

Science, Service, Stewardship



HMS AP Summary

September 30 – October 2, 2008
Silver Spring, MD

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Caveats

- This is only a summary
- It does not cover every point made by every AP member
- If we missed something you feel is significant, please let us know
- A more in-depth written summary will be coming



AP Comments: EFH Amendment 1

- Consider areas off S. Florida as potential swordfish EFH, and areas off Texas as sandbar EFH
- Adjust the HAPC boundary for bluefin tuna to follow the continental shelf edge or bathymetric features west of 86 degrees
- Consider a seasonal closure for pelagic longlining in the HAPC for bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Mexico
- Consider prey species as EFH
- Consider aquaculture projects as fishing impacts on EFH, particularly in the proposed HAPC



AP Comments: EFH Amendment 1, cont.

- Extend the comment period to include comments from the South Atlantic Council
- Consider separate EFH areas for blacknose sharks in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic, and consider incorporating shrimp trawl data
- Include additional information on the “dead zone” in the Gulf of Mexico and potential impacts on BFT EFH and HAPC



AP Comment: Swordfish Summary

- Amend and provide context for THAT slide
- Touch on industry historical participation on rebuilding
- Mention positive industry cooperation in protected species concerns
 - Voluntary and mandatory workshops
 - NED experiment



AP Comments: Fishery Structure Modernization

- Now is not the time to create a LAPP for some fisheries because we are not quota limited
- Now is the time to consider creating a LAPP because it may be more difficult to allocate the quota or TAC when it is very limited or when a reduction is needed
- Support for LAPPs based on the flexibility they provide fishermen
- Some aspects of BFT management are similar to sectors already
- Interest in proactive action for LAPP development in the SWO handgear fishery



AP Comments: Fishery Structure Modernization, cont.

- Adequate data collection for stock assessments and monitoring is vital to LAPP creation and success
- The initial allocation of LAPPs can reduce conflicts between recreational and commercial fishermen
- The most important part of creating a LAPP is the initial allocation of TAC or quota
- There is not a one size fits all LAPP; there are many possibilities allowed in MSA to tailor a LAPP
- If LAPPs are created, the AP for the LAPP should be diverse and representative of the fishery
- A major part of LAPP development is constituent buy-in



AP Comments: Fishery Structure Modernization, cont.

- Concern about fishermen acquiring an inordinate amount of limited access privileges
- Concern about the limitation of new entrants to the fishery if a LAPP is created
 - Stabilizing a fishery with a LAPP may attract new entrants
 - The initial creation of limited access can serve as the major barrier to new entrants by causing the cost of a permit to increase greatly
- Concern about examples of the failures of LAPPs where fishery consolidation hurt fishing communities
- Concern about the sense of ownership with LAPPs despite MSA language



AP Comments: SCS Amendment 3

- Requests for video
- Concerns about model used and assumptions
 - Accounting for bycatch, reduction in shrimp trawl effort, changes in TEDs
 - Expansion using research, fishery, and observer data
 - Average size of blacknose
- Redo blacknose assessment; split stock into GOM and Atl. Stocks
- Conduct a smooth dogfish assessment; someone needs to manage this species



AP Comments: SCS Amendment 3, cont.

- Consider additional or relaxed protection for some spp. (e.g., deepwater sharks, Caribbean sharpnose, common thresher, porbeagle)
- Improve outreach/education particularly for rec. fishermen including dehooking
- Revisit recreational size limit
- Revisit retention limit for Atlantic sharpnose
- Look at areas of high bycatch for area closures rather than overarching management
- Increase observer coverage



AP Comments: Shark Update

- Requests for photos of “fins on,” include species ID
- Questions on:
 - Landings update and landings before July 24
 - Range of shark research fishery participants (and request for names)
 - Trip limit in research fishery
 - Reasons for “fins on” requirement and enforcement of 5%
 - ASMFC plan and implementation
- “Fins on” should be national policy
- Consider IUCN study on status of species



AP Comments: Caribbean Amendment 4

- Concern about deployment of additional FADs – number and type
- Need to monitor catch composition, effort, bycatch, and discards on FADs
- Need to improve data collection from dealers and fishermen
- Need to work internationally for management of HMS
- New permits must be simple, affordable, and enforceable



AP Comments: Outreach Update

- Outreach/education needed; placards not enough
- Tournament directors and FMCs can help with outreach/education
- Add placards to tournament registration materials
- Create ID placards for all HMS, not just sharks; amend shark ID placard (content, format)
- Annual mailing to get word out on regulations
- Have permit fee help with cost of mailings
- Laminate front and back cover of compliance guides
- Consider adding caveats about state regulations to compliance guide
- Provide for more flexibility in comment periods



Upcoming and Ongoing Actions

- Scoping:
 - SCS Amendment 3
 - Caribbean Amendment 4
- Public Hearings: EFH Draft Amendment 1
- Proposed Rules:
 - 2008 SWO specifications/chartering
 - 2009 SHK season rule
- 2009 SHK research fishery notice
- Permit Reform Actions
- HMS AP nominations
- Compliance Guides



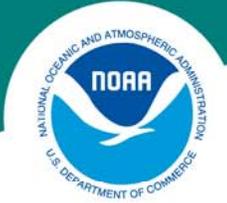
BOLO (Be on the lookout)

- ICCAT
- MSRA:
 - ACLs
 - National Standard 2 ANPR
 - NEPA
 - IUU/bycatch certification
 - Angler registry



AP Comments/Suggestions

- Suggestions for next detailed update
 - Yellowfin tuna?
- Hotel preferences?
- Next AP meeting
 - Focus on BFT
 - Potential date?
- Focus group – review of NPS public website?
- Agenda
 - Hearings/scoping meetings during day or at night?
 - Longer days or longer meeting?
 - Request topics ahead of time?



HMS To Do List

- Put all AP presentations on the HMS website
- *Send compliance guide to all permit holders, especially commercial and CHB sectors*
- *A few other things specific to issues in following slides (e.g., updates on PLL research, permit reform ideas)*
- Distribute National Report when available
- Consider extending comment period A1 and 3



Reminders

- Travel vouchers: October 8
- Comments by:
 - Amendments 3 & 4 – Oct 31
 - Amendment 1 – Nov 18
 - Compliance Guide – Oct 10

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THANK YOU!

- AP Members
- Staff

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME!