

Science, Service, Stewardship



Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel HMS Management Overview

March 13, 2012

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



Goal of Presentation

- Provide a brief update of recent actions
- Provide update on actions recommended at previous AP meetings
- Will defer the discussion of issues to be discussed later in the agenda:
 - BFT Issues; Swordfish issues; Shark Issues; Caribbean Amendment 4; HMS Research Plan; Recreational issues



Rulemaking/Operations Update

Since the September 2011 AP meeting:

- Published 1 proposed rule and 3 final rules
- Progressed with next steps on several issues from the 2009 ANPR
- Oversaw 18 workshops
- Conducted scoping for Amendments 5 and 6
- Participated in 2011 ICCAT meeting

In 2012 so far:

- Issued 9 EFPs, SRPs, & LOAs
- Issued 5 Shark research fishery permits; some changes this year
- Registered 71 HMS tournaments; e-mail registration available (HMStournamentregistry@noaa.gov); tournament registration list available online
- ~4,200 people receiving Atlantic HMS News



Bluefin Tuna Regulatory Amendment

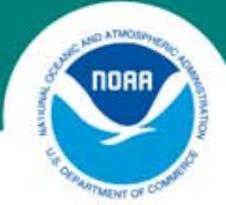
- Final rule published November 30, 2011 (76 FR 74003)

General category

- Increase maximum daily retention limit from 3 to 5 BFT ≥ 73 " (with adjustments to be made via inseason actions)
- Allow fishery to remain open until January subquota is reached or March 31, whichever happens first

Harpoon category

- Increase daily incidental retention limit of large medium BFT (73-81") from 2 fish to 4 fish



Bluefin Tuna (continued)

2011-2012 Inseason Actions (since last AP meeting):

- General Category:
 - Daily retention limit of large medium/giant BFT:
 - 3 fish June 1 through Nov. 5
 - 2 fish Nov. 6 through Jan. 22 closure
- Quota transfer: 50 mt of Reserve quota to General Cat., Nov. 6

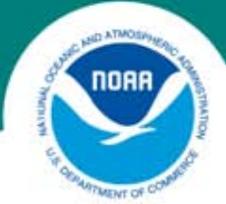


Shark 2012 Specifications

- Final rule published January 24, 2012 (77 FR 3393)
 - Adjusts quotas based on over- and underharvests from 2010 and 2011
 - Established season opening dates
 - Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks:
 - Gulf of Mexico – February 15, 2012;
 - Atlantic – July 15, 2012 (or effective date for eDealer, whichever comes first)
 - All other shark fisheries: January 24, 2012

2012 Shark Quotas and Preliminary Landings, January 1 – March 6, 2012

Species Group	Region	2012 Quota	Estimated Landings in 2012	% of 2012 Quota
Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks	Gulf of Mexico	392.8 mt dw (866,063 lb dw)	77.6 mt dw (171,076 lb dw)	20%
	Atlantic	183.2 mt dw (403,889 lb dw)	0.4 mt dw (854 lb dw)	<1%
Shark Research Fishery Quota (Non-Sandbar LCS)	No regional quotas	37.5 mt dw (82,673 lb dw)	0.7 mt dw (1,641 lb dw)	2%
Shark Research Fishery Quota (Sandbar only)		87.9 mt dw (193,784 lb dw)	Inside SRF 3.1 mt dw (6,879 lb dw)	4%
			Outside SRF * 0 mt dw (0 lb dw)	
Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks		332.4 mt dw (732,808 lb dw)	18.7 mt dw (41,264 lb dw)	6%
Blacknose Sharks		19.9 mt dw (43,872 lb dw)	0.04 mt dw (88 lb dw)	<1%
Blue Sharks		273.0 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	7.0 mt dw (15520 lb dw)	3%
Porbeagle Sharks		0.7 mt dw (1,585 lb dw)	0.03 mt dw (68 lb dw)	4%
Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue		488 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)	23.4 mt dw (51,576 lb dw)	5%



Vessel Monitoring System Requirements in HMS Fisheries

- Certain modifications to VMS regulations included in December 2011 final rule are withdrawn until further notice, including:
 - Installation of E-MTU VMS units
 - Using VMS to declare target species, fishing gear possessed onboard, time/location of landing
- MTU and E-MTU VMS units authorized for HMS fisheries
 - Hourly position reports starting 2 hours before leaving port and at all times when away from port
 - No new installs of MTU VMS
- Reimbursement funds for E-MTU VMS still available on a first come, first served basis for eligible vessels
- These requirements will be re-instated



Electronic HMS Dealer Reporting

1) Electronic dealer (eDealer) reporting requirement

All dealers would report commercially-harvested Atlantic HMS, other than BFT, through an eDealer system on a more frequent basis.

2) First receiver requirement

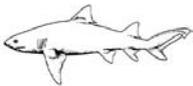
All first receivers of commercially-harvested Atlantic HMS (including extensions of a dealer's place of business, such as a truck) would need to obtain the appropriate HMS dealer permit.

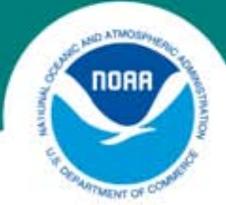
3) Timely dealer report requirement

Dealers would be authorized to receive commercially-harvested HMS only if they have submitted timely reports to NMFS.



Based on public comment, NMFS is considering the following changes to the proposed alternatives:

Alternatives		Proposed rule	Considering...
First receiver		All first receivers of HMS product (incl. for transport) would need HMS dealer permit	Status quo: Keep current regulations for all HMS
Reporting Frequency	Sharks 	Report either daily or weekly; depending on criteria	Report either weekly or biweekly, depending on criteria
	Swordfish  BAYS	Report weekly unless 80% of the quota is reached	Report biweekly unless 80% of the quota is reached
			

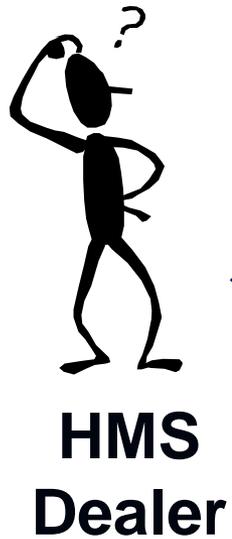


eDealer - Next Steps

- Proposed Rule – Fall 2011
- Final Rule – Mid 2012
 - Rule expected to be effective in 2013
 - Delaying implementation to allow for outreach with dealers regarding new reporting system
 - Continue providing eDealer Training Workshops



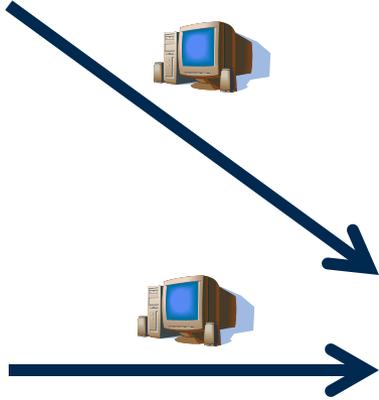
eDealer system

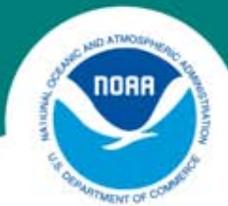


**Standard Atlantic
Fisheries
Information System
(SAFIS)**

**Trip ticket
(Bluefin Data
LLC)**

**Proprietary
software**





SAFIS-eDealer

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following elements:

- Header:** On the left is the SAFIS logo with the tagline "Support. Advice. Information. Science." Below it is the text "Welcome to SAFIS Applications". On the right is the ACCSP logo with the tagline "The Fish and Wildlife Service". Above the ACCSP logo is the text "Created by The Fisheries Of The".
- Main Content:** A central illustration of a fisherman in a small boat on blue water, with a yellow sky and white clouds. Below the illustration is a login form with the following fields and buttons:
 - User Name: HMSJACK
 - Password: [input field]
 - Login button
 - Forgot Password? link
- Right Sidebar:** A box titled "Welcome!" containing the text: "Welcome to the SAFIS logon. The SAFIS applications were designed by ACCSP in collaboration with our partners. Each of the SAFIS applications has a capability to collect your comments and feedback. Let us know what you think. Thank you."



SAFIS-eDealer

Created by The Fisheries Of The

SAFIS
Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System

ACCSP
Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

Home [Logout](#)

SAFIS APPLICATIONS - Main Menu

- Highly Migratory Species (HMS) - eDEALER

Welcome

Welcome to the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) APPLICATIONS MENU.

Applications are designed and maintained by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (www.accsp.org).

To request access to additional SAFIS applications, please contact your SAFIS Agency Administrator.

[Change Password](#)



Welcome to the eDealer Reporting System

Your last login was on 11/13/2011. Upcoming deadlines, Incomplete and unsubmitted reports are shown below. You can create new Dealer report and negative report by clicking on the buttons provided.



WHAT'S NEW

- [02/22/2012](#) [System Outage](#)
- [02/22/2012](#) [eDealer Testing 2](#)
- [02/22/2012](#) [eDealer Testing 3](#)

[View history](#)

Dealers may not possess all three types of HMS dealer reports. HMS dealers are responsible for reporting by the required deadlines for only the permits they possess.

UPCOMING REPORT DEADLINES

HMS Category	Reporting Frequency	Due Date (Local time)	Last Report Submitted
Shark	Weekly	02-29-2012 00:00:00 AM	02-10-2012 20:00:13 PM
Swordfish	Weekly	02-29-2012 00:00:00 AM	02-10-2012 20:00:13 PM
BAYS Tuna	Twice/Month	02-20-2012 00:00:00 AM	

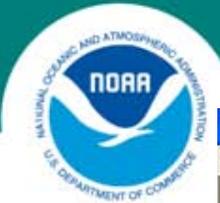
PENDING SUBMISSION

Permit#	Report Type	Report Number	Create Date	Action
123	Landing Report	20120213684	02/13/2012	Edit Delete
123	Landing Report	20120210682	02/10/2012	Edit Delete
123	Landing Report	20120210681	02/10/2012	Edit Delete



eDealer

SHARKS									
Species	Product Type	Weight	Total Purchase(Value) Price	Total Sale Price	Disposition	Gear Type	Catch Area	Action	
Bignose	Log/Core/Dressed	12	\$22.00	NA	Aquaculture	Auto Jig	BF52	Edit Delete	
Shark Species: *		Select <input type="text"/>		Gear Type: *		Select <input type="text"/>			
Weight(lbs): *		<input type="text"/>		Catch Area: *		<input type="text"/> Choose from Map			
Disposition: *		Select <input type="text"/>							
Total Purchase(Value) Price: *		<input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> No Purchase							
Product Type: *		Select <input type="text"/>							
Save Shark Entry									
SWORDFISH									
Product Type	Disposition	Weight	Gear Type	Total Purchase(Value) Price	Total Sales price	Catch Area	Action		
Swordfish Species: *		Atlantic Swordfish		Disposition: *		Select <input type="text"/>			
Weight(lbs): *		<input type="text"/>		Gear Type: *		Select <input type="text"/>			
				Catch Area: *		<input type="text"/> Choose from Map			
Product Type: *		Select <input type="text"/>							
Total Purchase(Value) Price: *		<input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> No Purchase							
Save Swordfish Entry									
BAYS (Bigeye, Albacore, Yellowfin and Skipjack) TUNAS									
Species	Product Type	Weight	Total Purchase(Value) Price	Total Sales price	Disposition	Gear Type	Catch Area	Action	
Species: *		Select <input type="text"/>		Disposition: *		Select <input type="text"/>			
Weight(lbs): *		<input type="text"/>		Catch Area: *		<input type="text"/> Choose from Map			
Gear Type: *		Select <input type="text"/>							



eDealer-Trip Ticket (NE version)

Trip Ticket System - ver. 5.0.34 Fed Dlr Num: 9999 / State Dealer Number: 99999 - [Trip Ticket]

Close New Delete Pay Print HMS Catch Regions

Ticket Num: **0004789** Void Pkout HMS Iss Ag: FED Licensee's Name: FISHER, TEST - 999999 License Screen: [button] Vessel: TEST VESSEL [button] **Close**

Hull Number: 9999999 Date Landed: 1 / 4 / 2012 Purch Date: 1 / 4 / 2012 VTR #: [] Req: Tracking #: [] Port: Bass Harbor, ME [button] Total Purchases: \$570.000

Fisherman on Federally Permitted Vessel HMS Fished in the Atlantic Shark Research Fishery [button] Deductions: \$0.000

Iss Agency: [] First Name: [] MI: [] Last Name: [] License #: [] Name: [button] License #: [button] Comment: [text area] Payable 6811 Cash [] Check [] Total Paid: \$0.000

Fisherman: CT - UNKNOWN, UNKNOWN (CONNECTICUT) - 999999 - UNK [button] Clear [button]

Catch HMS

Species Code: SHKPORRND Species Description: SHARK,PORBEAGLE Grade: ROUND Market: UNCLASSIFIED Unit: LB

Quantity: 78 Price: \$5.000 No Purch: Disposition: Food Catch Region: BF55 Area: US 000 - UNKNOWN

Gear: Gill Nets Sales Price: \$6.000 No Sale: Dlr Code: [] Total Qty: [] Carred: [button] Save [button] Update [button] Clear [button] Delete [button]

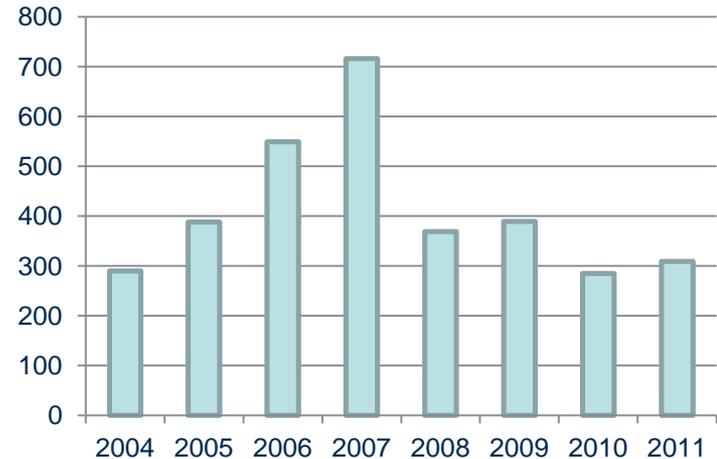
Code	Species Name	Grade	Market	Qty	Unit	Price	Sub Total
CADL	COD,ATLANTIC	GUTTED, HEAD ON...	LARGE	45	LB	\$4.000	\$180.000
SHKPORRND	SHARK,PORBEAGLE (hms)	ROUND	UNCLASSIFIED	78	LB	\$5.000	\$390.000



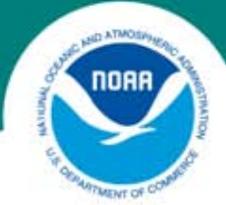
Recreational Swordfish Issues

Non-Tournament SWO Landings

• CY 2004: 290	• CY 2008: 369
• CY 2005: 388	• CY 2009: 389
• CY 2006: 549	• CY 2010: 285
• CY 2007: 716	• CY 2011: 309



- General decreasing trend in recreational swordfish landings reports since 2007
- 2010 had the least recreational swordfish reported since recreational reporting became mandatory in 2003



Recreational Billfish Update

- Preliminary 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)
- Preliminary Sailfish Landings
 - CY 2009: 140 (final non-tournament)
 - CY 2010: 185 (final non-tournament)
 - CY 2011: 166 (final non-tournament)



Tournaments Update

Year	Total Number Registered (All HMS)
2009	270
2010	270
2011	247
2012	79*

*as of March 2012

- Email: HMSTournamentRegistry@noaa.gov
- HMS Tournaments Website:

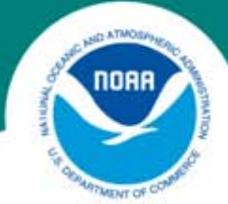
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/tournaments>

- Registration Information
- Reporting Information
- Overview Presentation Thursday



Litigation update

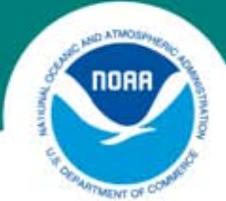
- **Humane Society of United States v. Bryson**
 - Alleges Agency violated Administrative Procedure Act by not putting porbeagle sharks on prohibited species list
 - Motion to dismiss filed; awaiting court decision
- **Center for Biological Diversity v. Bryson**
 - Allegations Agency violated Magnuson-Stevens Act, National Environmental Protection Act, & Administrative Procedure Act by increasing fishing opportunities for bluefin tuna in General & Harpoon categories
 - Record filed; briefing schedule in development



Operations/Other



- Continued coordination with Councils & Commissions; ASMFC with sharks
- NC greenstick gear study complete; report available later this year
- LA greenstick gear study underway for FY12-13
- Bigeye & Yellowfin vessel lists to be submitted to ICCAT
- ICCAT electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document system in progress



HMS Workshops

- Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops
 - For Swordfish and Shark longline and gillnet vessel owners and operators
 - Angler Conservation Education (ACE) continuing to conduct ~ 24 workshops annually
 - Certificates expire after 3 years, so most attendees are renewing
 - Schedule published quarterly
- Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops
 - For Atlantic Shark dealers
 - Eric Sander continuing to conduct ~ 12 workshops annually
 - Certificates expire after 3 years, so most attendees are renewing
 - Schedule published quarterly



Continued Progress on 2009 ANPR

- Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) published June 1, 2009
- Intended to obtain public input on:
 - Increasing opportunities to harvest U.S. quotas while ending overfishing & rebuilding Bluefin Tuna
 - Continue efforts to revitalize swordfish fishery while minimizing bycatch
 - Clarify & simplify HMS permit structure
 - Implications of catch shares for HMS fisheries
- Status (*Detailed discussion Tues & Wed of some items*):
 - Bluefin Tuna management
 - Swordfish revitalization
 - Future of the shark fisheries
 - Bycatch management



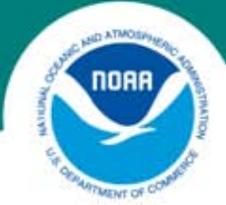
Looking Ahead -2012

- ICCAT support – implementation of 2011 measures, IAC, intersessional meetings
- Proposed Rules and Public Hearings:
 - Amendment 4 (Caribbean)
 - 2012 Bluefin Tuna Specifications
 - 2012 Swordfish Quotas, Minimum Size & other measures
 - Shark Conservation Act and Smoothhounds
- Final Rules:
 - e-Dealer
- Scoping:
 - Amendment 7(Bluefin Tuna)
- Electronic dealer reporting changes for Shark, Swordfish, Bigeye/Albacore/Yellowfin/Skipjack Tunas



Suggestions from Prior AP meetings Underway

- Improve dealer reporting, i.e., electronic reporting on a real time basis (*eDealer proposed rule*)
- Consider catch shares for sharks (*discussion Wednesday*)
- Potentially adjust regulations to address Bluefin Tuna discards (*discussion Tuesday*)
- Work with states on recreational tagging programs (tag issuance, data collection, and enforcement) (*Pilots in PR and MA*)



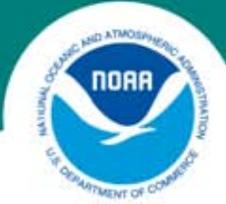
Suggestions from Prior AP meetings Under Consideration

- Permit-Related Suggestions
 - Re-issue lapsed permits; Use or lose permit requirement; Reopen Swordfish handgear permits; Allow permit leasing
 - Establish gear-based permits or Limited Access Privilege Programs
 - Create Swordfish General category permit (*discussion Wed.*)
- Conduct research in the Mid-Atlantic Bottom Longline closed area (*ongoing in shark research fishery*)
- Create placards for other HMS species
- Investigate electronic monitoring technology through pilot studies



Communication Goal: No Surprises

- Goals for All
 - Advisors/Constituents 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
 - Raise Issues and Inform AP and Public
 - Listen and Engage in Discussions
 - Make Decisions Considering Feedback
 - Ensure compliance with all domestic & int'l requirements



Conclusion/Looking Forward

In conclusion,

- We are covering a lot of ground at this meeting
- Operational activities continue to require substantial agency resources

Looking forward,

- We value your input & want your input on priorities & potential solutions
- We need input from you and your constituents



Questions?

Thank you!

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Weak Hook Update

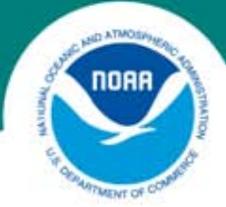
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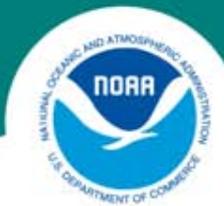
Gulf of Mexico Pelagic Longline Weak Hook Rule Catch Comparison

- Weak hook requirement began on May 5th, 2011
- Catch rate comparison pre/post weak hook rule
 - Comparison of CPUEs, 2005-2009 and 2011
 - May- December sets were included
 - May-June sets were used for bluefin
- 2011 results are preliminary



Gulf of Mexico Pelagic Longline Weak Hook Rule Catch Comparison

- 2010 data were excluded due to the anomalous effects of the area closures associated with the Deepwater Horizon event
- Some confounding effects continued into 2011 due to the delayed reentry into the fishery by some sectors of the pelagic longline fleet



Gulf of Mexico PLL CPUEs (May-Dec)

	2005-2009		2011	
Species	mean CPUE	STD	mean CPUE	STD
Yellowfin Tuna	8.48	7.86	15.86	14.58
Yellowfin Kept	7.25	7.08	14.05	12.90
Swordfish	5.33	8.02	7.28	12.26
Swordfish Kept	2.28	4.64	3.12	6.06
Wahoo	0.72	1.65	1.40	2.26

CPUE = Catch / 1000 hooks



Gulf of Mexico PLL CPUEs (May-Dec)

	2005-2009		2011	
Species	mean CPUE	STD	mean CPUE	STD
Bluefin Tuna*	0.56	1.27	0.29	0.99
Blue Marlin	0.50	1.75	0.63	1.44
White Marlin / Roundscale Spearfish	0.50	1.17	2.02	2.50
Sailfish	0.33	0.93	0.47	1.41
Loggerhead Sea turtle	0.01	0.11	0.00	0.00
Leatherback Sea turtle	0.08	0.39	0.05	0.31

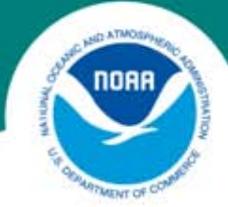
CPUE = Catch / 1000 hooks

* May- June



Ongoing Research in 2012

- NOAA Fisheries is conducting 94 experimental sets on two commercial PPL vessels in the GOM to:
 - Conduct additional comparative testing of traditional 16/0 circle hooks and 16/0 weak hooks.
 - Deploy hook timers and time depth recorders to investigate how quickly fish are able to straighten weak hooks and escape.
 - Deploy PSAT tags on bluefin and yellowfin tuna



Backup Slides



Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Restoration

- All oil spill related fishery closures have been opened
- Area of GOM immediately above incident site is closed
- Restoration efforts underway -
<http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/>
and
<http://www.restorethegulf.gov/>

