Technical Committee Recommendations by D. Chesky.

Board actions for consideration

- Set 2013/2014+ quota and possession limit.

5. Update on Federal Draft Amendment 3 to Spiny Dogfish (11:40-11:50 a.m.)
<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils posted Draft Amendment 3 to the Spiny Dogfish Fishery Management Plan in August 2012. The Commission submitted comment on Issue 4, Commercial Allocation, on September 24, 2012 (Briefing CD). • Options for Issue 4 included removing all commercial allocations for spiny dogfish along the Atlantic coast as well as aligning the state-by-state commercial allocations with allocations currently contained within the Commission Plan. • The New England Council met September 25, and the Mid-Atlantic Council met October 17 to review and select measures for recommendation to NOAA Fisheries.
<p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Councils actions by D. Chesky.
<p>Board actions for consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.

6. Set 2013 Coastal Sharks Specifications (11:50 a.m.-12:40 p.m.) Action
<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FMP allows Board to set quota for smooth dogfish and possession limits for Large Coastal (LCS), Small Coastal (SCS), Pelagic, and Smooth Dogfish species groups for up to 5 years. • The Board set a 33-fish possession limit for LCS in the 2009-12 fishing seasons. • Technical Committee reviewed the LCS possession limit for 2013 season (Supplemental Materials).
<p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Committee Report by D. Chesky.
<p>Board Action for Consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set coastal sharks specifications for 2013 fishing season.

7. Elect Vice Chair (12:40-12:45 p.m.) Action
<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous Vice Chair, Mark Gibson (RI), assumed Chairmanship October 2012
<p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<p>Board actions for consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elect Vice Chair.

8. Other Business/Adjourn

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Spiny Dogfish Technical Committee

October 3, 2012

Specification Recommendations for May 2013 – April 2016

This report summarizes the recommendations and discussions from a joint meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Spiny Dogfish Technical Committee (TC) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee (MC). The meeting was held in Warwick, Rhode Island, on October 3, 2012. This report summarizes recommendations of the TC. Please see the MC report for its recommendations and details on the federal process.

TC Attendance:

J. Armstrong (MAFMC), P. Rago (NEFSC), M. Cieri (ME DMR), A. Willey (MD DNR), R. Babb (NJ DEP), E. Schneider (RI DFW), M. Gates (CT DEP), H. White (NC DMF), S. Newlin (DE DNREC) and D. Chesky (ASMFC Staff).

MC Attendance (not on TC):

D. McKiernan (MADMF), E. Brazer (CCCHFS), P. Haring (NEFMC), and T. Curtis (NMFS NERO).

Observers:

K. Sosebee (NEFSC), J. Lugar (Marine Stewardship Council), and J. Whiteside, Jr. (Sustainable Fisheries Association).

TC Recommendations for 2013/2014+ Specifications:

The TC recommends setting three seasons of specifications for the spiny dogfish fishery. The recommended seasonal commercial quotas recommended are listed below. The TC does not recommend altering the possession limits, at this time, but recommends reconsidering the possession limits next year, after considering the results of the 2012/13 season.

Season	Recommended Commercial quota Millions of pounds
2013-14	40.841896
2014-15	41.783807
2015-16	41.578491

Status of the Stock:

Spawning stock biomass (SSB) was estimated at 215,444 metric tons in 2012 and SSB has exceeded the target (159,288 mt) for the last 5 years. Fishing mortality (F) is estimated to be 0.093 in 2010 and 0.114 in 2011, which are well below the threshold (0.2439). Therefore spiny dogfish are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

Quota Calculation:

The method used by the TC to calculate the 2013/2014+ quota recommendations is:

- Total harvest (MAFMC ABC)
- estimated dead discards
- estimated Canadian landings
- estimated recreational landings
- Management uncertainty

= Annual Commercial Quota

Total Harvest

Following implementation of the Reauthorized Magnuson Stevens Act of 2006 the MC is required to follow recommendations of the MAFMC Science and Statistical Committee (SSC). The SSC met September 26 – 27 and recommended setting the ABC based on the P*40% method established in the MAFMC's Omnibus ACL/AM Amendment. The MAFMC's ABC is equivalent to total harvest as specified by the TC in the past.

The TC is comfortable using the P*40% method to generate total harvest because it should allow for consistent future quotas while preventing SSB from dropping below the target. Projections estimate that under a P*40% strategy, SSB will remain above the target through 2016 even with the SSB drop from the 1997 – 2003 recruitment deficit. Members of the TC also agree that consistent management measures in state and federal waters are beneficial and recommending a quota based on P* increases the probability of consistent state and federal quotas.

After agreeing that total harvest should be set based on P*40%; the TC discussed discards, Canadian catch, and the recreational fishery.

Discards

Dead discards were estimated as the average of the previous ten years of discards. The TC noted that despite significant differences in total catch over the decade, dead discards remained relatively stable around 5,000 metric tons.

TC members felt the decline in the discard ratio would continue to drop, due to the recommended increase in quota, as well as the longer season and lack of regulatory discards that likely will come with the increased quota. From 2010 to 2011, commercial landings increased by 74%, and although total dead discards increased by 17%, the discard ratio declined by 33%.

The TC recommends using the average of the previous ten years of discards (2002-2011), amounting to 5,306 metric tons, as the estimate for the 2013 – 2015 fishing seasons to best account for anticipated discards.

Canadian Landings

Canadian landings dropped significantly from 1,572 metric tons in 2008 to 113 metric tons in 2009, and have remained low since (6 mt in 2010; 124 mt in 2011). The joint TC/MC felt Canadian landings would not increase significantly in 2012 and beyond because the infrastructure to transport and process Canadian dogfish was gone. The TC estimated Canadian landings for the 2013-2015 fishing seasons based on the average of 2009-11 landings.

Recreational Landings

Recreational Landings account for around 1-2% of total landings. The status update noted that the relation between the recreational numbers under MRFSS were similar to the numbers calculated under the new MRIP system and concluded no adjustments were necessary. The TC agreed that the average recreational landings since 2010 should be used to account for recreational catch in the 2013-15 seasons.

Possession Limits

The TC agrees that there is little scientific justification for a large or small possession limit and feel that possession limit amounts are a policy/management decision. **As such the TC did not make a possession limit recommendation.** However, the TC did express interest in reviewing the 2012/13 fishery data next year, to see how the current possession limit, coupled with a much larger quota, affected season length.

2012/2013 Annual Quota Recommendation

Table 1. Spiny dogfish management measures for 2013-2015 as recommended by the ASMFC Spiny Dogfish Technical Committee.

2013 Measures	Basis	M lb	Mt
OFL	$F_{MSY} (0.2439)$	67.576	30,652
ABC	Constant F (0.19528)	54.474	24,709
Canadian Landings	= ave 2009-2011	0.179	81.0
Domestic ABC	= ABC - Canadian Landings	54.295	24,628
ACL	= Domestic ABC	54.295	24,628
Mgmt Uncertainty Buffer	Ave of quota overages (pct) in 2010-2011 (3.99%)	1.697	770
ACT	= Domestic ACL - management uncertainty	52.598	23,858
U.S. Discards	= ave 2002-2011	11.698	5,306
TAL	ACT - Discards	40.900	18,552
U.S. Rec Landings	= ave 2010-2011	0.058	26.5
Comm Quota	TAL - Rec Landings	40.841896	18,526

2014 Measures	Basis	M lb	Mt
OFL			
ABC	Constant F (0.19528)	55.455	25,154
Canadian Landings	= ave 2009-2011	0.179	81.0
Domestic ABC	= ABC - Canadian Landings	55.277	25,073
ACL	= Domestic ABC	55.277	25,073
Mgmt Uncertainty Buffer	Ave of quota overages (pct) in 2010-2011 (3.99%)	1.737	788
ACT	= Domestic ACL - management uncertainty	53.540	24,285
U.S. Discards	= ave 2002-2011	11.698	5,306
TAL	ACT - Discards	41.842	18,979
U.S. Rec Landings	= ave 2010-2011	0.058	26.5
Comm Quota	TAL - Rec Landings	41.783807	18,953

2015 Measures	Basis	M lb	Mt
OFL			
ABC	Constant F (0.19528)	55.241	25,057
Canadian Landings	= ave 2009-2011	0.179	81.0
Domestic ABC	= ABC - Canadian Landings	55.063	24,976
ACL	= Domestic ABC	55.063	24,976
Mgmt Uncertainty Buffer	Ave of quota overages (pct) in 2010-2011 (3.99%)	1.728	784
ACT	= Domestic ACL - management uncertainty	53.335	24,192
U.S. Discards	= ave 2002-2011	11.698	5,306
TAL	ACT - Discards	41.637	18,886
U.S. Rec Landings	= ave 2010-2011	0.058	26.5
Comm Quota	TAL - Rec Landings	41.578491	18,860



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

October 16, 2012

To: Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Fisheries Management Board
From: Coastal Sharks Technical Committee
Subject: Recommendations for 2013 Coastal Shark specifications

The Coastal Sharks Technical Committee met, via conference call, on Monday, October 15, 2012, to review the proposed rule from NOAA's Highly Migratory Species on 2013 specifications for the coastal shark fishery. Significant areas of change to note are below:

- The porbeagle shark fishery will remain closed due to a small quota, due to past overages (259% overage in 2012), and difficulties in monitoring.
- The five-year quota reduction to account for overharvest of non-sandbar large coastal and sandbar fisheries (Amendment 2) expires Dec 31, 2012.
 - Quotas will increase to the base levels denoted in Amendment 2.
 - The retention limit for non-sandbar large coastal sharks will increase to 36 from 33 sharks per trip.
- All species, except for porbeagle, will begin the 2013 season on or about January 1, 2013. This is in contrast to past seasons, especially non-sandbar large coastal sharks, which had delayed openings.
 - In-season trip limit adjustments will be used, if needed, to ensure equitable access among the fishermen.
- Adjustments in the quota will be made for the under harvest of non-blacknose small coastal sharks complex.
 - No adjustment for under harvesting of the following groups will occur, due to their current status of overfished: sandbar, non-sandbar large coastal, blacknose, blue, and pelagic (other than porbeagle or blue).

The Coastal Sharks Technical Committee recommends the Board approve these measures as the 2013 Coastal Shark specifications.

Species group	Region	2011 Annual quota	2012 Annual quota	2013 Annual quota (Proposed)	2012 Season opening dates	2013 Season opening dates (Proposed)
Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks.	Gulf of Mexico	351.9 (775,740 lb dw)	392.8 (866,063lb dw)	439.5 (968,922 lb dw)	15-Feb-12	On or about January 1, 2013
	Atlantic	190.4 (419,756 lb dw)	183.2 (403,889 lb dw)	188.3 (415,126 lb dw)	Effective Date for HMS Electronic Dealer Reporting System or July 15, 2012, whichever comes first	On or about January 1, 2013
Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Shark Research Quota	No regional quotas.	37.5 (82,673 lb dw).	37.5 (82,673 lb dw)	50.0 (110,230 lb dw)	24-Jan-12	On or about January 1, 2013
Sandbar Shark Research	No regional quotas.	87.9 (193,784 lb dw)	87.9 (193,784 lb dw)	116.6 (257,056 lb dw)	24-Jan-12	On or about January 1, 2013
Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks	No regional quotas.	314.4 (693,257 lb dw)	332.4 (732,808 lb dw)	332.4 (732,808 lb dw)	24-Jan-12	On or about January 1, 2013
Blacknose Sharks	No regional quotas.	19.9 (43,872 lb dw)	19.9 (43,872 lb dw)	19.9 (43,872 lb dw)	24-Jan-12	On or about January 1, 2013
Blue Sharks	No regional quotas.	273.0 (601,856 lb dw)	273.0 (601,856 lb dw)	273.0 (601,856 lb dw)	24-Jan-12	On or about January 1, 2013
Porbeagle Sharks	No regional quotas.	1.6 (3,479 lb dw)	0.7 (1,585 lb dw)	0.5 (1,001 lb dw)	24-Jan-12	Closed for 2013
Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue	No regional quotas.	488.0 (1,075,856 lb dw)	488.0 (1,075,856 lb dw)	488.0 (1,075,856 lb dw)	24-Jan-12	On or about January 1, 2013

Key
Quota or Fishing Days Increased from previous year
Quota or Fishing Days Decreased from previous year