

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

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MEETING

OF THE

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY PANEL

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OCTOBER 2, 2008

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SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

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This transcript was produced from
audio cassettes provided by the Department of
Commerce.

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 (8:30 a.m.)

3 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: (Tape begins
4 mid-sentence) -- of the compliance guides that
5 we passed out yesterday. Hopefully, everybody
6 had a chance to take a look at them.

7 We have touched on outreach
8 education at various times over the last
9 couple of years. We are actually going to be
10 walking through the outreach plan that we
11 developed I think about a year ago and kind of
12 let you know where we are on some of that.

13 And then, the -- we have revised,
14 as I mentioned yesterday, the compliance
15 guides, moved away from the question and
16 answer format, broken them out into
17 commercial, recreational, and then the dealer
18 importer-exporter, largely because of the
19 difference in some of the information, and the
20 different audiences. There seem to be some
21 clear universes there that didn't necessarily
22 overlap.

1 So they are draft at this point,
2 although we have worked pretty hard on them,
3 so that we think they are about ready to go,
4 but wanted to give you guys the opportunity to
5 give feedback on it, format, layout, things
6 like that. So, you know, we do try and, you
7 know, respond to the comments we get from you,
8 as well as members of the public, on how to
9 best provide the most usable information.

10 So, Pat?

11 MR. AUGUSTINE: Yes, Margo. I
12 went through them last night, and in the
13 recreational compliance guide there was one --
14 one section you included swordfish in the
15 number of -- that could be possessed by
16 recreational vessels. I think you said six
17 for maybe it was headboat.

18 In the past, we have allowed up to
19 15 for headboat bluefin. Is that going to be
20 a variable? If it is, it's not included as
21 one of the options or one of the guidelines
22 that you will use in the future of this. I'm

1 trying to find the page. I've just been
2 flipping through while I was trying to talk,
3 and it's hard to do two things at once when
4 you are this age.

5 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: I think for
6 swordfish, the numbers are different by the
7 type of vessel.

8 MR. AUGUSTINE: No. I was using
9 that as an example. But on the chart, you had
10 indicated bag limit in season. But under
11 bluefin tuna, under headboat, you didn't have
12 a caption. As I recall, the last couple of
13 years we made some arrangement where headboats
14 were going out, and you allowed up to -- up to
15 15 bluefin at one time.

16 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: It varies
17 within season, which is why we've got --

18 MR. AUGUSTINE: Okay. There's not
19 even a notation in there on that. I'm just
20 wondering what --

21 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: What page are
22 you on?

1 MR. AUGUSTINE: I'm sorry?

2 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Do you have a
3 page number?

4 MR. AUGUSTINE: I'm trying to find
5 it. I must have had -- it's here somewhere.
6 It's the one that has all of the breakout on
7 -- I think it may be on page 8, bag size in
8 season. Albacore -- would put in there
9 headboat as what the variation might be.

10 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: So, well,
11 what we've got are those asterisks where we're
12 trying to point people to checking in with us,
13 because they are variable. Are you suggesting
14 that we put in the range of --

15 MR. AUGUSTINE: Yes. It would
16 seem to me that if you captured it in there,
17 the bluefin refers to IC as individual
18 recreational vessels and charter boats, but
19 not headboats. This will give the inference
20 that all -- all vessels, including headboats,
21 would be -- have only one per vessel per trip,
22 would go into 2,747 or 4,773. I think I'm on

1 the right page.

2 Sorry. Yes, that would be under
3 -- under tuna.

4 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Okay. So
5 what I'm getting is -- is to be a little more
6 explicit in the quick reference page on some
7 of the variability.

8 MR. AUGUSTINE: For all boats?
9 Okay. That includes headboat. Okay.

10 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Okay.
11 Thanks. Why don't we go through the
12 presentation, and then I think we've got time
13 to go through some of the specific comments.

14 MS. BECK: Well, good morning,
15 everyone. I am Jessica Beck, and I am the
16 current Canals Fellow with HMS this year. And
17 I am here to give a brief update on some of
18 the outreach activities we have been working
19 on for the past year.

20 What I first want to do is just
21 give an overview of the outreach management
22 plan. HMS and a professional outreach

1 specialist finalized a five-year strategic
2 plan for outreach in October 2007. This plan
3 identified six needs, which fell into two
4 broad outreach goals for the division.

5 And over the last year we have
6 continued implementing various outreach
7 activities that had previously been
8 successful. We have also implemented several
9 new outreach activities identified in the
10 plan, and we have identified and responded to
11 needs for new outreach information. And I
12 will be going through a couple of those in the
13 next few slides.

14 So the first goal that was
15 identified in the outreach plan was to
16 facilitate public understanding of HMS
17 Management Division's regulations, including
18 public access to clear, complete, concise, and
19 timely information.

20 Some of the things we have been
21 working on for the past year is incorporating
22 the NOAA marketing campaign. This is being

1 used to present a unified image of NOAA. You
2 can see a lot of the presentations look very
3 similar. The format of the brochures and the
4 compliance guides are changing to fit
5 underneath this campaign.

6 We have also been working with
7 tournament directors to reach recreational
8 anglers. Some of you have received some
9 outreach materials for distribution to your
10 registrants, as well as members of the general
11 public. So that is a good way for us to get
12 some of this outreach material -- some of
13 these outreach materials out there to the
14 recreational anglers, because it is needed.

15 And we appreciate any help you can
16 give us with that. If you know of any
17 tournaments coming up, or if you are involved
18 in any tournaments, please contact us, and we
19 will send out some information specific to
20 your tournament.

21 We have also been involved in
22 compliance guide update and restructuring.

1 One of the things identified in the outreach
2 plan was to separate the larger compliance
3 guides into smaller compliance guides. So you
4 all have a copy of those. Hopefully, you were
5 able to take a look over the evening and were
6 able to provide us with some comments and
7 feedback on those.

8 And we basically split those up
9 into recreational and commercial guides, and
10 we have also added a dealer importer-exporter
11 guide, just for more specific information for
12 those folks as well.

13 We have also created, with the
14 help of Trey Driggers and Eric Hoffmayer, a
15 recreational shark ID placard, which we will
16 be talking about in the next slide. And this
17 is also to enhance identification and outreach
18 to the recreational anglers.

19 And the Guide to Sharks, Tunas,
20 and Billfishes of the U.S., Atlantic, and Gulf
21 of Mexico is now back in print to also help
22 out with some of those outreach needs. So if

1 you are interested in getting some of those
2 copies, please let us know.

3 Okay. And as I mentioned, the
4 shark ID placard, there are a couple on the
5 table. They are also on the table outside for
6 you to pick up and take a look at. This was
7 something that Michael Clark worked with with
8 Trey and Eric on, and this is a great tool for
9 the recreational anglers.

10 It is printed on the rite in the
11 rain paper, so it is very sturdy, something
12 that can go on the boat to help these guys
13 identify their catch and make sure they are
14 not taking those species which are prohibited
15 under the angling category.

16 This provides some really good
17 morphological information, also information on
18 bag and size limits and how to measure your
19 fish to make sure it is of legal size. These
20 are available, either online, you can print
21 them off. If you would like a rite in the
22 rain copy, you can just let us know.

1 I already have a couple of folks
2 who have placed some orders for these that I
3 will be sending these out. And they will also
4 be available at HMS meeting, some of our
5 scoping meetings. So we'll try to get them
6 out there to the public that way as well.

7 The second goal identified in the
8 outreach plan was to promote constituent
9 stewardship of HMS and HMS fisheries,
10 including participation in HMS management
11 actions and fishery-dependent research.

12 One of the needs identified in the
13 plan was to engage the public more in -- more
14 and earlier in the rulemaking process. One of
15 the rules that this has been implemented with
16 is during the Green-Stick authorization rule.
17 The division held numerous scoping meetings
18 prior to the rulemaking, and these public
19 discussions were particularly helpful in
20 engaging the public and the audience early in
21 the rulemaking process.

22 This is also being repeated for

1 the Caribbean amendment, Amendment 4, that
2 Greg just spoke about. As he mentioned, the
3 division recently completed five scoping
4 meetings in the Virgin Islands and Puerto
5 Rico. And we are attempting to reach out to
6 the public in the Caribbean, which is really
7 important for HMS, to facilitate stakeholder
8 development when developing these regulations,
9 and ultimately the effectiveness of these
10 regulations through stakeholder compliance.

11 Okay. So the meat of this whole
12 talk is about the compliance guide. So I am
13 going to segue into those right now. And
14 before I do, I just wanted to acknowledge the
15 two other team members at HMS that really put
16 a lot of work into these -- Craig Cockrell and
17 Peter Cooper.

18 As I had mentioned, according to
19 the outreach plan, we split the recreation --
20 or, I'm sorry, the compliance guide up until
21 the commercial and recreational guides, we
22 could better target information to these

1 audiences, and we also added a dealer
2 importer-exporter guide for those folks as
3 well.

4 They were created according to the
5 NOAA marketing campaign, and a couple of
6 things that you will notice that are very
7 different from the previous compliance guides.
8 It is no longer organized in a question and
9 answer format. People found that it was very
10 hard to find certain types of information in
11 this format.

12 We have since put it in a category
13 format, so if you are looking for anything
14 specific -- permits, authorized gear types,
15 size limits, quotas, anything of that nature
16 -- you can now just find that specific
17 category for that species.

18 We have highlighted some
19 regulatory changes or the sections where the
20 regulatory changes have occurred in the
21 introduction. So if there is something
22 specific for a certain group -- shark

1 fishermen -- that is identified in the front,
2 they will note to you go to that section, that
3 some rules have changed since the last version
4 of the compliance guides.

5 We also have added quick reference
6 sections. These are just basically one-
7 sheeters that provide at a glance information
8 for those fishermen. More in-depth sections
9 are also included in the guide as well. But
10 this will just provide some really quick
11 information for people, so they don't have to
12 wade through several pages.

13 These guides are -- were created
14 to provide comprehensive information regarding
15 HMS 7 regulations, and information of these
16 guides can be tailor-fit to -- for specific
17 purposes. If there is a billfish or a
18 swordfish tournament that is coming up, we can
19 take this guide and take those sections out
20 and complete -- create a whole new guide, just
21 based on those sections, and use those for
22 mailings instead of having the numerous

1 brochures that we had before, where the
2 information became quickly outdated.

3 So our purpose and our goal is to
4 have one compliance guide that we can refer
5 to, and then just modify it as necessary for
6 any sort of outreach or brochures or mailings
7 that we need to do in the future. And this
8 will make it a lot easier to make sure that we
9 have the most updated information available to
10 the public.

11 Okay. So the first guide I am
12 going to talk about is the commercial guide.
13 As I mentioned, there are quick reference
14 sheets that are included in this guide, and
15 there is just a picture, a capture of the
16 swordfish quick reference sheet up there on
17 the screen.

18 These guides include the general
19 categories as were in the other guides, in the
20 previous guides, include gear definitions,
21 restrictions on general pelagic longline,
22 bottom longline, and gear nets -- or, I'm

1 sorry, gill net fishermen. There are also
2 sections on commercial fishing permits, which
3 are required by -- which are listed by species
4 and gear type.

5 Commercial fishing regulations are
6 broken up into species -- sharks, tunas, and
7 billfish -- in the commercial guide -- I'm
8 sorry, and swordfish in the commercial guide.
9 And these are arranged into categories, such
10 as permits, gear type, minimum sizes, seasons,
11 and regions, et cetera.

12 We also have separate sections for
13 the charter headboat fishing regulation, and
14 we try to break this down into the
15 requirements for the commercial and a separate
16 section for the recreational fishermen that
17 may be fishing under this permit.

18 So we have tried to really break
19 down the charter headboat regulation section
20 to make it a lot more easily understandable,
21 especially in terms of the reporting for
22 fishermen.

1 There are sections on observer
2 coverage and HMS workshops, and also in the
3 back you will find a contact list with updated
4 contact information for HMS, the Office of Law
5 Enforcement, Coast Guard, and also we have
6 added a table on the state contacts. We get
7 a lot of questions about state regulations,
8 and we are able to refer people to their
9 specific offices. So that information will be
10 available to fishermen if they have any
11 questions on that.

12 The recreational guide is also --
13 was also created in a similar type format. It
14 was also broken down into species. There is
15 a section on permits, gear definitions,
16 general restrictions. The quick reference
17 sections look a little different than a
18 commercial guide. There is also a picture of
19 that on the screen.

20 And this is followed by more in-
21 depth fishing regulations on each recreational
22 species. You also have another section on

1 charter headboat fishing, one specific to HMS
2 tournaments, and then also a similar contact
3 list as in the commercial guide.

4 Our dealer importer and exporter
5 guide contains some new information that was
6 not in the previous guide. It has a section
7 on permits, and then it is also broken down by
8 species, the requirements for dealers
9 according to those species.

10 We have a section on the
11 international trade permit and the importing,
12 exporting, and reporting -- re-exporting HMS
13 sections, and also a contact list at the end
14 to provide information.

15 And this is a pretty quick
16 presentation, just to go over some things. If
17 you have any questions on the outreach plan,
18 Diane would be the contact person for that.

19 The compliance guides -- we'll
20 take your comments and suggestions on those,
21 just in a minute. But if you have anything
22 that you would like to see changed, or any

1 comments or feedback you could give us, you
2 can contact me, either via e-mail or just give
3 me a call.

4 If you have any of those
5 suggestions, I would just request that you get
6 them to me by next Friday, the 10th of
7 October. We're trying to get these revamped
8 compliance guides out there. We still have
9 some things to work on as far as formatting,
10 as you all might -- as you all might see
11 there. And we will definitely work on that.

12 So with that, I will just take any
13 comments that you have, and thank you for your
14 time.

15 All right. I don't know where my
16 facilitator went.

17 PARTICIPANT: Hands up. Boy, what
18 did I miss? Who said something controversial?

19 (Laughter.)

20 Okay. Here we go. Let me just
21 get some down here. I already had Ron
22 Coddington on the list, so Bob and Rita and

1 Rom. Keep your hands up. Okay. We're going
2 to have to get started. Ron, are you ready to
3 go? And then, Bob and Rita.

4 MR. CODDINGTON: Yes. Ron
5 Coddington. Two comments. One on the shark
6 ID placard, which is really good. That is
7 going to be very helpful. I don't know if you
8 had -- when you developed this is if you had
9 a chance to view the shark ID placard that the
10 State of Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
11 was using with their voluntary logbook program
12 before they put all of their effort into
13 MRIPs.

14 And that actually -- it's not
15 better, but it's a very good supplement,
16 because of the way it works. Rather than
17 showing pictures of the sharks and you picking
18 out the one, and then checking the
19 characteristics of the shark, you follow
20 through characteristics and you end up with a
21 shark at the end. And it is actually simple
22 enough for someone that has never seen a shark

1 to get close. With these two, I think you'd
2 catch everything.

3 So it is a good supplement. I
4 don't know if you looked at it when you
5 developed this or not.

6 On the commercial compliance
7 guide, I already brought this up to Greg, so
8 he may have already relayed the information to
9 you. But on page 39, when we are talking
10 about swordfish on for-hire trips on HMS
11 charter headboat vessels, you state that if
12 that CHB also possesses a swordfish limited
13 access hand gear permit they may retain
14 swordfish under commercial limits.

15 But then, later you say the
16 retained fish may be sold only if the
17 commercial fishery is open and the vessel has
18 been issued a valid limited access shark
19 permit. I don't believe that a shark permit
20 is required for the hand gear, so that would
21 cause a little bit of confusion. It is easy
22 to just drop out that last sentence, and I

1 think you corrected that one.

2 Those are my comments.

3 PARTICIPANT: Thank you. Thanks,
4 Ron. Bob, Rita, and then Rom Whitaker.

5 MR. HUETER: Yes. Bob Hueter,
6 just another comment on the shark placard.
7 This is pretty well done, and I just want to
8 point out -- you look at the front of this,
9 and basically you have sharks that are easy to
10 tell apart. And then, you flip it over, look
11 at the back, and you have sharks that are
12 difficult to tell apart.

13 So the six at the top -- forget
14 about the hammerheads -- these are the
15 problems. These are the ones, especially when
16 you're dealing with a three-footer, two- or
17 three-footer, these guys all pretty much look
18 alike. And down in the lower left there is a
19 black-nosed shark in the middle left.

20 This is the problem species that
21 we talked about yesterday. And so I just
22 wanted to point out that now that NMFS has

1 determined that the black-nose is overfished,
2 and we need to rebuild the stock, I know the
3 commercial guys can tell these species apart
4 easily, but I am absolutely convinced the
5 recreational guys will not be able to do it.

6 And the placard, then, becomes --
7 this is sort of like a Cliff's Notes.
8 Recreational guides are going to have to take
9 the whole course. So outreach is going to
10 have to be more than just handing out these
11 placards and placards like this. You're going
12 to have to have a very active campaign to
13 educate the recreational community that black-
14 nosed sharks exist. It is very easy to tell
15 them apart. You can't do it with this
16 placard.

17 If you took this little guy and
18 turned his nose toward you, you'd see a little
19 black mustache, and that's how you'd tell.
20 But you can't tell it from this -- from this
21 ID guide. So doing more than just handing
22 these out is going to be necessary.

1 Thank you.

2 PARTICIPANT: Thanks, Bob. Rita?

3 MS. MERRITT: Thank you. Jessica,
4 that's a great job on the shark placard. And
5 I -- I agree with Bob, we need more outreach
6 in this regard. And I'd like to suggest that
7 if you -- if you can, to talk with somebody on
8 the South Atlantic staff. Greg Waugh probably
9 would be the best one, and Kim Iverson, the
10 Communications Director.

11 The style of our scoping meetings
12 have changed, and we are getting a lot better
13 public attendance and input. We went from the
14 formal scoping process where it's a meeting
15 notice and it's a meeting room, and you have
16 a microphone, and somebody gives a
17 presentation, and you have to talk into the
18 microphone and be recorded, and it can
19 sometimes stifle the input.

20 It can also -- and in some cases
21 we wind up having very poor attendance for --
22 in general for the initial scoping. And then,

1 when it comes into the public comment period
2 on the amendments, unless it personally
3 affects you, the only attendees we get are the
4 ones who are all mad because they missed the
5 initial impact or the potential impact on
6 themselves.

7 What we have done is done more of
8 a flex-schedule time period where people can
9 come in at their leisure during -- it's like
10 late afternoon/early evening, so we catch
11 people at different times. We will have
12 displays set up, public information officer
13 there, with materials.

14 The displays will be pertinent to
15 whatever species, and we will have experts on
16 those different rules and regulations and
17 someone from SSC there, and have one-on-ones
18 at a table with groups -- small groups, five
19 and six fishermen. They get a lot more
20 information and exchange going on. They clear
21 up a lot of difficult problems with people.

22 And then, we have a separate room

1 that we use for the public comment. So if
2 somebody does want to get on record and be on
3 -- with a council member or a staff member and
4 put their comments on record, that is a
5 separate room. And it does go along with the
6 traditional scoping setup.

7 Getting back to your guides, they
8 are wonderful, from what little I have
9 scanned. I like the format, I like the quick
10 reference sheet. Pictures and color always
11 help. And I would like to suggest that on the
12 bottom of pages where you reference 50 CFR
13 Part, blah, blah, blah, most people don't
14 understand that, don't know where to find it,
15 or whatever. Either leave it out or put it
16 somewhere where it gives them a place to go,
17 the website or whatever.

18 And also, I would like to suggest
19 that you, on the page regarding contacts for
20 state regulations, that you add in the state
21 websites for information on their pertinent
22 regulations.

1 Thank you.

2 PARTICIPANT: Rom, Rich, Jeff, and
3 then Rick.

4 MR. WHITAKER: Rom Whitaker,
5 Charter Boat, Hatteras. In your recreational
6 compliance guide, on page 11, under Billfish,
7 bag limits and seasons, it's got no bag limits
8 on marlin, on white marlin or blue marlin.
9 And I thought it was one per vessel per day
10 now, and I just -- that was a question. And
11 if it's not, then I think you might leave the
12 door open for some big abuse there.

13 But could I get an answer to that?
14 And then, I have some more comments.

15 PARTICIPANT: I don't think --
16 there is not a bag limit. It's something that
17 we considered at different points, but have
18 not implemented.

19 MR. WHITAKER: Okay. Well, I
20 guess -- okay.

21 PARTICIPANT: It's a state
22 regulation.

1 MR. WHITAKER: Okay. Well, it's a
2 state regulation in North Carolina. Okay.

3 My other comments are, yes, this
4 shark guide is great, and some people target
5 sharks and really know how to distinguish
6 them. But in my case, and in a lot of other
7 cases, we don't target sharks. So when we get
8 one on the line, we are not sure whether they
9 are legal, illegal, whatever. And in a lot of
10 cases, if it's four and a half feet, it goes
11 in the boat.

12 So I think this is great. I like
13 the one page where you can put it in your --
14 just stick it in your file down there,
15 wherever your stuff is. And even -- this
16 seems to be pretty durable. Even if you can
17 coat the paper to make it waterproof would be
18 a recommendation.

19 They -- and also, even though this
20 is a shark guide, I think all billfish
21 tournaments have to register, or are supposed
22 to register, with NMFS. If you could ask

1 their tournament directors to put these guides
2 in the tournament package that they hand out
3 to all participants, then I realize it's a
4 marlin tournament, but they would have -- a
5 lot of people have shark encounters, and they
6 would have this on the vessel, and they could
7 hopefully make some identification and keep
8 from killing a restricted shark.

9 Another thing that they do in our
10 state is they take a -- one piece of paper,
11 and they list in alphabetical order all of the
12 species, state regulations, federal
13 regulations, and they give how many you can
14 catch and the minimum size limits. You know,
15 I easily could see this as something that NMFS
16 could do for HMS, just a, you know, real quick
17 reference that we could put in our little book
18 along with our shark guide and it would just
19 answer a lot of questions real quick.

20 But you all have done an excellent
21 job, and you are doing -- you are getting much
22 better on getting information out.

1 Thank you.

2 PARTICIPANT: Thank you, Rom.

3 Rich?

4 PARTICIPANT: Yes. I didn't have
5 any problem with the original compliance
6 guide. I thought it was maybe a little light
7 in a few areas, but I always -- I always keep
8 it on my desk, because I'm always getting
9 calls about certain regulations. But I have
10 also relied on the CFR for the more definitive
11 and more detailed information when necessary.

12 But my question is: how do you
13 plan on distributing this? Well, first of
14 all, I have the same comment that Rom has, not
15 just on the shark placard but on the -- on the
16 commercial and the recreational new compliance
17 guides.

18 The front and the back cover need
19 to be laminated in some version, if you want
20 -- you know, if you want them to be durable in
21 the marine environment. And how do you plan
22 on distributing? Are you going to put out

1 copies? Are you going to mail a copy to every
2 permit holder? Is that your plan? Is that
3 out of the question in terms of budget?

4 PARTICIPANT: Well, it's not out
5 of the question. But they are definitely,
6 depending on the size -- obviously, some -- a
7 couple of the guides, the commercial guide is
8 significantly thicker, and the universe of
9 people that we need to be mailed have -- can
10 have some fairly major budget implications.

11 But we have gotten the comments
12 before, particularly commercial is a smaller
13 universe, maybe to do a dedicated mailing. We
14 have developed the recreational placards. You
15 know, it's all things that we are interested
16 in hearing. If there is a real need, a real
17 interest, we can try and work the budget.

18 One of the things we are trying to
19 do is move away from many, many brochures, and
20 to have one source, keep it real time, as
21 things change, you know, post to the web an
22 updated version, so we don't have things, you

1 know, once a year we do a bulk mailing.

2 So we are hoping between web and
3 other things that, you know, we can keep the
4 information up to date. And then, hard copy
5 mailings, we do have to budget for it. It's
6 not cheap. So, but it's something -- if there
7 is a real strong input we need to do it, we
8 will try and find the money to.

9 PARTICIPANT: Okay. Well, I do
10 want to point out that, you know, putting it
11 on the web as an attachment to a document has
12 really limited utility. Very few people will
13 actually print it out, and, then again, you
14 have the problem that it is not going to be in
15 a -- in a marine environment proof format, if
16 you don't -- if you don't take the time to
17 take it some place and spend the money to get
18 it prepared properly.

19 So that's all. It's very -- I'm
20 sure I'm going to get used to it. I only
21 glanced at it so far, but I'm sure I'll get
22 used to it and it will help.

1 PARTICIPANT: Thanks, Rich. Jeff?

2 MR. RADONSKI: One comment on the
3 contact list for Enforcement. I see the Miami
4 Field Office is the old number. Glencoe,
5 Georgia is actually the Federal Law
6 Enforcement Training Center. Our office there
7 for training is not going to be much of a
8 contact point I think for the public. And we
9 might want to put out the divisional offices,
10 which is equivalent to regions, but southeast
11 and northeast, separate them out as specific
12 divisional offices.

13 Placards -- I have already heard
14 from my agents because they have already
15 pulled it off the web. They like that
16 concept, and -- or, too, they can contact
17 state officers and just send them links to
18 your website. And the agents are really using
19 the HMS webpage a lot.

20 Compliance guides, getting to the
21 regulations, seeing what is going up in that,
22 I think keeping that up and improving it as we

1 go along through time is really beneficial.

2 PARTICIPANT: Okay, Jeff. Thank
3 you. Rick, and then Bobbi.

4 PARTICIPANT: Little list here. I
5 guess the first thing I would want is to hit
6 what Rich just said on the concept of mailing
7 things out. It ties in to another note I made
8 here about, Jess, at one point you said if we
9 know of any tournaments -- in theory, you know
10 of all of them.

11 And I feel that way, as I have
12 said before, about when you turn to us for
13 outreach to the anglers. You've got 40,000 of
14 them. Personally, I would like to see a
15 mailing that was a once-a-year -- I understand
16 you don't have it in the budget right now,
17 Margo, but perhaps the next time that fee is
18 opened we look at an outreach surcharge or
19 something, because I think the benefit of a
20 once-a-year mailing of this is your compliance
21 guide to date, these are -- this is a hit list
22 of things that we expect in the next 12

1 months, a letter from the Director of HMS that
2 says, you are part of this community, and this
3 is what we foresee in your community in the
4 next 12 months, I understand it is not
5 definitive or an absolute hard promise, but,
6 as I say, you have all of their addresses.

7 And we'll always do our part. You
8 know, I'm one of the people that asked for the
9 shark placard, so I -- the tournaments will
10 always do our part. But I think there is
11 plenty of people that are not tournament
12 participants that only you can contact.

13 I noticed in here a definition of
14 trolling. When I asked Bobbi, she said that
15 was for -- what, Steven?

16 Okay. Is that something that will
17 be carrying forward? Because you've got a
18 four-knot minimum in there, and I don't know
19 whether that works for everyone or not. Just
20 an observation, so we are not caught in a
21 loophole going forward.

22 I really like the compliance

1 guide. I would like -- I know that one of the
2 shark ones we were doing almost on an every-
3 other-year basis. And this year, when I --
4 because I normally include the shark guide
5 with the -- in my tournament stuff already,
6 but there were -- we were still using an '07
7 guide.

8 Even if nothing changes, it would
9 be beneficial and give the consumer more
10 confidence if you could just advance it for
11 the -- for the year, so that they feel like
12 they have this year's guide, not, okay, I see
13 one that is last year, now I have to go to CFR
14 or call HMS or something to reestablish that
15 confidence in it.

16 Is the final form expected to be
17 8-1/2 by 11 like we see here?

18 PARTICIPANT: Just -- I just
19 looked down and realized that I had forgot to
20 mention this, but we have actually played with
21 a format, half pages, front and back. And
22 this was something, too, that we had thought

1 about in lieu of the brochures. If there was
2 something specific to swordfish, we could also
3 put it in a guide like this. It would just be
4 a couple of pages, but this will also cut down
5 on the length of the document, the size of the
6 document, the costs of producing the documents
7 as well, right.

8 And this would be for bulk
9 mailings. We didn't want to give this to you
10 guys to make your edits on. We wanted to give
11 you the full-size guide. And I anticipate
12 that we will produce this size of guides, at
13 least -- at least some of them. But for
14 larger mailings it will definitely be in a
15 smaller format.

16 And I just wanted to address the
17 comment about the tournaments. We do have a
18 list of those tournaments. However, people
19 aren't aware that outreach materials are
20 available. And one thing that we are working
21 with the southeast office on, because they
22 actually do the processing of the tournament

1 registrations, is to somehow provide a box or
2 something on that actual application form
3 asking the tournament directors if they would
4 like to have outreach materials sent to them.
5 We need to know approximately how many
6 registrants or how many outreach materials
7 they would like to have.

8 This is something that we're
9 discussing, but we don't want to send out
10 information that people aren't going to use.
11 Just a waste.

12 I personally called several
13 tournament directors, just towards the end of
14 the year, because we did finally have the
15 shark ID placards coming out. And some of
16 them wanted the shark ID placards, just
17 because the general public shows up to these
18 tournaments as well. Even though they weren't
19 specifically fishing for sharks, people do
20 bring those in.

21 So we are trying to get a wealth
22 of information out there, not just for

1 tournament-specific species, but also some
2 other things that we could do better at
3 getting some outreach out there, too.

4 So when I say, if you guys know of
5 anything, as far as -- as it goes with
6 outreach, a lot of people don't -- don't think
7 about actually providing something. They
8 think, my tournament is registered, and they
9 just go on with their business. But if they
10 know that they could actually be helping out
11 the recreational community and helping us out
12 getting that information out there, that helps
13 us out a lot. So --

14 PARTICIPANT: You mentioned the
15 information sheets there. I had called them
16 sub-versions of the -- of the bigger guide.
17 I would want to be careful with -- a typo
18 between the two of them will cause conflict
19 when they both appear to be authoritative,
20 even though I know that neither of them are
21 supposed to be authoritative.

22 You still have to go to -- she was

1 talking about those information sheets, being
2 able to publish a section that is just
3 swordfish or just billfish. And having two
4 documents in parallel in your system you open
5 the chance of, we made a change in this one,
6 but we forgot to carry that change forward in
7 the other one.

8 PARTICIPANT: I just wanted to
9 mention, this is -- maybe I wasn't as clear as
10 I should have been, but there is only -- we
11 talked about having only one document for
12 commercial compliance, one document for
13 recreational compliance, one document for
14 dealer compliance, that we work from.

15 So this guide that you see here,
16 or I should probably be holding up the
17 recreational guide instead, is the master
18 document, where if there is a change that
19 occurs it will be made to that document. And
20 if we need to make a sub-mailing of that
21 document, that is where the information will
22 come from. So that way we don't have

1 conflicting information.

2 And that was the problems that we
3 were having with having so many brochures. We
4 would create all of these brochures.
5 Something would be outdated, but we didn't
6 really have anything else at the time, and we
7 had all of these brochures that would just be
8 sitting on the shelf that had outdated
9 information in them.

10 So the idea is to have one master
11 document and then make sub-mailings off of
12 that document, so we don't run into those
13 problems. So we're definitely aware of that.

14 PARTICIPANT: I see. Just two
15 last clarifications. One, Rom, your question
16 about bag limit came up in our event this
17 year. And I really strongly feel we are
18 already under a cumulative 250 fish bag limit,
19 and that we have come nowhere near -- we are
20 not seeing the abuse that could happen. I
21 agree with you that it could, but we haven't
22 seen it, and I would -- I just want to

1 straighten that one out, you know, follow my
2 opinion with Rom's.

3 And second clarification -- in
4 marlin and tuna tournaments, we see almost no
5 shark interaction. Again, Jess, I am more
6 than happy to be of service. They are
7 generally offshore anglers or big-game
8 anglers. But in the event itself we see very
9 few shark interactions.

10 Thank you.

11 PARTICIPANT: Thanks, Rick.
12 Ellen, Bobbi, and Myron.

13 MS. PEEL: I would also -- Ellen
14 Peel. Going back to page 11 on your size/bag
15 limits, it might help, you know, to have a
16 second asterisk, you know, three little dots
17 saying, however, your state may have
18 additional restrictions, more restrictive, in
19 bag limits, you know, to which you must also
20 comply. That might save some unfortunate
21 situations for those who think the federal is
22 the primary on this, which it is, but if they

1 are a more restrictive state they would
2 prevail.

3 Thanks.

4 PARTICIPANT: Bobbi, go ahead.

5 MS. WALKER: Thank you. I wanted
6 to thank you for this handout on sharks, as
7 I'm publisher of the National Association of
8 Charter Boat Operators News Report, and I used
9 this in our newsletter this month. So it will
10 go out to over 3,400 charter boat captains
11 across the United States.

12 But I also wanted to recommend to
13 you perhaps the regional Fishery Management
14 Councils could publish it in their
15 newsletters, because I found, especially with
16 recreational anglers, it is the repetition.
17 If they keep seeing it, seeing it, seeing it,
18 then they are going to remember it. And I
19 think, you will, it will be better if you can
20 just get it out -- magazines, newsletters,
21 anything.

22 PARTICIPANT: Thank you, Bobbi.

1 Myron?

2 MR. FISCHER: Thank you. These
3 comments are strictly on the recreational HMS
4 permits. And my question I guess would be to
5 Margo. Is the price of the permit -- am I
6 correct that it can only be for the
7 administrative costs of issuing the permit?

8 PARTICIPANT: Yes. There is a
9 worksheet that we have to go through.

10 MR. FISCHER: Is there any way to
11 tie a compliance guide to the permit, where
12 it's one of the credentials or one of the --
13 like prerequisites of having the permit is you
14 have to have the compliance guide, just
15 verify, yes, I have read and agree to the
16 terms, and sign it, and, therefore, it becomes
17 part of the permit.

18 And the funds -- an additional
19 fund could be charged -- it won't be but a
20 couple of dollars -- to include the mailing
21 and the printing of it. And that way it could
22 be covered under the permit fee.

1 That way it could be tied to the
2 permit. Just like, you know, you have to hit
3 the I accept, every time you download
4 something on your computer, and you don't read
5 the long list.

6 (Laughter.)

7 PARTICIPANT: Yes. We've got that
8 now for, you know, you are who you are, and,
9 you know, you're not -- you know, all of the
10 information is accurate.

11 MR. FISCHER: I'm just trying to
12 come up with a way it doesn't have to come out
13 of the budget, and it has -- doesn't have to
14 be a budgeted item. And each individual
15 permit holder is, in a sense, paying for his
16 compliance guide in his fee.

17 PARTICIPANT: I have to think
18 about that one.

19 MR. FISCHER: Okay. My second is
20 -- second item is, I do like the placard with
21 the sharks. And I almost wish I could see a
22 placard for all of the HMS species, the tunas

1 and billfish, and not the description of what
2 each is, but, rather, the regulations
3 corresponding and have a picture -- a quick
4 picture guide to the regulations, instead of
5 have to look it up in a chart.

6 I might know what some of the
7 species are, but we take anglers who don't
8 have a clue.

9 PARTICIPANT: Yes. The one thing
10 about that would be needing to do reprints as
11 the regs change, whereas having ID, you know,
12 that usually doesn't change, although the
13 approaches to how to ID fish do. So --

14 PARTICIPANT: Myron, thanks.
15 Ellen, go right ahead, and then I've got
16 Rusty.

17 MS. PEEL: Didn't you just say
18 earlier that you are going to reprint the HMS
19 pelagic guides that include billfish? I think
20 Sea Grant actually was the one that put it
21 together, the nice spiral-bound publication?

22 PARTICIPANT: Yes. That was a

1 joint publication. That is back in print.

2 MS. PEEL: Okay, good.

3 PARTICIPANT: That is available
4 now.

5 MS. PEEL: So that would help
6 Myron on the other species. It includes them.

7 PARTICIPANT: Yes. Thank, Ellen.
8 Rusty?

9 MR. HUDSON: Rusty Hudson,
10 Directed Shark. Two observations. On the
11 compliance guides, having participated in the
12 workshops, I would find it more useful if you
13 put the table of contents as you open it, and
14 you see it on the right-hand side of the page
15 -- in other words, i.e, page 2 as it is seen
16 right now, where you have your introduction,
17 it will catch the eye faster.

18 And with regards to Trey's work, I
19 thought it was very useful except for the
20 hammerhead. You should have had a fin
21 orientation and shape on those hammerheads.
22 That would have been useful in comparison.

1 PARTICIPANT: Rusty, thank you.

2 Pat?

3 MR. AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Bob.

4 Back to this chart again, did you say that you
5 were going to make it in a different format
6 when it is printed to go out? Or is it going
7 to stay in this format?

8 PARTICIPANT: No, that was just
9 for the guides. That's -- yes, the placard
10 will stay as is.

11 MR. AUGUSTINE: Well, I would make
12 a suggestion. This -- it's wonderful, but
13 there is not a document file long enough to
14 hold this. A charter boat captain, so -- he
15 is going to fold it in half. So would it be
16 possible to either change the --

17 (Tape 19 ends.)

18 (Tape 20 begins.)

19 MR. AUGUSTINE: (Tape begins mid-
20 sentence) -- in your document file it would
21 have a fold in it or a crease in it natural,
22 and then just move the fish sideways or

1 something. But think about how you could do
2 that differently, but this would great.

3 And, again, if you did the same
4 thing with tuna, as was suggested by several
5 others, they would keep them in their document
6 file. Otherwise, they are going to get ragged
7 and torn.

8 PARTICIPANT: Yes.

9 MR. AUGUSTINE: Okay? Does that
10 make sense?

11 PARTICIPANT: Yes.

12 PARTICIPANT: Good, Pat. Thank
13 you very much. Anybody else?

14 (No response.)

15 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: All right.
16 Thank you very much. These are very helpful
17 comments. Really appreciate your input. As
18 we continue to evolve our outreach efforts,
19 please-- if you've got resources or ideas--
20 please let us know. We're always interested
21 to hear.

22 And so I think we are right about

1 on schedule. So why don't we come back at
2 10:30, and we'll have an update on the MRIP
3 program.

4 (Whereupon, the proceedings in the
5 foregoing matter went off the
6 record briefly.)

7 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: We do have an
8 update on the MRIP with Ron Salz, who is with
9 Office of Science and Technology. And so this
10 is something that-- you know, I think there is
11 always interest in what is going on. So I
12 thank Ron for coming and providing you all an
13 update.

14 MR. SALZ: Okay. Good morning.
15 As Margo said, I'm with the Office of Science
16 and Technology. And within Science and
17 Technology I'm in the Fisheries Statistics
18 Division, and so my primary responsibilities
19 relate to collection of recreational data on
20 highly migratory species.

21 So today I am going to be talking
22 about a new recreational information progra--

1 new initiative-- called MRIP, which goes
2 beyond -- well beyond just HMS. It is
3 actually a national program covering all
4 recreational data collections that NOAA
5 fisheries is associated with. And some of
6 this is going to be review.

7 For those of you who have been
8 coming to these meetings the last couple of
9 years, I have given a few presentations on
10 this program. But what is new today is we
11 have collected some data. I will point out,
12 it is all preliminary at this point, so you
13 are getting sort of a first look at what we
14 are seeing for some of the projects we have
15 got going on.

16 And we are going to be sort of
17 analyzing the data and finalizing it, so
18 hopefully if I get a chance to talk to you at
19 the spring meeting-- spring 2009-- we will
20 have some -- you know, maybe some more
21 finalized reports.

22 So, as I said, the MRIP program is

1 an initiative to try to improve the way we
2 collect recreational fisheries saltwater data
3 nationwide. And it is driven by -- there was
4 a National Research Council review of our
5 programs done a couple of years ago. They
6 came out with a report with a whole laundry
7 list of recommendations for improvement.

8 And then, in the most recent
9 update to the Magnison Act, recreational
10 fisheries was specifically cited as an area
11 where we need to improve the program, and part
12 of that is to implement this saltwater angler
13 registry, which was talked about, I believe,
14 earlier in this meeting.

15 So with that I will just sort of
16 first show you the overall structure of MRIP,
17 for those of you maybe not familiar with the
18 program.

19 So there is an Executive Steering
20 Committee, which John Boreman, who is
21 currently the Director of the Office of
22 Science and Technology is the chair of. Under

1 the Executive Steering Committee, you have the
2 angler registry team, you have the operations
3 team, and a communications and education team.

4 And then, working really under the
5 operations team, you've got these four
6 workgroups, where -- where projects or
7 proposals are being put forward. We've got
8 several that are funded this year, and more in
9 the works for next year, and so I just wanted
10 to highlight that one of these workgroups is
11 the HMS workgroup, which I am the chairman of.
12 And we put in proposals for five projects in
13 2008, and they all got funded, and that is
14 what I am going to be talking a little bit
15 about, where we stand with those proposals.

16 So those projects that were funded
17 for FY08, one deals with exploring our options
18 for how we sample HMS tournaments. As most of
19 you know, tournaments are an important part of
20 the HMS recreational fisheries, in terms of
21 effort, in terms of catch, in terms of, you
22 know, participation, and also an important

1 economic component.

2 And so we are exploring different
3 options. We are comparing some of the ways
4 that we currently collect tournament data
5 through the large pelagic survey, and also
6 through programs like the recreational
7 billfish survey. And we have implemented some
8 new data collection approaches.

9 The second project is essentially
10 characterization of the HMS recreational
11 fisheries in areas where, at least in the
12 past, NOAA fisheries has not had any
13 specialized programs to address HMS in areas
14 from, say, North Carolina through Texas. So
15 the large pelagic survey, as it currently is
16 funded, only covers Maine through Virginia.

17 Now, we do have other recreational
18 programs like the MRFs and the for-hire
19 survey, which do cover those other states.

20 But for rare event species and for, you know,
21 highly migratory species, which are not sort
22 of the common -- more commonly targeted fish,

1 sometimes those data are just not precise
2 enough, they are not at the level that we need
3 for fisheries management and stock
4 assessments.

5 The next two projects are in
6 Florida, and one deals with the private angler
7 HMS permit holders, and the other is with the
8 for-hire or the charter headboat permit
9 holders. And I will get more into what we've
10 got ongoing right now.

11 This -- we are still in the data
12 collection phase for both these projects, but
13 the focus on Florida in particular came out of
14 a concern that our swordfish numbers were not
15 adequate enough, or we were missing some of
16 the fishery, the catch down there.

17 And also, for some other species,
18 we -- you know, like billfish, that we were
19 not adequately addressing the recreational
20 fishery with our current programs.

21 And then the last project deals
22 with HMS data in Puerto Rico, and looking at

1 particularly the private boat, non-tournament
2 landings. So Puerto Rico does have quite an
3 extensive program where they try to get to
4 every HMS tournament on the island and do a
5 good job of collecting data at the
6 tournaments. But for non-tournament landings,
7 there is a feeling that we are missing quite
8 a lot. So we are looking into ways to sort of
9 shore up that gap in the data.

10 So I am going to talk a little bit
11 about -- as I said, most of these projects, or
12 actually all of them, are still ongoing. So
13 I don't really have a lot of data to present,
14 but I am going to talk a little bit about what
15 we have been seeing, at least in terms of the
16 preliminary results.

17 For the tournament project, one of
18 the new approaches that we are trying is to
19 attempt a census of all HMS registered
20 tournaments from the tournament operators.
21 And this is nothing new for billfish
22 tournaments, because they are required -- it

1 is mandatory that they report to the
2 recreational billfish survey, which is run
3 through the Southeast Science Center.

4 But for all of the non-billfish
5 tournaments -- and these are, you know, mostly
6 shark tournaments or tuna-only tournaments,
7 not combined with the billfish species -- we,
8 for this year, attempted to census that --
9 that group of tournaments in the area from
10 Maine through Virginia.

11 And the reason we chose this area
12 is we want to make direct comparisons between
13 what we are seeing in the large pelagic survey
14 data for tournaments with a census approach.
15 So it is kind of comparing a survey with a
16 census. You know, you've got two different --
17 two different methodologies which can be
18 compared.

19 So for this project, we -- for the
20 non-billfish tournaments, basically we had two
21 sources. One is through the MRIP funds that
22 we got we were able to hire some consultants

1 at the University of Massachusetts, and we
2 work with them to, you know, send out -- send
3 out notification letters to all of the
4 tournament operators with reporting forms, and
5 we followed up with them. And so we are
6 still, you know, trying to get all of those
7 forms back, but that was one approach.

8 And then, Massachusetts -- Greg
9 Skomall in Massachusetts DMR, he currently has
10 a program in place for the state where they
11 try to get to as many of the HMS tournaments
12 as they can, and so we are working with
13 Massachusetts to get their data.

14 And then, for the billfish
15 tournaments, we are working with the Southeast
16 Center. So rather than, you know, duplicative
17 effort, we -- we didn't want to step on the
18 toes of the RBS in any way. And so we are --
19 we have been working closely with Arietta
20 Venezelos in Miami to get -- to get her data.

21 All right. So in addition to the
22 data that we are collecting from the

1 tournament operators, when the project -- this
2 project team met, there was a lot of concern
3 that that data that you get on those reporting
4 forms-- which are summary reporting forms,
5 they are not vessel by vessel, it is just a
6 summary for the whole tournament-- that data
7 likely has some gaps associated with it,
8 particularly, you know, a lot of tournaments
9 don't have a release category, so you may not
10 get real good numbers, real good estimates of
11 the released fish.

12 But beyond that, a lot of the fish
13 just don't ever get reported to the
14 tournament. You know, they are not -- they
15 are not considered tournament fish, but they
16 are landed during a tournament fishing trip.

17 So to try to get a sense of what
18 we might be missing from just focusing on the
19 tournament operator reports, we also wanted to
20 try to visit some of these tournaments and do
21 dockside interviews with the captains, you
22 know, when they return from fishing.

1 So, again, working with a
2 consultant at the University of Massachusetts
3 and his grad student, we were able to sample
4 six tournaments in this area, from Maine
5 through Virginia. And so we got a lot of good
6 data directly from the captains.

7 The next steps for this project --
8 we are sort of finishing up the data
9 collection phase, and now we need to enter the
10 data, do the analysis, and hopefully by the
11 new year we will have some kind of report and
12 some recommendations for, you know, is the LPS
13 -- large pelagic survey -- the best approach
14 for estimating our tournament catch and
15 effort? Or should we be looking at other
16 methods, you know, other -- either other
17 survey approaches or something completely
18 different, like a census?

19 So that is what -- that is where
20 we stand with that project.

21 Okay. For the characterization
22 survey, as I said, this was -- this was North

1 Carolina through Texas, excluding Florida.
2 Because we were doing these specialized
3 surveys in Florida, we were getting a lot of
4 good data down there, so Florida was not part
5 of this -- this project.

6 But basically for this survey we
7 did it over the phone. We designed a phone
8 survey questionnaire, and, really, our goal
9 was not to come up with precise estimates of
10 catch and effort, but more to characterize the
11 fishery in the sense of, you know, how many
12 HMS trips do people typically take? During
13 what months of the year do they fish? What
14 access sites do they use? Are they private
15 access? Is it public access? You know, these
16 are all important questions.

17 If we were to go ahead and then
18 design some sort of dockside survey where, you
19 know, similar to the LPS or similar to the
20 MRFs-- where we are going to go interview
21 people when they're returning from their
22 trips-- we need to know, what are the sites

1 they're using? You know, and if they are
2 coming back, are they coming back at night, or
3 is there a lot of night fishing? You know, do
4 we need to be there early in the morning to
5 intercept those trips?

6 So a lot of these questions we are
7 hoping to answer by doing what essentially was
8 an attempted census of all HMS angling and
9 general category permit holders from North
10 Carolina through Texas. In Texas, we also
11 surveyed the charter boat, charter headboat
12 permit holders.

13 So there you see our -- basically
14 our sample frame. And the total number that
15 we attempted to call was over 7,000, so it was
16 quite a large phone survey. We contracted it
17 out to a company called Strategic Research
18 Group. They basically did all of the calling
19 in the month of September, which was not great
20 timing when you think about all of the
21 hurricanes and the weather issues that were
22 sort of devastating the Gulf during that time

1 period.

2 So they -- you know, they did
3 their best to work with people and to try to,
4 you know, call people back at a more
5 convenient time. But we did hear a lot of --
6 that a lot of interviews could not be
7 conducted, because of the, you know,
8 hurricanes.

9 So here is just some of the
10 results that we got in terms of how many
11 completed interviews, how many successful, you
12 know, completed interviews. And out of over
13 7,000, 7,325, we got 5,093 interviews. That
14 is, you know, completed information on
15 particular permitted vessels.

16 Now, the completion rate also --
17 you know, this also includes -- or what's not
18 in the completion rate is vessels that were
19 either sold or we didn't have good enough
20 contact information to get through to the
21 permit holder. So, really, the response rate
22 would be a lot higher than this 69 percent.

1 But the bottom line is, of the
2 people that they were able to get through to,
3 they only had something like two and a half
4 percent refuse to do the survey. So we got
5 really good cooperation. You know, for a
6 telephone survey that could take up to 10 or
7 15 minutes, we were real pleased with the
8 results.

9 Okay. So moving on to the Florida
10 surveys, the first part of this was the
11 angling category. And this was a phone survey
12 conducted through the entire state, so you are
13 talking about 5,000 angling category permit
14 holders in Florida alone. And we were asking
15 questions about a two-week period of time. So
16 how many trips did you take for HMS, you know,
17 during this particular two-week period?

18 And we ended up contacting -- for
19 every two weeks, we contacted five percent of
20 the permit holders. And here you see just
21 some of the early -- and I, you know, will
22 stress again, very preliminary results broken

1 out by two-week periods. And this shows you
2 from sort of early July through the middle of
3 September.

4 We actually started this project
5 in May, and we are going to continue it until
6 April 2009. But this is just the data that
7 they were able to get key entered up to this
8 point.

9 But the -- I guess, you know, the
10 thing to look at here is the number of HMS
11 trips per completed interview, and then we can
12 produce in that third column-- or the fourth
13 column, rather-- an estimate of the number of
14 HMS trips when you multiply it through by the
15 total number of HMS permit holders.

16 And then, trips targeting
17 swordfish ranged from anywhere from one out of
18 -- you know, one out of every four or one out
19 of every three trips for HMS, that was
20 reported to us were targeting swordfish, but
21 that last column shows that people were not
22 reporting a whole lot of swordfish being

1 caught on these trips.

2 And so there is, you know,
3 various-- I guess, reasons for that, but this
4 is just what we got from the angling category
5 phone survey so far.

6 Second component of the Florida
7 pilot was the for-hire. Mostly we are talking
8 about charter boats here -- for-hire phone
9 survey. For this -- this component we just
10 concentrated our efforts in southeast Florida
11 and the Keys. And the recall on this was a
12 one-week reporting period, and so every week
13 10 percent of the sample was drawn.

14 And the sample size here, or the
15 total number of vessels we are talking about,
16 is somewhere around 325, I believe, with the
17 HMS permit. Well, I should say with the HMS
18 permit, or we also included boats that did not
19 have the HMS permit but told us that they had
20 fished for HMS. So those got added to our
21 sample frame.

22 So here is some of the early data

1 from the charter boat phone survey. And you
2 can see the number of completed interviews
3 that we conduct per month. Not a lot of trips
4 targeting swordfish, so, you know, even -- I
5 would say less -- less than the private
6 anglers in terms of targeting, trips
7 targeting. And also, not a lot of swordfish
8 kept or released.

9 So, you know, it follows the same
10 kind of pattern that we are just not seeing --
11 and, again, you know, there are of course
12 reasons for this that may go beyond the
13 fishery itself, particularly fuel costs and
14 the economy. And, you know, what I'm hearing
15 from the guys who are doing the surveying down
16 in Florida is the charter captains just can't
17 find people to go out, who want to go out and,
18 you know, pay those prices to go -- to go
19 fishing.

20 So that's kind of the picture, at
21 least in the first four months of this survey.

22 And the third component of the

1 Florida pilots is -- was a dockside survey,
2 again, focusing on the charter boats in
3 southeast Florida and the Keys, so every week
4 Florida Fish and Wildlife -- I should have
5 said from the start, this work is being
6 conducted by the state agency, the Florida
7 Fish and Wildlife Commission. And Dave McGowan
8 is leading up the project. He is located in
9 Tequesta. That's where his office is.

10 So every week he draws 10
11 assignments, and he has -- you know, he hired
12 a bunch of interviewers to go out and do
13 assignments on the docks. And so up until
14 September 14th, they had 253 HMS interview
15 trips through dockside interviewing.

16 They were trying to do at least
17 two night assignments per week, but up to this
18 point they have only done three total, which
19 tells you that the night fishing is just not
20 really what it was last year, at least what we
21 were hearing from last year. They also had a
22 few miscommunications with captains who told

1 them they were not going out, and then later
2 on they found out that they did go out fishing
3 at night.

4 But, really, the take-home message
5 here is that they are just not seeing the
6 night fishery like it was last year.

7 And here is some, again,
8 preliminary data from the dockside sampling.
9 And so the first column is the species group,
10 so sailfish. And this is really usually what
11 they told us they were targeting. You know,
12 some people would just say, "sailfish." Other
13 people would be more general and say, "I was
14 targeting billfish," which could include, of
15 course, sailfish.

16 But the majority, in terms of
17 targeting, you know, what they were targeting
18 was sailfish. And the second column shows you
19 the number of interview trips where they were
20 targeting that particular species or group of
21 species, but did not catch what they were
22 targeting.

1 The third column shows you the
2 number of trips where they were both targeting
3 that species and caught at least one of those.
4 And then the fourth column, HMS bycatch, are
5 trips where they were targeting some other
6 fish, some other non-HMS fish, and this could
7 be, you know, king mackerel, or I guess maybe
8 -- I don't know what -- amberjack or wahoo.
9 Dolphin. Yes, dolphin, I guess, right. So we
10 were not counting dolphin as HMS for this
11 project, so dolphin -- but they caught, you
12 know -- they caught one of these HMS fish. So
13 you can see again -- you know, and I
14 highlighted the swordfish, that just not a lot
15 of activity in terms of either targeting or
16 trips catching swordfish from the dockside
17 sampling that we have been doing.

18 So that is pretty much all of the
19 -- you know, the data I've got to show you for
20 now. We will have a lot more, again, as I
21 said, by next spring.

22 And, you know, I -- the last thing

1 I want to mention before I open it up for
2 questions is we are now in the phase, in terms
3 of MRIP funding, we are now at the stage where
4 we are looking at proposals, we are looking at
5 projects for next year. And so, you know,
6 this would be a really good time to -- to
7 bring up ideas that you all may have.

8 You know, I'm really interested --
9 if there are particular projects or gaps in
10 the recreational fishery information that we
11 are currently collecting that you have
12 identified, you know, I can't guarantee that
13 it is going to get funded, but if you don't
14 put in a proposal, you know, it certainly
15 won't get funded.

16 So, you know, I would say, any
17 ideas that you have for improving HMS
18 recreational fisheries, you know, please let
19 me know. So that's all I had. And if there
20 are any questions -- do we have time?

21 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Yes. That's
22 fine.

1 MR. SALZ: Okay. I guess a couple
2 of minutes for questions.

3 MR. CODDINGTON: Yes. Ron
4 Coddington. Ron, a couple of quick comments,
5 just to give some more information to the
6 group, and it might help some people that are
7 thinking about working with their state
8 agencies or something on some other proposals.

9 Lisa's group really needs to be
10 complimented on the way they are going about
11 this survey. Dave McGowan especially is very
12 tenacious. He is going to make this thing
13 work one way or the other, and he puts a lot
14 of hard work into it.

15 State was also very smart in the
16 way they developed their program, and using
17 minimal outside sources, part-time contract
18 employees. They are squeezing a lot of
19 information out of every dollar they spend
20 over there. So those guys really need to be
21 complimented on how hard they are working and
22 what they have done for the program.

1 Some other comments about it,
2 because I do -- of course, being on the
3 working group, I get a lot of this information
4 early. Significant change in effort -- we
5 designed a program with Dave McGowan to sample
6 the night fishery, and then it disappeared.
7 Why did it disappear?

8 Well, we know that we have had a
9 significant reduction in swordfish catches,
10 and a much lower catch per unit effort along
11 the coast in the early part of this year.
12 Things may be turning around in the next moon
13 or something, but the commercial guys have
14 been experiencing it, and the recs have been
15 experiencing it.

16 Another thing that is happening,
17 too, to give you an idea of how fast these
18 fisheries can change -- you know, remember, we
19 weren't even here talking about recreational
20 swordfish a few years ago. Just in the last
21 year and a half or so, this fishery is
22 changing from a nighttime surface fishery to

1 a daytime bottom fishery. Who knew swordfish
2 were bottom fish?

3 But that -- the fishery is
4 changing significantly. It is also changing
5 a little bit in the way they sample it and the
6 way they look at it. It is changing the way
7 people target HMS trips, and it may be a
8 little glitch in the way they are getting the
9 information or asking the questions.

10 People go out now dolphin fishing
11 and then deep-drop for a couple of hours for
12 swordfish, and then go back dolphin fishing or
13 come in and go tuna -- blackfin tuna fishing
14 or something like that. So we are learning
15 that from the program and getting a lot of
16 information. I am sure it is going to develop
17 a lot of questions that can be answered in
18 further programs.

19 One other thing, the side benefit
20 of this program, the way it is going in
21 Florida, is we are seeing -- it is a great
22 outreach program. When people get a phone

1 call and know NMFS and FWC are asking about
2 your swordfish catches and your HMS catches,
3 it triggers something in their head and they
4 start paying attention a little more.
5 Hopefully, it will result in better voluntary
6 reporting, and things like that, but that
7 public outreach is real good.

8 And we have also requested these
9 guys have, for instance, the compliance
10 guides, because they are getting questions
11 asked. They don't ask all the questions.
12 They get questions asked back from the permit
13 holders.

14 So it's just so far we are getting
15 some really neat information, and the other
16 agencies or states that may be looking to hop
17 into this program and work on it, they should
18 look at the way the State of Florida did it,
19 because they are really getting a big bang for
20 their buck.

21 And those guys really need to be
22 complimented. Beverly Salz, and the other

1 people that worked with Lisa on this, and Dave
2 McGowan especially are doing a real good job
3 down there.

4 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Thanks, Ron.
5 Much appreciated.

6 I just have one question on that
7 last slide that you pulled up with that data
8 summary from that -- yes, that one. I just
9 had a question. Are you at all interested --
10 and I don't even know if it's relevant at all,
11 but are you -- are you documenting where the
12 catches are occurring, whether or not they are
13 occurring in state waters or federal waters?
14 I haven't had a chance to ask Dave about it.

15 MR. SALZ: Yes, that is part of
16 the questionnaire.

17 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Okay.

18 MR. SALZ: And so I don't have any
19 of that data here now, but it will be part of
20 the final report. And if you want some
21 preliminary information on that, we can -- I'm
22 sure Dave McGowan --

1 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: I can ask
2 Dave and Beverly.

3 MR. SALZ: -- can provide that.
4 Yes.

5 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: That's fine.
6 Okay. I was just curious if you were
7 collecting it, so -- okay.

8 PARTICIPANT: Massachusetts is
9 telling us that they are going to provide
10 surveys -- complex surveys also at the dock.
11 So we are looking for information. I wish
12 there was some way we could consolidate all of
13 this information and get one -- maybe one
14 survey, or one interviewer could get all of
15 the information at one time, rather than what
16 we're doing.

17 PARTICIPANT: I also want to --

18 PARTICIPANT: Rom?

19 MR. WHITAKER: Rom Whitaker,
20 Hatteras Charter Boat. Well, after hearing
21 Tom's version of all of the surveys, it is
22 kind of comical. But thanks for the

1 presentation. It makes me feel a lot better
2 about spending my time up here coming to
3 Washington or Silver Spring.

4 I know for the last five or six
5 years of people being involved in this process
6 that we have raised Cain about the MRF survey
7 and how useless it was. So this seems to be
8 a tremendous improvement. And I just feel a
9 lot better about the process now, and I feel
10 like the fishermen will have some trust in the
11 data being collected now, where before we were
12 being regulated without, you know, just
13 complete garbage for data.

14 So I commend you on that. I'm
15 assuming in the characterization survey that
16 these phones are -- these phone surveys were
17 actual HMS holders, that they weren't just
18 random people out of the phone book, which I
19 think was happening before.

20 I did notice in the state surveys
21 that North Carolina had over 3,000, which was
22 a pretty high number, in reference to the

1 others, and I did have a question. Is that
2 taking a lot of state surveys? Were you
3 getting that information from the state, or
4 was that actually separate from state?

5 MR. SALZ: I can go back to that
6 number. Let's see. Right. North Carolina
7 had 3,177. That's the total number of HMS
8 angling category and also the general category
9 permit holders in the state. So we attempted
10 to call all of them. That does not include
11 any state saltwater license people.

12 MR. WHITAKER: Okay. Well, that's
13 great. I mean, I am glad you all are getting
14 the information. North Carolina always
15 probably has much to add to that.

16 And the last -- in the last slide,
17 there was just one question I had there in the
18 last slide from the Florida. Just take the
19 top line, for instance. I'm not -- this
20 survey is a little bit confusing to me,
21 because I'm not sure whether you are looking
22 for effort or if you are looking for catch.

1 And the total kind of reflects both, and I
2 just wanted to make that point.

3 I feel like if you are looking for
4 effort, the effort would be 80. If you're
5 looking for catch, the catch would be, what,
6 44. So I'm -- I just don't want to get in
7 another -- you know, where we're trying to get
8 one thing. Are we trying to get effort, or
9 are we trying to get catch? Let's make sure
10 that we keep those two things separated.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. SALZ: Yes. This -- actually,
13 the numbers here we're looking at are neither
14 effort or catch. It's the number of
15 interviews -- you know, trips, basically, that
16 they interviewed. And it breaks it down by
17 species.

18 So, but I will say for the final
19 report, when we analyze the data, we are
20 collecting both catch and effort. So we will
21 have effort in terms of boat trips, and we
22 will be able to look at it by target species.

1 And we will also have catch -- total caught,
2 total kept, released alive, all those
3 categories.

4 This table -- you know, again,
5 it's very preliminary, kind of raw data, but
6 just gives you a glimpse of the captains they
7 talked to, you know, characterizing the trips,
8 the types of trips, and how successful or
9 unsuccessful they were.

10 MR. WHITAKER: Thank you. Good
11 job.

12 PARTICIPANT: Thanks, Rom. Go
13 ahead, Dick.

14 PARTICIPANT: Yes. Again, I just
15 want to compliment Ron on what they're doing
16 in HMS and being more actively involved in
17 this whole statistics area. I did want to
18 just mention to you all that we have been
19 doing a study on bluefin tuna length and
20 weight for fish less than 73 inches. And we
21 have now two years worth of data.

22 The sample size wasn't as much as

1 we would hope for, but, still, it is
2 significant. We are starting to analyze those
3 data now, so by the spring meeting we will be
4 able to give you some data on conversion --
5 the issue of conversion factors that we have
6 had some issues with before. So by the spring
7 meeting we will have some information for you.

8 And Ron's group is helping
9 considerably in providing the LPS and the LPBS
10 data to -- and to what we're getting from
11 North Carolina, the state, from Seagrant work
12 and Virginia and New Jersey, from the State of
13 Maryland. We are getting information from
14 them, and also New York Seagrant and
15 Massachusetts. Greg Skomall is providing some
16 data as well.

17 PARTICIPANT: Dick, thank you.

18 Any other questions for Ron?

19 (No response.)

20 Ron, thanks.

21 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Yes, thank
22 you, Ron.

1 MR. SALZ: Sure.

2 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: All right.

3 The homestretch here. So while Karyl is
4 loading the summary -- and, again, we have
5 done the same thing that we have done the last
6 couple of meetings where we are taking notes
7 and kind of in real time typing things on what
8 we have heard.

9 I haven't seen most of this,
10 again, so I will be reading it pretty much
11 with you. But this is intended to be kind of
12 a takeaway of what we have heard over the last
13 couple of days. And I want you to know that
14 we are listening, and this will be one of the
15 presentations that we will load on the website
16 shortly. So, how much longer do you need?

17 Well, one of the things I was hoping to
18 talk about was potential next meeting dates.
19 And I got the Council's schedule that I have,
20 but it only goes through 2008. So we'll need
21 to get in touch with folks at a later date.

22 Yes, Lisa.

1 MS. GREGG: At the last meeting,
2 Margo, you had said that potentially there may
3 be a need after the ICCAT meeting to hold
4 another meeting also. So should we discuss in
5 the event that that happens?

6 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Yes.
7 Starting to think about -- you know, we've
8 gotten into a pattern now of a spring and a
9 fall meeting. Depending on what happens at
10 ICCAT, there might be a need for an earlier
11 meeting, perhaps more focused meeting, on
12 whatever comes out. I'm thinking specifically
13 of bluefin and possibly swordfish, that there
14 could be changes that we'll need to get some
15 fairly quick input as we need to implement the
16 ICCAT recommendations to come into compliance.

17 And then, looking ahead also to --
18 I'm not sure exactly when we'll have pre-
19 drafts for Amendments 3 and 4. So possibly
20 maybe having more than just a single spring
21 meeting, but maybe two, but more focused
22 meetings. So I don't know. I'm still

1 thinking about that. We'll have to see -- see
2 what we get at ICCAT, and see where we are on
3 some of the other actions.

4 All right. I have some support up
5 here.

6 All right. So the typical caveats
7 -- this is only a summary. This is not the
8 transcription that will be provided in
9 probably a couple of months, where you can get
10 the blow by blow of what was said. And it is
11 also not the meeting summary report that we
12 produce at the end where we try and go through
13 all of our notes and come up with a more
14 detailed synthesis.

15 This is, like I said, real-time
16 highlights, takeaway, kind of the big picture
17 things that we have heard. If we have missed
18 something, you know, please let us know, and
19 we'll be sure to incorporate it in the full
20 meeting summary. But it is not intended to be
21 everything that everybody said.

22 And so for the comments that we

1 have heard on the EFH amendment, consider
2 areas off South Florida, potential swordfish
3 EFH, and off Texas for sandbar. Considering
4 the HAPC boundary for bluefin to follow the
5 continental shelf. A seasonal closure of
6 pelagic longline in the Gulf of Mexico for
7 bluefin tuna. Consideration -- prey species
8 considerations, and also looking at what is
9 going on with aquaculture for impacts on EFH.

10 Also, the -- what we noticed is
11 that our comment period closes before the
12 South Atlantic Council meeting. So I think we
13 are going to go ahead and extend that, so that
14 we get them within the scope and comment
15 period -- or public comment period. Consider
16 a separate EFH for black-nose in the Gulf of
17 Mexico and Atlantic.

18 The shrimp trawl data
19 incorporation, and then see what we can find
20 out on the dead zone and any impacts that that
21 may be having.

22 On swordfish, we heard loud and

1 clear, and we will revise that slide. I think
2 we all know what we're talking about.

3 (Laughter.)

4 Touch on the historical
5 participation, on rebuilding, you know, the
6 contributions and sacrifices that the
7 fishermen made. And then, also, the positive
8 cooperation we have gotten on protected
9 species, the workshops, and the NED
10 experiment.

11 For the fisheries structure
12 modernization, we got a lot of really good
13 comments through that -- one being from
14 someone that now is not the time for some
15 fisheries, due to the fact that we are not
16 quota limited. But perhaps this is the time
17 to consider LAPP for other fisheries. When,
18 you know, you need time to think through some
19 of the issues, doing it in a crunch when you
20 are bumping up against TACs or looking at
21 other restrictions, it's hard to do it all at
22 once. So kind of a split opinion.

1 Some of the support for LAPPs,
2 based on the flexibility and some of the
3 options for more local input. Some aspects of
4 bluefin are similar to sectors already,
5 looking at the categories. And then, interest
6 in a proactive action in the swordfish hand
7 gear fishery.

8 Continuing on, adequate data
9 collection for stock assessments. Monitoring
10 is vital. A lot of it is based on catch
11 history, so having good data is really
12 important. That the initial allocations can
13 be the devil-- or hopefully not if we can get
14 it -- get it right and consider the unique
15 aspects of the fishery.

16 Most important part of creating
17 LAPP is the initial allocation, not one size
18 fits all. And I think that was a big point,
19 too, that we would want to really think about
20 our specifics. What we have seen in other
21 fisheries isn't necessarily what we would have
22 to do. There is options there.

1 And that the AP should be diverse
2 and representative and have the constituent
3 buy-in. So I think we got a lot of good
4 comment there.

5 One more. Okay. See, I don't
6 know --

7 (End of Tape 20, Side A.
8 Beginning of Tape 20, Side B.)

9 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: (Tape begins
10 mid-sentence) -- concern about examples of the
11 failures, as well as concern about the sense
12 of oversight, despite some of the statutory
13 language. So I think we heard lots of
14 concerns there.

15 For the Small Coastal Amendment 3,
16 we got a lot of requests for the video. We,
17 I think, are contacting the makers of the
18 video for release.

19 PARTICIPANT: And we got the okay.

20 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Okay.
21 Apparently, we got the okay on that. So we
22 can distribute that.

1 Concerns about the models and the
2 assumptions, the bycatch, shrimp trawl effort,
3 TEDs, the expansion of using the research data
4 for fisheries, and then the average size of
5 black-nosed.

6 So there a mention of the
7 foundation-- the Gulf and South Atlantic
8 Foundation-- meeting coming up, as well as
9 having some requests from some AP members to
10 sit down in more detail with them.

11 Recommendation to redo the
12 assessment, splitting the stock into Gulf of
13 Mexico and Atlantic, and then also look at a
14 smooth dogfish assessment. Someone needs to
15 manage the species.

16 Yes, I talked to Pat about
17 following up with the Middle Atlantic Council
18 on their request. We had requested back some
19 information from them and had -- I think
20 that's as far as it got. So we'll take that up.

21 And then, consider additional or
22 relaxed protection for some species, improving

1 outreach education, a lot on that this
2 morning, too. The size limit issue, retention
3 limit for sharp-nose, Atlantic sharp-nose,
4 areas of high bycatch, and then increasing
5 observer coverage. So all things that we will
6 be looking at putting in and considering in
7 the pre-draft.

8 Requests for the photos -- again,
9 I think we need to check on that. I don't
10 know if we've gotten -- well, so we'll get
11 back to you on that.

12 Questions on the landings update,
13 state landings before the federal season
14 opened, the range of the fishery participants,
15 request for their names. Again, we will check
16 on that.

17 Trip limits, reasons for the fins-
18 on requirement, the five percent ratio, and
19 the interstate shark plan. So questions also
20 about the fins-on national policy and efforts
21 there, and then also considering the IUCN
22 status.

1 For Amendment 4, a lot of concern
2 about FADS, with the catch and bycatch and
3 some of the international implications as
4 well. Discards, directed species interactions
5 -- need to improve the data collection for
6 both dealers and fishermen and work
7 internationally, and also that it needs to be
8 simple, affordable, and understandable.

9 On outreach, again-- this is
10 really real time, and I -- this was just this
11 morning. Outreach education needed. Placards
12 aren't quite enough, although we got a lot of
13 good feedback that that is a step in the right
14 direction.

15 Tournament directors can help. We
16 should tap into some of those resources.
17 Placards can be distributed to tournaments,
18 maybe look at expanding the placards to more
19 than just shark species.

20 Annual mailing, and possibly look
21 at permit fees to see if we can use that to
22 offset some of the outreach costs. Laminating

1 the guides so they are more durable, and then
2 adding the caveats about some of the state
3 regs that may apply, and then provide for more
4 flexibility in comment periods.

5 Okay. So some of the things
6 coming up -- scoping, still end scoping for
7 Amendments 3 and 4. Public hearings as well
8 for the EFH amendment are still going on. We
9 are looking at two new proposed rules coming
10 out in fairly short order.

11 The 2008 swordfish specifications
12 with the consideration for chartering, as well
13 as the 2009 shark season rule, and then the
14 2009 shark research fishery notice, request
15 for applications, and research priorities and
16 things -- that should be coming out pretty
17 quickly as well.

18 We are going to have some thinking
19 to do about permit management structure
20 issues, but there may be more on that coming
21 as we decide on what to take up.

22 The HMS nominations notice is also

1 going to be coming out fairly soon. To let
2 you know, in addition to the normal cycle of
3 term expirations, we have also been looking
4 back at some of the history of attendance, and
5 so there may be a slightly longer list of
6 seats that we are looking for nominations for.

7 And then, also, the revised final
8 compliance guides will be coming out fairly
9 soon.

10 PARTICIPANT: And I just
11 remembered another one that should have been
12 added to the list, and that's the notice of
13 intent to issue exempted fishing permits.
14 That will be coming up shortly as well.

15 MS. SCHULZE-HAUGEN: Yes, the
16 standard notice.

17 The BOTLs, the be-on-the-lookouts,
18 using an enforcement team. Some of the big
19 picture things I think we have been talking
20 about throughout-- ICCAT being the obvious
21 one-- but then also some of the other things
22 going on nationally that can, and likely will,

1 affect HMS fisheries' annual catch limits.

2 We have been looking to those in
3 our current actions, but the final rule will
4 be coming out. There was an advance notice of
5 proposed rulemaking for National Standard 2
6 guidelines, and that is the best available
7 science standard.

8 The NEPA changes, looking at that
9 final rule. I'm not sure of the timing on any
10 of these, but if you have any comments or
11 questions I can track those down.

12 The IAU bycatch certification
13 report is coming out, as well as the angler
14 registry that we have touched on. So these are
15 things that are going on kind of outside the
16 pure HMS world, but definitely will impact us.

17 And then, some of the things that
18 we were hoping to get your comments and
19 suggestions on -- people seemed to like the
20 detailed species presentations. We have done
21 bluefin now and swordfish. Had a couple of
22 suggestions to do yellow fin next. Other

1 folks are interested in other species. Let me
2 know.

3 Always curious on the hotels. We
4 have heard the Crown painted the rooms and
5 things, but if you prefer a different hotel,
6 sometimes we have options, sometimes we don't,
7 depending on availability.

8 Talk about the next AP meeting,
9 potentially focus on bluefin after ICCAT,
10 potential dates again mentioned. I don't have
11 the Council's schedule. We usually try and
12 slip in between. Those weeks are often very
13 limited, and so, you know -- and other people
14 try and slip in as well. So it's -- it can be
15 tough to find some open times.

16 And one comment came out from the
17 national permit system review, potential
18 suggestion, wondering if folks would be
19 willing -- of a potential focus group of the
20 public site, useability, you know, the comment
21 that it needs to be simple for people to find
22 and navigate, folks were interested in that.

1 We might pursue that.

2 And then, the agenda, we try
3 different things as we go along. This meeting
4 we did not have any night sessions. We didn't
5 have the hearing at night or the scoping
6 meetings at night-- tried to build those in
7 during the day. And part of the reason for
8 that is it makes for quite a long day for us,
9 and for you, and a lot of folks don't come
10 back.

11 So thinking -- you know, and I
12 understand. Believe me-- I, after dinner,
13 don't necessarily want to come back either.
14 So trying to fit that in during the day,
15 during the normal meeting schedule, but that
16 makes for a long day, you know, 8:30 to 6:00.
17 So is that preferable? Is it better to do it
18 at night? If we don't want such long days, we
19 could have longer meetings. Instead of, you
20 know, two days, have basically two and a half
21 as a way to have shorter days. So if you've
22 got particular feedback, let us know.

1 And then, the request for topics
2 ahead of time, maybe as we are looking at
3 potential dates of -- started sending out a
4 "save the date" e-mail. That could be also
5 another point for people to send back comments
6 on what they would like to talk about.

7 Some of the things that we will be
8 doing, putting the presentations on the
9 website.

10 The compliance guide to all permit
11 holders -- this was one that is -- was from
12 the spring meeting, and then I think we are
13 looking at some of the options now, budget
14 constraints, different universes, as we move
15 forward.

16 And then, folks had expressed
17 interest in the national report, and then the
18 comment period extension possibilities for EFH
19 and then small coastals as well.

20 Travel reminders -- get your
21 vouchers in. Under the old system, higher
22 chance of getting reimbursed quickly. Good

1 date would be next week.

2 Comments by the 31st for
3 Amendments 3 and 4. Although if there are any
4 changes to that, we will let you know.
5 Amendment 1, also the 18th, and then looking
6 for compliance guide comments a week from
7 tomorrow, if you can. Again, we want to get
8 those revised ones out as soon as we can.

9 And so at this point, that's all
10 we have. I want to say thank you to the
11 staff, who I think have done a tremendous job
12 in all of the presentations and materials. I
13 hope you recognize that work, and I also
14 wanted to thank you all for sticking around.

15 I do have some door prizes. Maybe
16 the endurance prize should be what it's
17 called. So if you take out your FishWatch or
18 HMS News card, there's a number at the back.
19 It should be in your folders. Oh, and there's
20 also the evaluation forms. That would be
21 another point to give us some specific
22 feedback.

1 So if everyone has their -- yes,
2 look at the -- Lisa's got it. Do you want to
3 hold it up? You can keep this anyway.

4 All right. So the first items are
5 a lovely NOAA Fisheries mouse pad and the gold
6 pen. So, let's see, Number 13. Lucky Number
7 13. Unfortunately, with people having left,
8 we may end up having to go through some
9 numbers. Did I get anybody? Eleven. Should
10 I just start chucking this stuff out in the
11 audience, see who catches it? Twenty-four.
12 All right. A winner.

13 (Applause.)

14 All right. So now HMS ID Guide,
15 back in print. Copy for everyone. Number 35.
16 I think Lisa wants some stuff. Thirty-nine.
17 Fifteen. You know, we should have done names,
18 just picked them out as people left. Thirty-
19 seven. Oh, come on. Thirty-seven.

20 (Applause.)

21 All right. Another mouse pad and
22 gold pen. Can you tell what we have more

1 supplies of? Number 2. Oh, all right.

2 (Applause.)

3 Thank you. All right. And the
4 beautiful "Shark Nursery Grounds of the Gulf
5 of Mexico." Kind of a heavy copy to carry
6 back, but is well worth it. Number 30.

7 Twenty. All right. A winner.

8 (Applause.)

9 And the last mouse pad and gold
10 pen. Thirty-eight. Thirty-two. All right.

11 (Applause.)

12 That's right. If you come next
13 time, if people like this, we can see what
14 else we can scrounge up for door prizes,
15 endurance awards. So it pays to stick around.

16 And thank you, everyone. This has
17 been a great meeting for us. We got a lot of
18 great comment. We look forward to talking to
19 you individually and meeting again pretty
20 soon. Have a great trip home.

21 (Whereupon, the proceedings in the
22 foregoing matter were concluded.)

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