

Science, Service, Stewardship



Research & Monitoring Activities

HMS Management Division

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

NOAA



Overview

- Research
 - Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)/Scientific Research Permits (SRPs)
 - Selected Research (HMS & SEFSC)
 - Grants and Contracts (HMS & SEFSC)
- Surveys & Monitoring
- Database overview



Research Activities Conducted Under HMS EFPs and LOAs (through February 2011)

Species	Permit	Number	Research
Tuna	EFP	2	Tagging & sampling BFT
Sharks	EFP	3	Sampling prohibited & undersize sharks from comm & rec landings (tournaments); deploying PSATs on sharks; determining movement, life history patterns, and toxin levels in sharks
Sharks	LOAs	2	Determining abundance/distribution of sharks



PLL Closed Area Research

- Goals: 1) Collect baseline data in closed areas under current fishery conditions; 2) Evaluate existing bycatch reduction measures; 3) Collect data to examine the effectiveness of existing area closures to meet current conservation and harvesting goals
- Conditions: Max of 3 boats (only 2 fishing at one time), 289 sets (145 in closed areas) w/500 18/0 non-offset circle hooks, 100% observer coverage
- Extended permit through September 30, 2010, to finish sets and writing of final report
- 185 sets completed: 105 closed areas; 80 open areas
- Status: Final report being drafted



Grants and Contracts

- **Title:** Determining the relative proportion of roundscale spearfish and white marlin throughout the Atlantic Ocean --
Grantee: Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS);
Award Period: From 1 July 2007 through 30 June 2008; extended until June 30, 2010.
- Grant provided to VIMS to continue genetic analyses of YOY bluefin tuna and of spawning adults from the western Atlantic to better characterize the genetic composition of known “western fish” and to evaluate temporal stability of genetic profiles



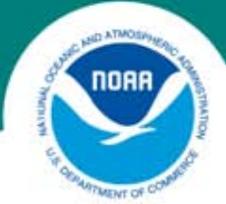
Other HMS Monitoring Programs

- Commercial
 - Pelagic Observer Program
 - Shark Bottom Longline Observer Program
 - Shark Gillnet Observer Program
 - Logbook Reporting Requirements (HMS Logbook)
 - Mandatory if selected
 - Authorized but not implemented for CHB
 - Dealer Reports
- Recreational
 - Recreational Billfish Survey
 - Non-tournament billfish/swordfish call-in
 - Automated Landings Reporting System
 - MD & NC tagging programs
 - MRFSS/LPS/MRIP Pilot Projects



Marine Recreational Information Program

- Florida HMS Private Angler Telephone Survey: *Status*: Final Report completed April 2010
- HMS For-hire Survey – Florida Pilot Study. *Status*: Final Report completed March 2011
- Puerto Rico HMS Catch Card Pilot. *Status*: Implemented March 1, 2011
- Puerto Rico HMS Permit Holder Pilot Survey. *Status*: Implemented February 1, 2011
- Submitted proposal to MRIP for design and testing of census-based BFT landings program in Massachusetts. *Status*: Awaiting funding decision
- Submitted proposal to MRIP to conduct a non-response study for the Large Pelagics Telephone Survey. *Status*: Awaiting funding decision



HMS Research Database

- Purpose
 - To compile published research for Atlantic HMS
- Database
 - Access database format
 - User friendly; easy to search (do need to know how to use Access)
- Updated with 2009 information; some 2010 updated
 - Peer-reviewed papers
 - Technical memorandum
 - Some Col. Vol. Sci. Pap. papers included (2001-2007 & 2009)
 - Current SCRS stock assessments
 - MARFIN/Saltonstall-Kennedy Programs/HMS Grants
- Available on HMS Management Division's website:
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Linkpages/documents.htm>



HMS Research Plan

Development of an integrated Atlantic HMS Research Plan

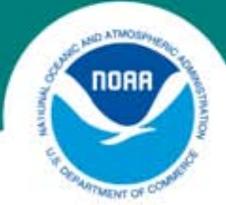
Areas to be considered:

- Biology
 - Improvement in collection programs of biological samples
 - Age and growth
 - Reproductive studies
 - Habitat utilization and feeding ecology
 - Species identification



HMS Research Plan

- Analytical approaches for assessment of HMS
 - Improving fishery-dependent indices of abundance
 - Develop more fishery-independent indices of abundance
 - Develop alternative stock assessment models
- Fisheries Research
 - Gear research and development (e.g., weak hooks)
 - Modification of fishing practices to reduce bycatch mortality
 - Estimation of post-release mortality
 - Effect of time-area closures
 - Improvement in collection of fishery statistics



Discussion

Thank you for your attention

Questions?

Comments?

Concerns?