

Science, Service, Stewardship



Potential HMS Management Actions – Follow-Up to Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR)

Highly Migratory Species
Management Division
NMFS/NOAA

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



Presentation Objectives

Purpose:

- Review potential mid-range management issues described in the ANPR
- Present what we heard during the public meetings and comment period
- Queue-up AP discussion



Potential HMS Management Measures

Potential actions taken may:

- **Increase opportunities for U.S. fisheries to fully harvest the U.S. quotas recommended by ICCAT while balancing continuing efforts to end BFT overfishing by 2010 and rebuild the stock by 2019**
- **Continue efforts to revitalize the SWO fishery while minimizing bycatch to the extent practicable**
- **Clarify and simplify the current HMS permit structure**



Potential HMS Management Measures (cont.)

NMFS also requested public comment regarding the following catch share programs:

- **The potential implementation of limited access privilege programs (LAPPs) in HMS fisheries**
- **The potential implementation of individual bycatch caps (IBCs) in HMS fisheries**



Background – Need for Action

A combination of factors has contributed to a decline in domestic landings of BFT and SWO

- Management measures
- Increased fuel prices
- Low ex-vessel prices
- Competition from less expensive imports
- Reduced regional availability of BFT and/or reduced BFT population level

Landings of BFT and SWO are below their respective ICCAT-recommended quotas



Background – Need for Action (cont.)

Continuing important management priorities for NMFS are:

- Reduction of bycatch and bycatch mortality
- Rebuilding overfished stocks in Atlantic HMS fisheries

However, there is an ongoing concern among some HMS constituents that a portion of the U.S. quota for SWO and BFT could be reallocated to other countries during future ICCAT negotiations.

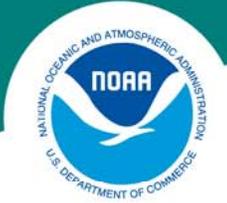


Background – Status of Stocks

- Western Atlantic BFT (SCRS 2008)
 - Overfished with overfishing occurring

- North Atlantic SWO (SCRS 2006)
 - Rebuilding with no overfishing occurring
 - Next assessment in fall 2009; expected to be rebuilt

- Atlantic Sharks (SHK)
 - Stock status varies by species – several overfished with overfishing occurring



Background – Need for Action

In light of:

- Recent underharvest of domestic BFT and SWO fisheries
- Current status of HMS stocks
- Continuing bycatch and bycatch mortality concerns
- Market factors that may affect fishery performance
- Agency efforts to address HMS permitting issues

NMFS requested comments on several potential regulatory changes described in the ANPR.