

NOAA
FISHERIES

Atlantic Highly
Migratory Species
Management
Division

Proposed Rule to Revise Atlantic Shark Fishery Closure Regulations

The "80-5 Rule"

HMS Management Division
March 2018

Proposed Shark Fishery Closure Revisions


- Proposed rule published on February 23, 2018
- Comment period ends on March, 26, 2018
- Two issues are being examined:
 - The landings threshold that prompts a shark fishery closure action by HMS
 - The notice period before a shark fishery closure becomes effective

Shark Dealer Reporting History

1993 *FMP for Sharks of the Atlantic Ocean*: Paper reporting every two weeks; closures at 100% threshold; 5 days' advanced notice



2008 *Amendment 2 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP*: Paper reporting every two weeks; closures at 80% threshold; 5 days' advanced notice



2013 Electronic reporting every week; closures at 80% threshold; 5 days' advanced notice

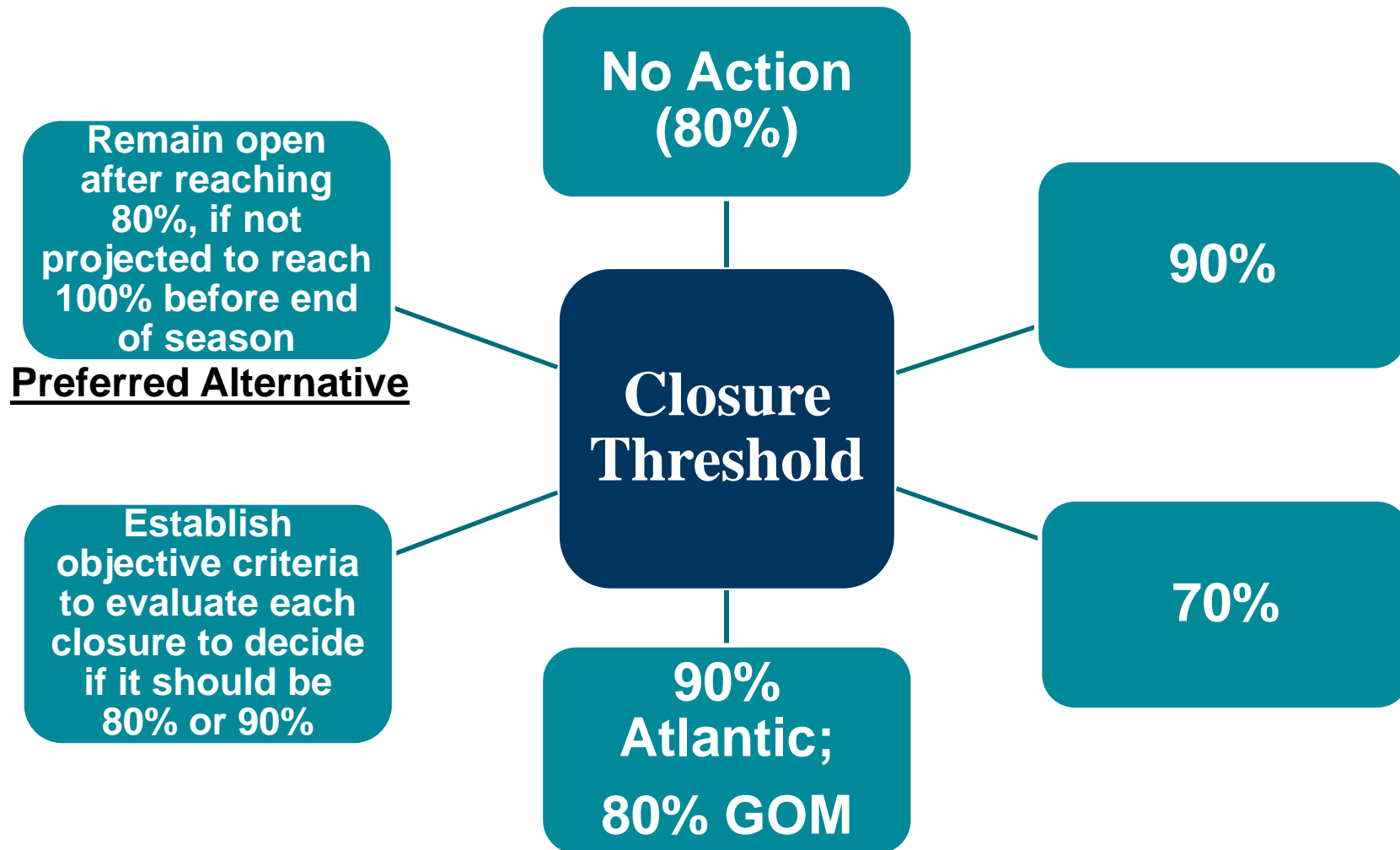
Purpose and Goal

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

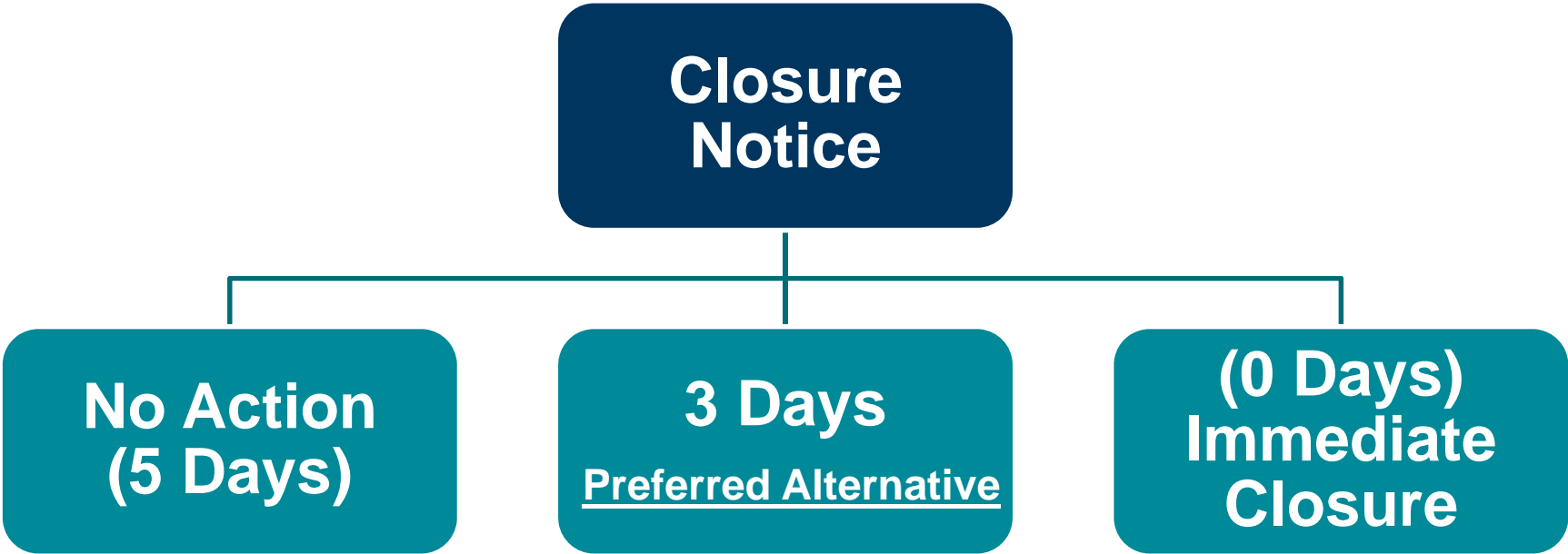
Goal: To improve ability to fully harvest available quotas while also avoiding overharvests in these fisheries



Shark Fishery Closure Threshold Alternatives



Shark Fishery Closure Notice Alternatives



Justification for Preferred Alternatives

80% threshold
with ability to
stay open

- **More flexibility to achieve full quota utilization while still preventing overharvest**

3-day
notice

- **More timely action than current 5-day notice**
- **Does not interrupt the majority of trips**

Other threshold alternatives are not preferred because:

Threshold

- Could increase potential for under- or overharvest, or
- Could unnecessarily complicate closure procedures

Notice

- Does not increase flexibility or timeliness in management, or
- Could interrupt fishing activities with little or no warning, potentially increasing regulatory discards if trips were underway at time of closure

Threshold + Notice = Improvement?

Will these proposed changes to the closure threshold and closure notice period improve management of the fishery?

Request for Public Comments

Comment period closes on **March 26, 2018**

Via web: <http://www.regulations.gov> *Keyword* - “NOAA-NMFS-2017-0070”

Via fax: 301-713-1917, Attn: Lauren Latchford / Karyl Brewster-Geisz

Via mail: NMFS SF1, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Please identify comments with NOAA-NMFS-2017-0070

For More Information

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