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Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

HMS Management Overview
December 1, 2016

Rulemaking/Operations

Since the September 2016 AP meeting:

- Published 2 final rules: Vessel upgrade restrictions, 2017 SHK specs
- Published 2 proposed rules: IBQ inseason transfers, Draft Amendment 5b on Dusky Sharks
- Published call for SEDAR Pool nominations
- Published call for HMS AP nominations
- Published Notice of Intent to Issue EFPs/SRPs
- Published call for applications for 2017 Shark Research Fishery
- Conducted webinars/hearings for Draft Amendment 10 on Essential Fish Habitat and Draft Amendment 5b
- Published inseason actions: BFT General category fishery (2 quota transfers/retention limit adjustments; 1 closure); Atlantic LCS retention limit adjustment
- Supported ICCAT 2016 meeting

ICCAT 2016

- Western BFT rollover for one year; assessment in 2017
- North & South Atlantic Swordfish rollovers for one year; assessments in 2017
- Northern Albacore – rebuilt; overall TAC and U.S. quota unchanged; Harvest Control Rule work ongoing
- Tropical tunas – capacity plan, observer coverage review
- North Atlantic blue shark overall TAC
- Western Sailfish overall TAC
- Vessel lists!
- 23 recommendations/resolutions in total



2017 Shark Specifications Final Rule

- Adjusted quotas for previous under/overharvests; established fishery opening dates and retention limits
 - GOM blacktip quota increased (Eastern & Western)
 - Atlantic & GOM smoothhound quota increased
 - Atlantic blacknose equal to baseline
- All management groups open January 1, 2017, except for Western GOM blacktip/aggregated LCS/hammerheads which open February 1, 2017
- Retention limits for LCS other than sandbar sharks/vessel/trip:
 - GOM Eastern & Western: 45
 - Atlantic: 25, with anticipated inseason adjustments



Vessel Upgrade Restrictions Final Rule

- Removes vessel upgrade restrictions for Swordfish Directed and Atlantic tunas Longline permits
 - Proposed rule published July 26; comment period closed Sept 26
 - Final rule published Nov 23; effective Dec 23
- Maintains vessel upgrade restrictions for Swordfish Handgear permit
- HMS Management Division staff working with SERO Permits staff on implementation



Bluefin Tuna Landings in 2016 to date

As of November 25, 2016, preliminary commercial landings are:

- General category has landed 743.6 mt out of adjusted 676.7 mt
- Harpoon category has landed 20.2 mt out of adjusted 20.6 mt
- Longline category has landed 81.4 mt out of 182.3 mt.
- Purse seine category has landed 0.0 out of 82.9 mt
- Trap category has landed 0.0 out of 1.0 mt

Inseason Actions:

- Oct 6 – quota transfer from Reserve (125 mt); adjusted retention limit to 4 fish effective Oct 9
- Oct 14 – quota transfer from Harpoon (18 mt) and Reserve (67 mt); adjusted retention limit to 2 fish effective Oct 17
- Nov 4 – coastwide fishery closure



Previous AP suggestions

- A7 – review fishery trends, fishing locations, attrition of vessels, number of new entrants - ongoing
 - IBQ – change accountability to quarterly or annual; allow use of Atlantic IBQ in GOM from July to December; provide quota to active participants; revisit allocation in 3-year review, including Purse Seine allocation; allow carryover of IBQ; create reserve pool of IBQ – IBQ inseason transfer proposed rule, 3-year review
 - EM – send hard drives less frequently (bimonthly?); eliminate pelagic/demersal species composition since EM is in place now - under consideration, 3-year review?
 - Reporting – increase outreach to commercial handgear fleet; check phrasing on website; streamline website - ongoing



Previous AP suggestions, con't

- SWO – eliminate directed permit vessel upgrade restrictions (final rule published 11/23), increase incidental retention limit (under consideration)
- Pursue research in PLL closed areas – under consideration; application received 11/3
- Require weak hooks in Atlantic – under consideration as part of PLL Take Reduction Plan
- EFH – pursue lemon shark HAPC – proposed in Draft Amendment 10
- SCS retention limits – pursue 8 blacknose/trip – proposed rule
- Caribbean – increase SWO retention limit & allow shark retention with Caribbean Small Boat Permit - under consideration



Looking Ahead – 2016 & 2017

Upcoming Dates:

- HMS Advisory Panel nominations – due 12/8
- Exempted Fishing Permit Notice of Intent – comment period ends 12/13
- Shark Research Fishery Call for Applications – due 12/21
- Draft EFH Amendment 10 – comment period ends 12/22
- Draft Amendment 5b Dusky Sharks – comment period ends 12/22

Upcoming Final Actions:

- IBQ inseason transfers
- Small coastal shark retention limits

Upcoming Actions/Notices:

- Pelagic Longline Closed Area Research EFP Request
- BFT General category Jan-Mar 2017: Adjusted quota and retention limit
- BFT Quota Reallocation from Purse Seine Category to Reserve Category (A7)

Communication Goal: No Surprises

- Goals for All
 - Advisors/Public aware, informed, and engaged
 - Agency aware, informed, and engaged
- AP Member Role
 - Listen and Engage in Discussions
 - Share with Your Constituents
 - Bring Ideas to and Advise Agency
- Agency Role
 - Ensure compliance with all domestic & int'l requirements
 - Raise Issues and Inform AP and Public
 - Listen and Engage in Discussions
 - Make Decisions Considering Feedback

Questions?

Thank you!