

Science, Service, Stewardship



Highly Migratory Species Management Update

ICCAT Advisory Committee

October 17, 2012

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



2011 ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions

- **11-01 – Bigeye and yellowfin conservation and management**
- **11-02 – North Atlantic swordfish conservation**
- 11-03 – Mediterranean swordfish management
- **11-04 – North Atlantic albacore rebuilding program**
- 11-05 – Southern albacore 2012-2013 catch limits
- 11-06 – Atlantic-wide bluefin tuna research program
- 11-07 – Rebuilding plan for blue and white marlin
- **11-08 – Conservation of silky sharks**
- 11-09 – Reducing incidental bycatch of sea birds
- 11-10 – Harmonization of data on bycatch and discards
- 11-11 – Clarifying application of compliance recommendations
- **11-12 – ICCAT record of authorized vessels 20 meters or greater**
- 11-13 – Principles of decision making for ICCAT measures
- 11-14 – Resolution standardizing presentation of scientific information



2011 ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions

- 11-15 – Applicable penalties in case of non-fulfillment of reporting obligations
- 11-16 – ICCAT access agreements
- 11-17 – Resolution on best available science
- 11-18 – IUU vessel list in ICCAT Convention Area
- **11-19 – Lifting of trade restrictive measures against Bolivia and Georgia**
- 11-20 – Amendment to 09-11 on BCD program
- 11-21 – Amendment to 10-11 on eBCD program
- 11-22 – Resolution on traceability of tuna products
- 11-23 – Working group to improve ICCAT statistics and conservation measures
- 11-24 – Amendment to the Compliance Committee terms of reference
- 11-25 – Resolution on a program of work for Future of ICCAT WG
- 11-26 – Establishment of meeting participation fund for developing ICCAT Contracting Parties



Rulemaking/Operations Update

Since the May IAC meeting:

- Published 3 proposed rules and 6 final rules
- Oversaw 20 workshops
- Conducted scoping for bluefin tuna Amendment 7
- Continued to investigate options and resources for improving recreational YFT data collection – Sept. 2012 AP Meeting, internal discussions

In 2012 so far:

- Issued 44 EFPs, SRPs, & LOAs
- Issued 5 shark research fishery permits; some changes this year
- Registered 231 HMS tournaments
- ~4,400 people receiving Atlantic HMS News



Bluefin Tuna Quota Specifications

Final 2012 quota specifications published July 27, 2012 (77 FR 44161)

- Accounted up front for 1/2 of revised dead discard estimate (145.2 mt);
- Carried 94.9 mt forward from 2011 underharvest (159.9 mt), as allowed per ICCAT recommendation;
- Allocated the full 2012 baseline quotas to all directed categories;
- Adjusted Longline South and Longline North subquotas to amounts actually taken in 2012 following closures; and
- Held the remainder of the 2011 underharvest in the Reserve category, for an adjusted 2012 Reserve category quota of 41.8 mt.



Bluefin Tuna Inseason Actions

- General category daily retention limit of 3 large medium/giant BFT June 1 through Aug. 31; Sept. – Dec. 31 (77 FR 28496 and 77 FR 53150)
 - Landings through Oct. 10: 294.8 mt out of 435 mt
- Closure of pelagic longline fishery to BFT landings (77 FR 31546, 38011)
 - Longline South: Quota: 44.9 mt *Closed May 29* Landings: 50.8 mt
 - Longline North: Quota: 29.9 mt *Closed June 30* Landings: 30.4 mt
 - NED remains open with 25 mt available; landings to date: 3 mt
- Angling category (77 FR 21015)
 - Retention limit adjustment & Trophy South closure April 7 (77 FR 21015)
 - 1 BFT 27-<73" for private vessels; 1 BFT 27-<47" & 1 BFT 47-<73" for CHB
 - Landings thru Aug. 31 (LPS only): 2,913 fish vs 3,519 from Jun-Aug 2011



Bluefin Tuna Continued

- Harpoon category
 - 1st year with limit of 4 large mediums (up from 2) + unlimited giants
 - Landings through Oct. 10: 17.2 mt of 36 mt
(30% large mediums; 70% giants)
- Purse Seine category
 - Active in July; 1st landings since 2009
 - Landings through Oct. 10: 1.7 mt of 171.8 mt
 - Allocations made to all 5 permit holders



Amendment 7 on BFT Management

Status:

- Completed: Notice of Intent and Scoping: Spring 2012
- Under Development: Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Rule
- Future: Proposed Rule spring 2013; Anticipated implementation 2014

Focus of Amendment: primarily Atlantic bluefin tuna

- Objectives: Optimize allowable fishing opportunity and account for bluefin tuna dead discards, enhance reporting, and reduce dead discards
- Also intend to codify Northern albacore rebuilding plan/quota



ICCAT 2011 Silky Shark Rule

Final rule published October 4, 2012 (77 FR 60632)

- Implements ICCAT Recommendation 11-08, which requires fishing vessels operating in ICCAT-managed fisheries to release all silky sharks whether dead or alive, and prohibits retaining on board, transshipping, or landing any part or whole carcass of silky shark; and
- Prohibits the storing, selling or purchasing of silky sharks
 - To facilitate domestic compliance and enforcement -- consistent with similar regulations finalized last year regarding oceanic whitetip and most hammerhead sharks



ICCAT 2011 Trade Related Actions

Final Rule published August 29, 2012 (77 FR 52259)

- Lifted trade sanctions on importing Atlantic bigeye tuna from Bolivia and Georgia per ICCAT Recommendation 11-19
- Updated HMS regulations consistent with 2012 changes to Harmonized Tariff Schedule



Swordfish Quotas & Other Measures

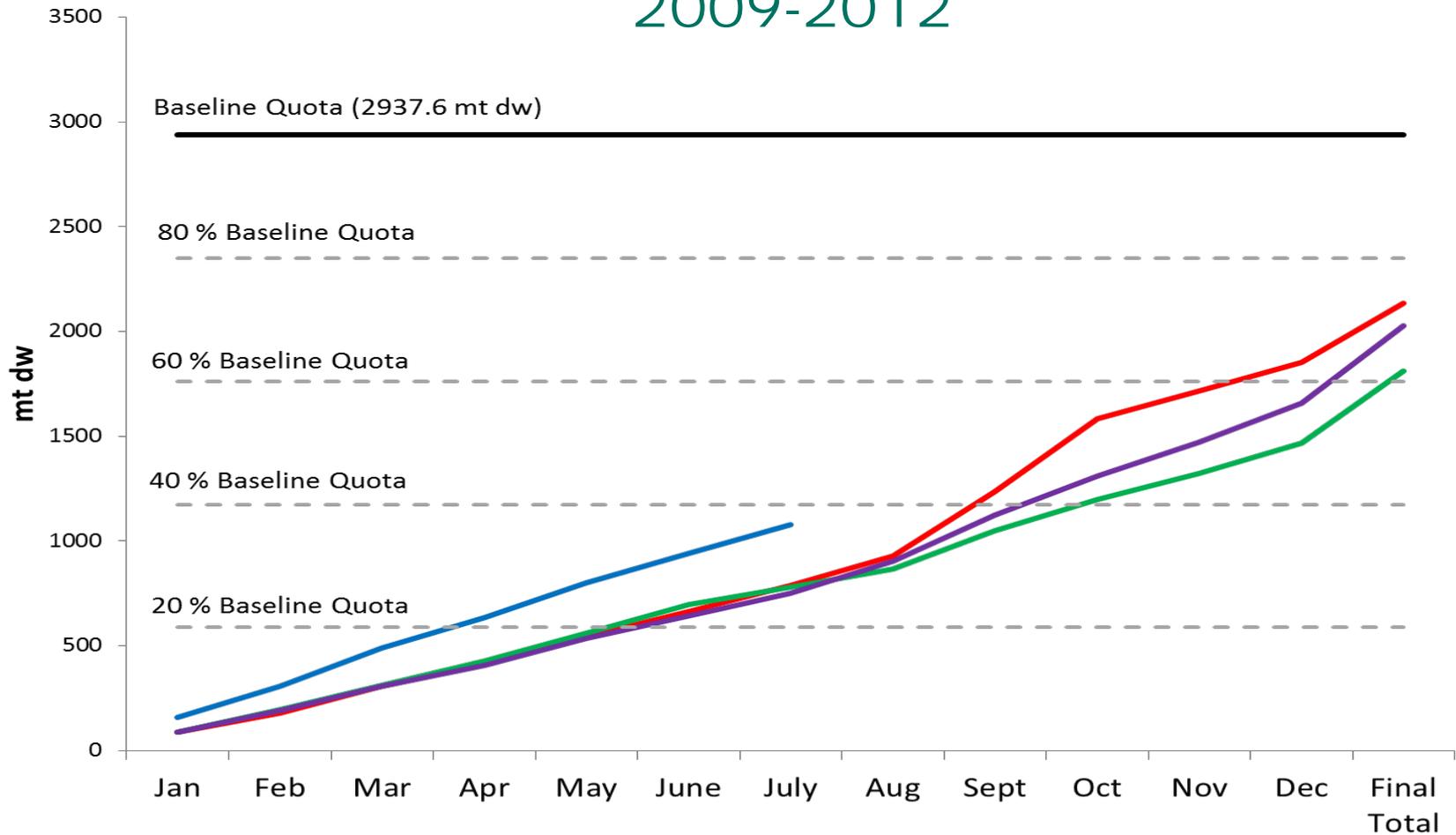
Final rule published (July 31, 2012; 77 FR 45273)

- Established 2012 North and South Atlantic swordfish quotas to account for 2011 underharvests & transfer 112.8 mt dw to Morocco for scientific research
 - 2012 North Atlantic adjusted quota is $3,672 - 112.8 = 3559.2$ mt dw
 - 2012 South Atlantic adjusted quota is 75.2 mt dw
 - Implemented required 25% reduction in carry-forward of underharvest
- Commercial and recreational minimum sizes:
 - Alternative 25-inch cleithrum to caudal keel measure implemented
 - Swordfish bill may be removed, as long as bill is removed forward of anterior tip of the lower jaw and head is naturally attached
- Allowed quota transfer from directed to incidental/reserve categories
- Implemented reserve allocation of 50 mt dw for fishery research landings



- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012

United States Swordfish Landings 2009-2012





Amendment 8 on Swordfish

Status:

- Pre-draft at spring 2012 AP meeting
- Discussion at fall 2012 AP meeting
- Proposed rule anticipated early 2013; final rule ~ summer 2013

Focus of Amendment: Commercial swordfish handgear fishery

Objective: Provide additional opportunities to harvest swordfish with gears that are generally low in bycatch and bycatch mortality



Amendment 8 to the HMS FMP

Potential Management Measures Include:

- New open access permit
- Gears: rod and reel, handline, harpoon, bandit gear, greenstick (not buoy gear)
- Low retention limit (0-6 fish per trip)
- Regional management areas



Recreational Billfish Update

Marlin Landings

- CY 2009: 44 Blue marlin; 53 White marlin (final)
- CY 2010: 25 Blue marlin; 41 White marlin; 19 Roundscale spearfish (final)
- CY 2011: 43 Blue marlin; 56 White marlin; 7 Roundscale Spearfish (final)
- CY 2012: 43 Blue marlin; 8 White marlin; 4 Roundscale Spearfish (to date)

Sailfish Landings

- CY 2009: 140 (final non-tournament)
- CY 2010: 185 (final non-tournament)
- CY 2011: 166 (final non-tournament)
- CY 2012: 112 (to date)



Operations/Other



- ICCAT submissions:
 - Bluefin monthly landings
 - Bigeye/ yellowfin vessel lists (Rec 11-01)
 - Changes to HMS permitted vessels monthly (Rec 11-12)
 - SWO management document (Rec 11-02)
- ICCAT electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (e-BCD) system in progress; rulemaking likely in 2013 for Jan 2014
- e-Dealer reporting system development and outreach
- North Carolina greenstick gear study report early 2013
- Louisiana greenstick gear study underway for FY12-13



Questions?

Thank you!