



NOAA
FISHERIES

HMS Advisory Panel Wrap-Up

Fall 2017 HMS AP Meeting



September 7, 2017

Overview of Recent Activities/Rulemaking

- Request for update on utilization of mobile reporting app
- Next steps in the oceanic whitetip listing process
- Connectivity between seafood import monitoring rule and IUU provisions of the Shark Conservation Act - what is happening to stop imports of shark products from unsustainable fisheries?
- Concerns about illegal domestic landings of HMS
- Any new research on effects of DWH on larval bluefin tuna?
- Several questions regarding the Cape Cod Commercial Fisherman's Association EFP request (permitting, enforcement, electronic monitoring, effects on available quota)



Upcoming Rulemaking: Charter/Headboat Permit

- General support for the approach that would split the CHB permit into “sale” and “no-sale” categories
- Consider the potential impacts on the Bluefin Tuna Trophy category quota
- Continued concern about the differences in reporting requirements across fisheries
- Suggestion to require proof of a captain’s license for CHB permit issuance



Upcoming Rulemaking: IBQ Accountability

- IBQ leased during the year? Details in IBQ update presentation (141,183 lb in 2016)
- If no conservation concerns, NMFS should make accountability more flexible
- Should/should not allow carryover of IBQ. ICCAT implications?
- Implications flexibility in accounting could have on need for inseason transfers to the Longline category early in the year
- Trip-level accountability may prevent vessels from quick turn around when target species fishing is good. It can be difficult to find additional IBQ to lease, and leasing is a cost to vessels.
- Vessels can be hesitant to lease early in year
- Accounting period should not be too long so that vessels don't go too far into quota debt

Enforcement Updates

- Need to differentiate between fisheries regulations and USCG requirements (e.g., boat lettering vs. inspections)
- Interest in high seas boarding/inspection initiatives
- Clarification/discussion on violation penalties; see Mid Atlantic Council Aug Briefing Book if interested in seeing more examples
- Request to consider an exemption for filleting YFT at sea
- Acknowledgement of animal mistreatment by Florida anglers; FL FWC and NOAA response. Interest in how OLE is addressing violations posted on social media
- Request to consider a tournament permit (make sure operators know the regulations)
- Request to streamline inspections
- Request that USCG/OLE keep public updated on the use of drones in enforcement activities

Caribbean HMS Update



- We will have a more comprehensive discussion in the Spring 2018
- What is the process for removing species like Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, and sevengill shark from the prohibited list?
- Is the scalloped hammerhead DPS in the Caribbean different from the one in the mainland? Clarified that the scalloped hammerhead DPS in the Caribbean is different
- Need to research the genetics of sharks, such as Caribbean sharpnose, Caribbean reef, and blacknose sharks, to see if they are the same stock as what is found in other parts of the United States
- Need to see more information on the SPAW protocol next time to see how this overlaps with NMFS and the species of sharks that we have in common

Final Amendment 10 Essential Fish Habitat

- Concern about whether historical data trends will be lost
- Question about "significant findings" based on our analyses - no regulatory measures
- It's difficult to get permits for some development activities because habitats might be used as EFH in the future - designate carefully
- Suggestion that we conduct targeted sampling of areas off Tarpon Springs for future data collection activities (dusky sharks) - next EFH update should evaluate these areas
- Concern about stormwater runoff permitting activities around Plymouth, and whether habitats were being protected in coastal areas



Pelagic Longline Closed Area Research EFP

- Study design is thoughtful and will provide important data
- NMFS must monitor project carefully (keep “tight leash”)
- Provide updates at all AP meetings
- Recreational sector has great concerns; credibility is important
- Use EM to verify dusky shark mortalities vs captain reports; Interpretation of dead dusky sharks critical



Atlantic HMS Tournament Study

- Expenditure and economic impact estimates will be available by Spring AP meeting for both Tournament Study and HMS Angler Trip Expenditure Survey
- Tournament study registration fees also included “Calcutta” fees
- Tournament study focused on all tournaments that targeted HMS whether HMS were their primary target or not



MRIP/LPS Priorities

- Final HMS Implementation Plan in fall 2017
- Desire for report on timeline for LPS re-design, re-estimation, and expansion at Spring AP meeting
- Preference expressed for solutions that minimize reporting burden (i.e., combining LPIS and APAIS sampling efforts)
- States doing a good job with APAIS survey and adding an offshore stratum worked very well with Louisiana Creel Survey
- Addition of offshore stratum to APAIS will be easier in some states than others due to number of offshore access sites

MRIP/LPS Priorities, cont.

- NMFS should consider electronic reporting options that collect more targeted effort data
- Electronic reporting needs to be made as easy as possible to minimize reporting burden and improve compliance
- Combine shark data collection efforts with outreach efforts to improve species identification
- States with distributed access sites should consider marine fuel sources for distribution of catch cards

Recreational Issues, cont.

Tournament Registration

- Suggest that automatic regulation compliance information be sent to tournament operators when they register a tournament

C-hook Requirement in Billfish Tournaments

- General opposition to exemption for high-speed trolling for blue marlin because the requirement has some benefit for the overfished species and most of the fishery has adapted to the requirement
- General support for allowing J-hooks with lures that have natural components completely encased in synthetic material

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management: 2017 Review

- Re: 2017 recreational BFT catch from June:
 - Look at school BFT catch by mode (CHB vs private vessel) and by state
 - Look back to 2003-2005 data to see what June showed vs. year-end catch to see if similar pattern
- Acknowledgement that this was a challenging year for managing BFT fisheries
- Continued concern re: General category catch reporting
 - Consider not issuing a vessel permit if catch not reported by vessel
 - Consider requiring vessel to report *before* landing, providing the dealer a confirmation number
 - Should show discard information as well as landings

Atlantic BFT Management: 2017 Review, cont.

- ...Continued concern re: General category catch reporting
 - Need concerted outreach effort (by Agency)
 - Although those complying should not pay the penalty for those who don't, not sensible to provide more and more quota to category with low self-reporting
 - Question about whether compliance rates could be shown for Angling category
- The LPS estimates for 2017 may be showing one or more good year class becoming available
- Will need to push for increased U.S. quota to address the needs of the various categories
- Questions about the future of the Purse Seine BFT fishery; potential quota reallocation?

Public Comment

- Request that the HMS Division and AP consider the CCCFA EFP request- commercial fishermen in sector have General category BFT permits and would like the opportunity to catch BFT on groundfish trips in conjunction with electronic monitoring
- Request to reform the online permitting system for private anglers getting permits. Request shark ID video be extended to commercial fishery and include protected species safe handling and release, so they can watch a video rather than attend workshop, which is burdensome

Electronic HMS Dealer Process

- Continue providing commercial landings updates of tunas. When are we going to start seeing more information for the recreational sector? Concerned that there would be duplication as a result of fishermen having to report in two different logbooks
- Do we have 100% compliance in dealer reporting? What kind of enforcement is available to ensure dealer compliance or more compliance? Is NMFS able to make courtesy phone calls to dealers in order to ensure compliance?
- How much effort has there been to have the states' systems be more integrated into the federal system to make it more streamlined?
- Any feedback on the hammerhead sharks overharvest in 2016 in the western Gulf of Mexico? Is that a case where there are consequences for that particular dealer? Why was NMFS over the quota when fishery closed?
- How does dealer reporting duplication happen?

Upcoming Rulemaking: Commercial Shark Closure Threshold & Advanced Notice



Overall

- Would like to see add'l analysis on impacts, particularly regarding buffers in combination with scientific and management uncertainties
- Consider establishing different criteria or thresholds for different sectors/regions
- Would like more information on how bycatch is accounted for against the TAC
- Concern regarding hammerhead status and overharvests
- Issue with overharvests appears to be GOM and HH issue

Upcoming Rulemaking: Commercial Shark Closure Threshold & Advanced Notice, cont.

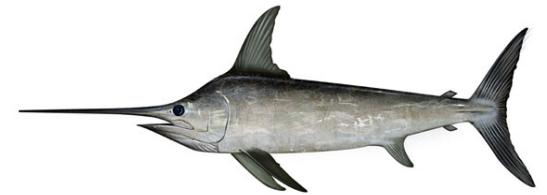
Notice period

- No support for immediate closure
- Some support for status quo but consider overall comments
- MD required to provide fishermen at least 48 hrs notice before closure
- LA fishermen used to 24-48 hrs notice before closure

Threshold

- Some support for 90% threshold in Atlantic, and not closing if projections do not reach 100%
- Some support for no more than 80% particularly in problem areas
- Question regarding re-opening fishery if quota is not met

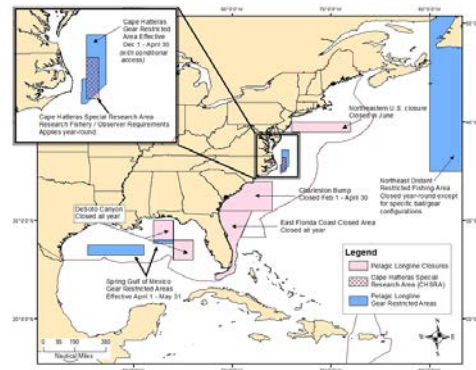
PLL Fishery: Swordfish Trends



- Interest in examining effort over a longer timeframe
- Other gears besides PLL have experienced a drop in landings (reduced SWO availability?)
- In addition to SWO, the United States is importing more bigeye from Ecuador
- Need to analyze age of vessel crew, not just owners
- Poor public perception of SWO; marketing could help
- Countries that export SWO to the United States don't abide by same conservation requirements
- Not one issue that is preventing PLL vessels from catching SWO; many facets reduce performance
- Flexibility in fishing would be helpful

PLL Fishery: Area-Based Management

- Any new closures should include provisions for data collection
- Support for observer-based access option, especially for Charleston Bump
- Support for moving towards more individual accountability measures and away from area closures
- Should show an analysis of options at the next AP meeting



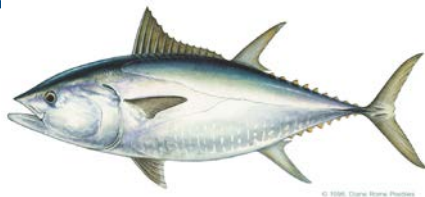
PLL Fishery: Weak Hooks in Gulf of Mexico

- Redundant with IBQ requirements and Gulf of Mexico GRAs
- No need for weak hooks after July
- Support for presenting additional analysis at the next AP meeting



PLL Fishery: IBQ Program Update and 3-Year Review

- Should analyze the whole fishery, not just BFT
- Concerns about liberalizing PLL regulations, including IBQ accountability and closed areas
- General category interest in IBQ Program due to quota implications
- Industry offer to help provide relevant information
- Amendment likely following 3-year review



Bluefin Tuna General Category "January" Fishery

- Acknowledgement that this was a challenging year given fish availability, weather conditions, etc
- Some support for a rule change to allow the January fishery to run through May 31 or until the available subquota is reached, whichever comes first
 - Would provide participants flexibility and reduce safety issues associated with derby conditions (e.g., when BFT arrive in March)
 - Proponents reiterate not seeking subquota allocation changes
 - Helps catch the full U.S. quota, which has been justification for transfers from the Reserve in the past
- Some support for the status quo
 - Continued concern from northeast U.S. participants about:
 - Economic impacts of any quota shifts on traditional participants
 - Development of "new" fisheries or increased dependency on January quota; if U.S. BFT quota increases, consider then
- Some support for an increase in U.S. quota given the improved performance of the fisheries and competition for quota
- Continued concern re: General category landings reporting, by dealers and vessels
 - Need timely information to prevent overharvests of the subquotas



Noteworthy Dates

- 2018 Shark Specifications Proposed Rule comment period ends September 21
- ICCAT Annual Meeting November 14-22



Reminders to AP Members

- Receipts due on September 15
 - Send to: Peter.Cooper@noaa.gov and mail originals
- Please return table tents and name badges
- Please complete the AP satisfaction survey

