



NOAA
FISHERIES

Atlantic Highly
Migratory Species
Management
Division

REVISING THE ATLANTIC SHARK FISHERY CLOSURE REGULATIONS

The “80-5 Rule”

HMS Management Division
September 7, 2017

Outline

- Purpose
- Management History
- Comments Received
- Options
- Discussion



Source: NOAA Fisheries

Purpose


Purpose: To update and revise existing HMS regulations that require NMFS to close shark fisheries with no fewer than 5-days' notice when landings or projections of landings reach 80% of the commercial quota.

Goal: To improve ability to harvest available quotas fully while also avoiding overharvests in these fisheries.




Dealer Reporting History

1993 *FMP for Sharks of the Atlantic Ocean*: Dealers required to report harvest of sharks on paper every two weeks; closures at 100% threshold with 5 days advanced notice



2008 *Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP*: Dealers required to report harvest of sharks on paper every two weeks; closures at 80% threshold with 5 days advanced notice



2013 Dealers required to report harvests of sharks, swordfish, and BAYS tunas electronically every week; closures at 80% threshold with 5 days advanced notice

Comments Received

HMS AP Meetings

- September 2010
- September 2014
- September 2016
- May 2017

Rulemakings

- Amendment 2, the 2017 Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishing Season Rule (81 FR 84491, November 23, 2016)
- The Commercial Retention Limit for Blacknose Sharks and Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks in the Atlantic Region rule (81 FR 90241, December 14, 2016)

Comments Received Continued

Amendment 2

- Change threshold from 80% to 90%.
- Increase closure notice because a 5-day notice is not long enough for PLL fishermen.
- NMFS should consider either a 3-day closure notice instead of 5 to be consistent with bluefin tuna regulations, or reduce the threshold to 70%.
- NMFS should predict how long the season should remain open to fill the quota based on past catch rates.

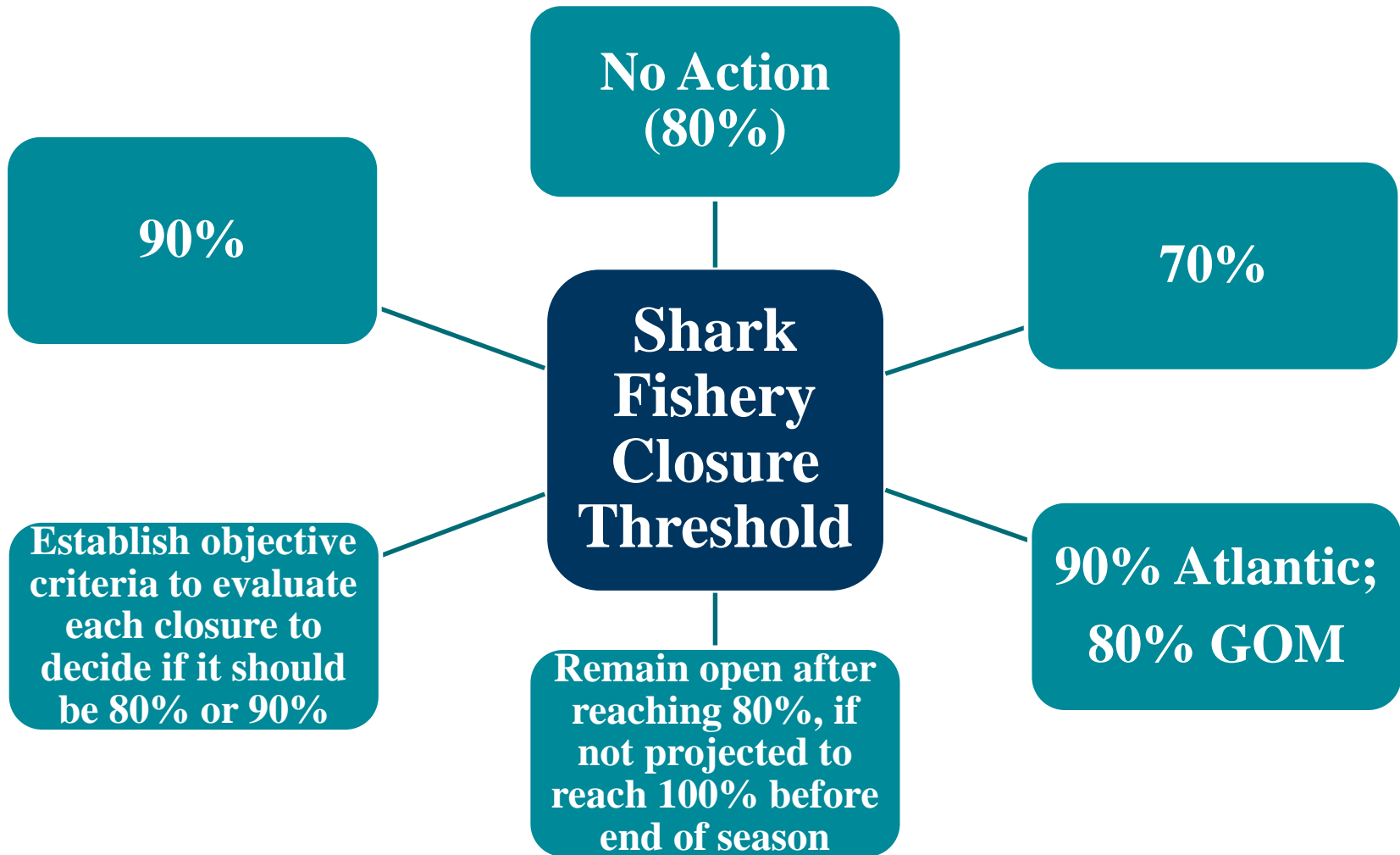
Blacknose

- Change the 80% threshold to a higher threshold

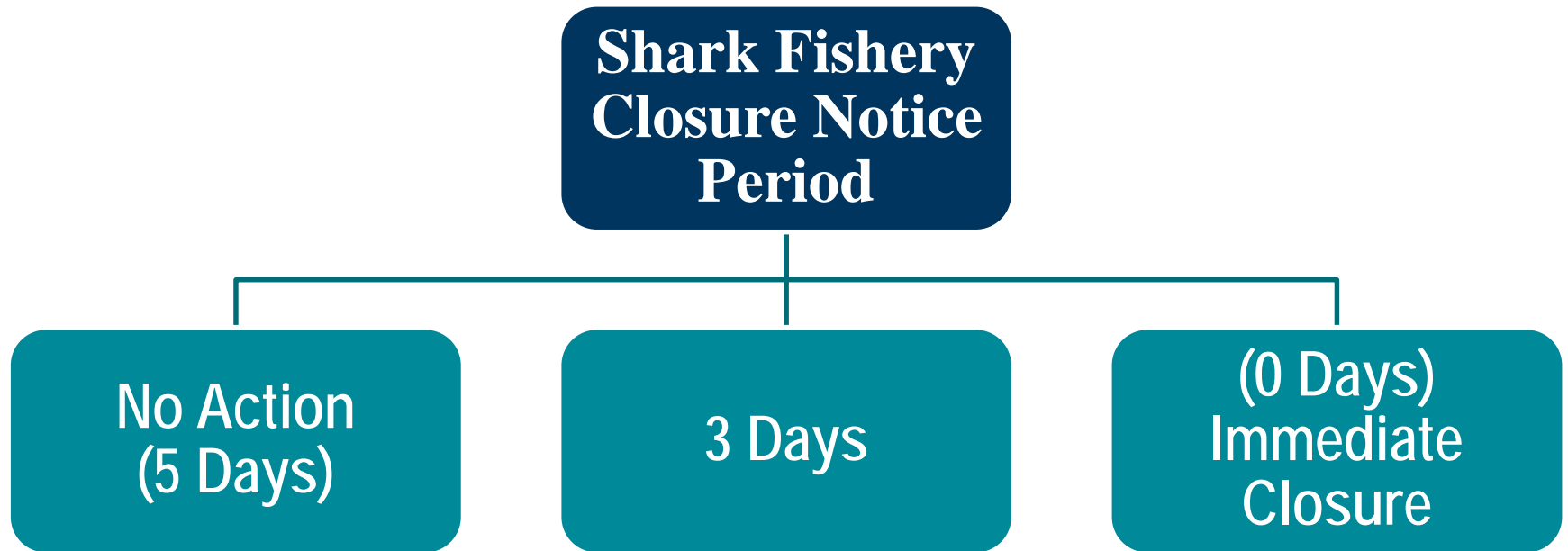
AP Meetings

- 2010: Move reporting from every two weeks to every week and use full quota.
- 2014: Change closure threshold to 95% now that eDealer is in place.
- 2016 and 2017: Increase threshold from 80% to 90%.

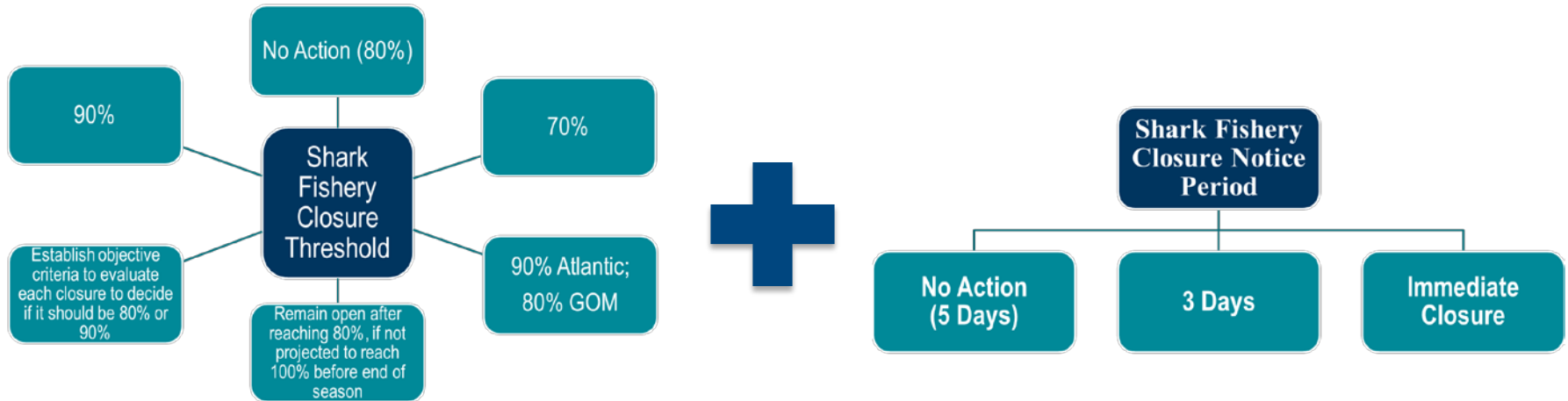
Shark Fishery Closure Threshold Options



Shark Fishery Closure Notice Options



Threshold + Notice = Improvement?



Discussion

- What are your thoughts on the 6 threshold options and 3 notice options?
- What options would work together most appropriately?
- Are there other options we should consider?

For More Information

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