

Science, Service, Stewardship



Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel HMS Management Overview

September 20, 2011

**NOAA
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Goal of Presentation

- Provide a brief update of recent actions
- Provide update on actions recommended at the last AP meeting
- Will defer the discussion of issues to be discussed later in the agenda:
 - BFT Issues; Swordfish revitalization; Vessel Monitoring Systems; E-Dealer; Shark Issues; Recreational Action Plan; HMS Research Plan



Rulemaking/Operations Update

Since the April 2011 AP meeting:

- Published 4 proposed rules and 4 final rules
- Progressed with next steps on several issues from the 2009 ANPR
- Oversaw 18 workshops
- Published NOI and Control Date for Shark Fishery
- BFT ESA decision that listing not warranted at this time; added to Species of Concern with another review planned for 2013

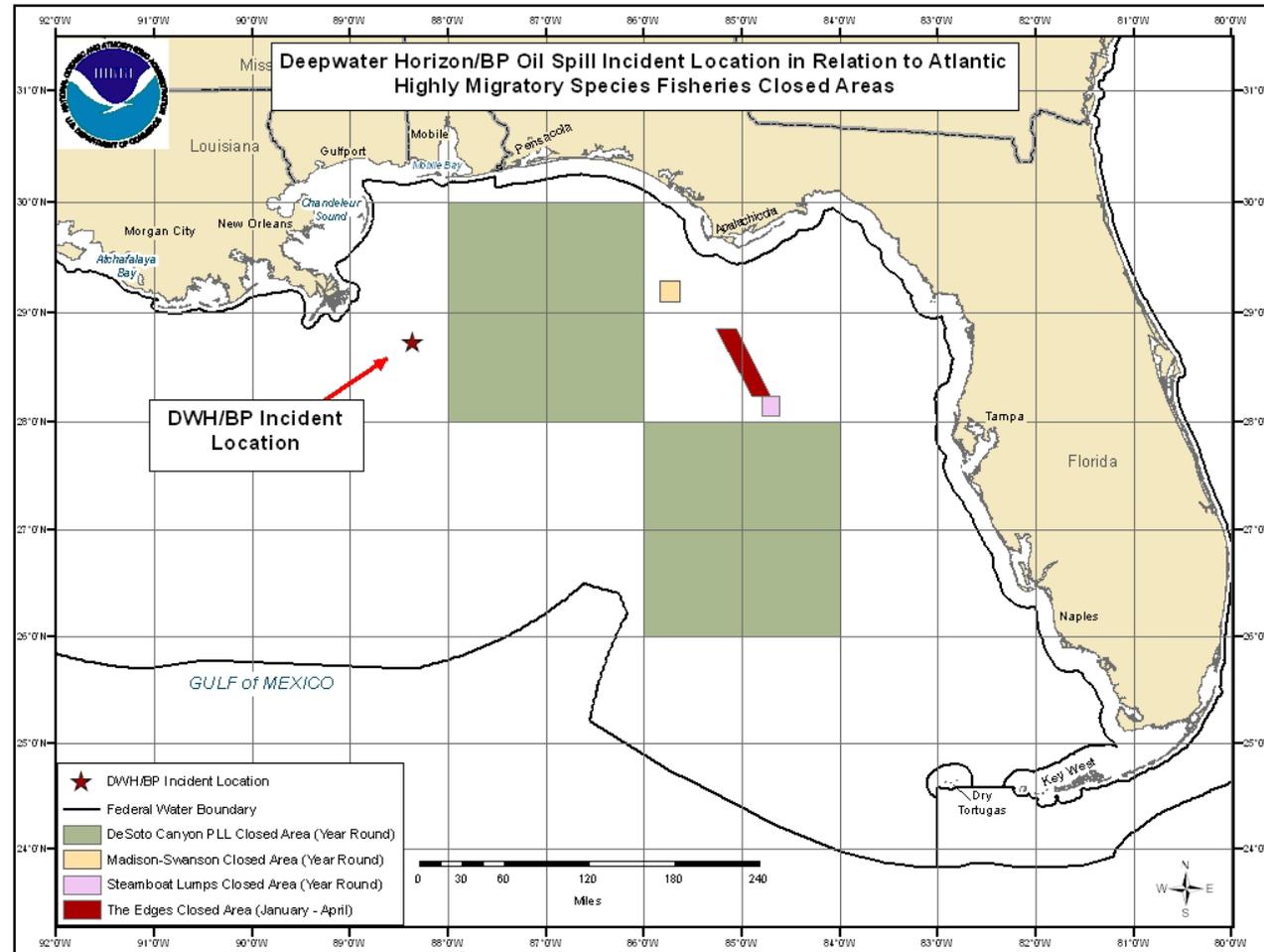
In 2011 so far:

- Issued 38 EFPs, SRPs, & LOAs
- Registered 236 HMS tournaments; e-mail registration available (HMStournamentregistry@noaa.gov); tournament registration list available online
- ~4,200 people receiving Atlantic HMS News
- VMS reimbursement available for HMS fisheries



Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Restoration

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





BFT Quotas and Atlantic Tuna Fisheries Management Measures

- Implemented reduced ICCAT-recommended quota for 2010 (1,750 mt for western Atlantic BFT (July 5, 2011; 76 FR 39019)
- Base quota for 2011 and 2012: 923.7 mt (+25 mt NED)
- 2011 Adjusted quota: 957.4 mt (+25 mt NED)
- Following consideration of public comment and updated 2010 dead discard estimates (122 mt), NMFS finalized rule to:
 - Account for half of the dead discard estimate “up front”;
 - Allocate the full 2011 baseline quotas to all directed fishing categories;
 - Allocate 61.1 mt to the Longline category for 2011 (plus 25 mt for NED)
(74.8 mt Longline baseline quota – $\frac{1}{2}$ of 2010 mt dead discards + $\frac{1}{2}$ of 2010 underharvest allowed to be carried forward= 61.1 mt);
 - Hold the other $\frac{1}{2}$ of the carried forward underharvest in the Reserve category for management flexibility as needed



BFT Quotas and Atlantic Tuna Fisheries Management Measures

Atlantic tuna fisheries actions:

- Reinstated target catch requirements for pelagic longline vessels fishing in the NED
 - 1 BFT for > 2,000 lb of species other than BFT
 - 2 BFT for > 6,000 lb of species other than BFT
 - 3 BFT for > 30,000 lb of species other than BFT
- Allows the removal of tuna tail lobes (as long as the fork of the tail remains intact)
- Clarifies the transfer-at-sea regulations
 - “transfer” includes moving or attempting to move an Atlantic tuna that is on fishing or other gear in the water from one vessel to another vessel



BFT Regulatory Amendment

- Proposed rule published November 4, 2009 (74 FR 57128); comment period extended to March 31, 2010
 - **General category**
 - Increase maximum daily retention limit from 3 to 5 BFT ≥ 73
 - Allow fishery to remain open until January subquota reached
 - **Harpoon category**
 - Increase daily incidental retention limit of large medium BFT (73-81") from 2 fish to 4 fish
- Final rule after CITES decision, new stock assessment and ICCAT measures, and ESA decision



Bluefin Tuna (continued)

2011 Inseason Actions (since last AP meeting):

- General Category daily retention limit of 3 large med/giant effective:
 - June through August (June 3, 2011; 76 FR 32086)
 - September through December (August 24, 2011; 76 FR 52886)
- Angling category:
 - Daily retention limit of:
 - 1 school or large school BFT for Angling category (private) vessels
 - 1 school BFT and 1 large school BFT for Charter/Headboat vessels;
 - Southern trophy BFT fishery closure - effective April 2 - December 31 (April 4, 2011; 76 FR 18416)
 - Northern trophy closure - effective July 29 - December 31 (July 27, 2011; 76 FR 44834)



Shark ICCAT

- ICCAT recommendations 10-07 and 10-08 prohibit the retention, transshipping, landing, storing, or selling of hammerhead sharks in the family *Sphyrnidae* (except for bonnethead sharks, *Sphyrna tiburo*) and oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT
- As of September 28, 2011 (76 FR 53692), the retention of hammerhead and oceanic whitetip sharks will be prohibited for:
 - Atlantic HMS commercially permitted vessels that have PLL gear on board; and
 - Recreational fishermen fishing with a General Category permit when participating in a HMS tournament or fishing under an HMS Angling or Charter/Headboat permit where tunas, swordfish, and/or billfish are also retained.

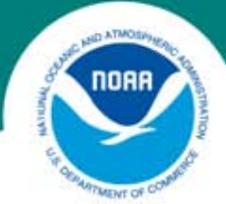


Shark Inseason Actions

Shark Fishery Closures

- Gulf of Mexico Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks
 - Opened March 1, closed July 17; 98% of quota landed*
- Shark Research Fishery Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks
 - Opened January 1, closed July 26th; 99% of the quota landed*
- Porbeagle Shark
 - Opened January 1, closed August 29th; 147% of the quota landed*

*as of July 31, 2011



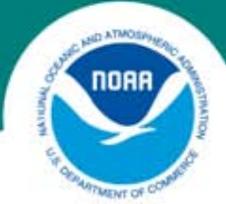
HMS Trawl Rule

- Effective immediately upon publication (August 10, 2011; 76 FR 49368)
 - 1) Established a new HMS permit for all *Illex* squid moratorium permit holders to retain up to 15 SWO per trip, provided that squid constitute at least 75 percent, by weight, of total catch on board and only trawl gear is on vessel (effective immediately)
 - 71 new permits issued as of 9/13/2011 (90% of eligible permit holders)
 - 2) Established a retention limit in all Atlantic trawl fisheries for smoothhound sharks in an amount not to exceed 25 percent of the total catch on board (effective at a future date)



2011 Swordfish Specs

- Established the North and South Atlantic swordfish quotas for the 2011 fishing year to account for underharvests in 2010, and to transfered 18.8 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) to Canada (Sept. 12, 2011; 76 FR 56120)
- Based on ICCAT Recommendations 10-02 and 09-03
- 2011 North Atlantic adjusted quota is 4,406.4 mt dw
- 2011 South Atlantic adjusted quota is 75.0 mt dw
 - 75.2 mt dw was transferred to Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia, and Belize



Caribbean Amendment 4

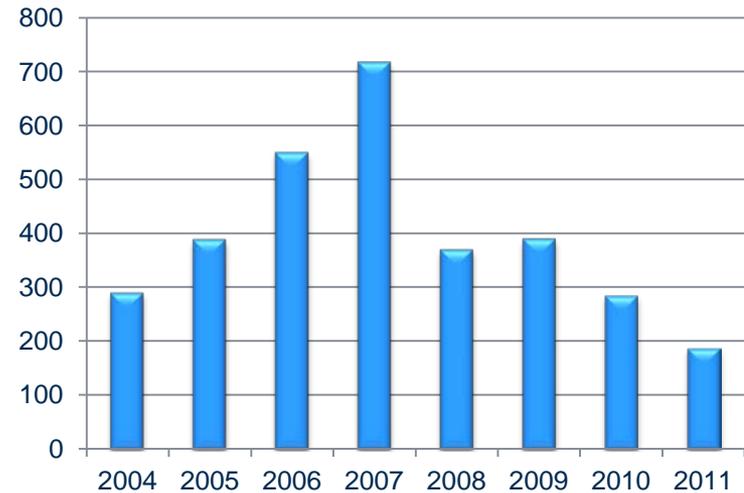
- To address permitting, authorized gears, data collection, and Agency outreach in Puerto Rico & USVI
- Notice of Intent to Prepare EIS published May 27, 2008
- Predraft released August 21, 2009
 - Comments were generally supportive; a few comments suggested that NMFS should work with other Caribbean countries and that NMFS should recognize the unique artisanal nature of US Caribbean fisheries
- Agency distributing outreach materials & coordinating data collection improvements with PR, USVI, and CFMC
- Timeline amended to coordinate Agency action in the region



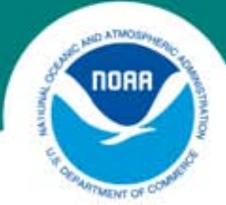
Recreational Swordfish Issues

Non-Tournament SWO Landings

• CY 2004: 290	• CY 2008: 369
• CY 2005: 388	• CY 2009: 389
• CY 2006: 549	• CY 2010: 285
• CY 2007: 716	• CY 2011: 187*



- General decreasing trend in recreational SWO landings reports since 2007
- 2010 had the least recreational SWO reported since recreational reporting became mandatory in 2003
- *Link to swordfish revitalization and permit discussion Wed*



Recreational Billfish Update

- Preliminary Marlin Landings*
 - CY 2009: 44 BUM; 53 WHM (final)
 - CY 2010: 25 BUM; 41 WHM; 19 RSP (final)
 - CY 2011: 24 BUM; 21 WHM; 3 RSP (incomplete reporting*)
- Preliminary Sailfish Landings
 - CY 2009: 140 (final non-tournament)
 - CY 2010: 185 (final non-tournament)
 - CY 2011: 126 (incomplete non-tournament)

*Includes Roundscale spearfish

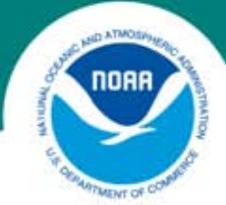


Tournaments Update

- 2010 tournaments (all species) – 269 (final)
- 2011 tournaments (all species) – 236 (to date)
- 2012 tournaments (all species) – 2 (to date)
- Email for registration: HMSTournamentRegistry@noaa.gov
- New tournament registration page on HMS site:

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

- Registration form and instructions
- Registered tournaments list (by year)
- Regulations and outreach materials
- Catch reporting instructions and forms

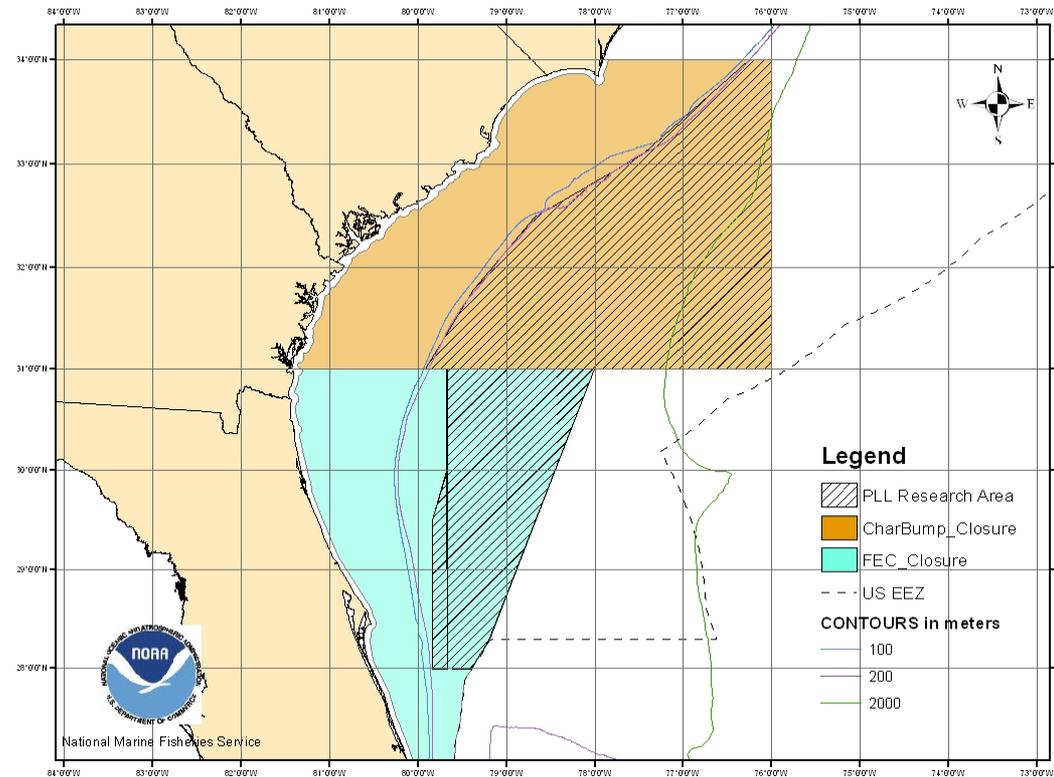


PLL Closed Area Research

- Report available – Agency considering next steps

Goals

1. Collect baseline data under current fishery conditions
2. Evaluate existing bycatch measures
3. Collect data to examine the efficacy of existing area closures to meet current conservation and harvesting goals





Operations/Other



- Continued coordination with Councils & Commissions: MAFMC with trawl rule; ASMFC with sharks
- Modernized international BFT trade tracking in use
- NC greenstick gear study complete; data being analyzed
- LA greenstick gear study contract awarded for FY12-13
- SWO management document submitted to ICCAT
- e-Dealer reporting system development
- Launch of shortfin mako live release webpage and Release Mako Android app
- Monthly BFT reports submitted to ICCAT



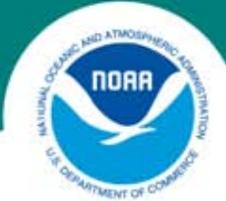
HMS Workshops

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



Continued Progress on 2009 ANPR

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



Looking Ahead -2011

- ICCAT support – IAC, multilateral & annual meetings
- Proposed Rules and Public Hearings:
 - 2012 Shark Specifications
 - Shark Conservation Act and Smoothhounds
 - Amendment 4 (Caribbean)
- Final Rules:
 - VMS, e-Dealer
- Scoping:
 - Future of the Shark Fishery, Amendment 5 (Sharks)
- Electronic dealer reporting changes for SHK, SWO, BAYS
- Request for nominations
 - HMS AP, Shark Research Fishery, SEDAR Pool



Suggestions from Prior AP Meetings Completed

- ✓ Modify permit requirements for SWO retention in squid trawl fishery
- ✓ Allow the removal of tuna tail lobes
- ✓ Report on time/area research available
- ✓ Stock status determination for scalloped hammerhead sharks
- ✓ Massachusetts BFT census pilot study funded and kick-off meeting held



Suggestions from Prior AP meetings Underway

- Improve dealer reporting, i.e., electronic reporting on a real time basis (*eDealer proposed rule*)
- Consider catch shares for sharks (*discussion and workshop Thursday*)
- Potentially adjust PLL incidental catch limits to reduce BFT discards (*discussion Tues/Wed*)
- Work with states on recreational tagging programs (tag issuance, data collection, and enforcement) (*Pilots in PR and MA*)
- Create billfish landings update – quarterly?



Suggestions from Prior AP meetings Under Consideration

- Permit-Related Suggestions
 - Re-issue lapsed permits; Use or lose permit requirement; Reopen SWO handgear permits; Allow permit leasing
 - Establish gear-based permits or Limited Access Privilege Programs (*discussion Thurs.*)
 - Create SWO General category permit (*discussion Wed.*)
- Conduct research in the Mid-Atlantic BLL closed area (*ongoing in shark research fishery*)
- Change CHB SWO retention limit to 1 per person
- Create placards for other HMS species
- Investigate electronic monitoring technology through pilot studies



Communication Goal: No Surprises

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



Conclusion/Looking Forward

In conclusion,

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

Looking forward,

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



Questions?

Thank you!

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Update on Weak Hooks in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Pelagic Longline (PLL) Fishery

Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel Meeting
September 20, 2011

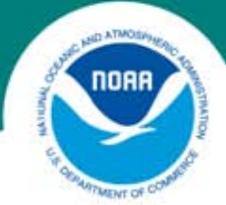
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BFT Weak Hook Rule



- Required the use of weak hooks by Atlantic Tuna Longline permitted vessels fishing with PLL gear in the GOM
 - Final rule published April 5, 2011 (76 FR 18653)
 - Effective May 5, 2011



Weak Hook Voucher Program - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)

- Atlantic Tuna Longline (ATL) permit holders using PLL gear in the GOM were able to obtain an initial supply of weak hooks
- NFWF mailed 49 vouchers to ATL permit holders that used PLL gear in the GOM in 2009-2010
- 43 vouchers were redeemed (87%)



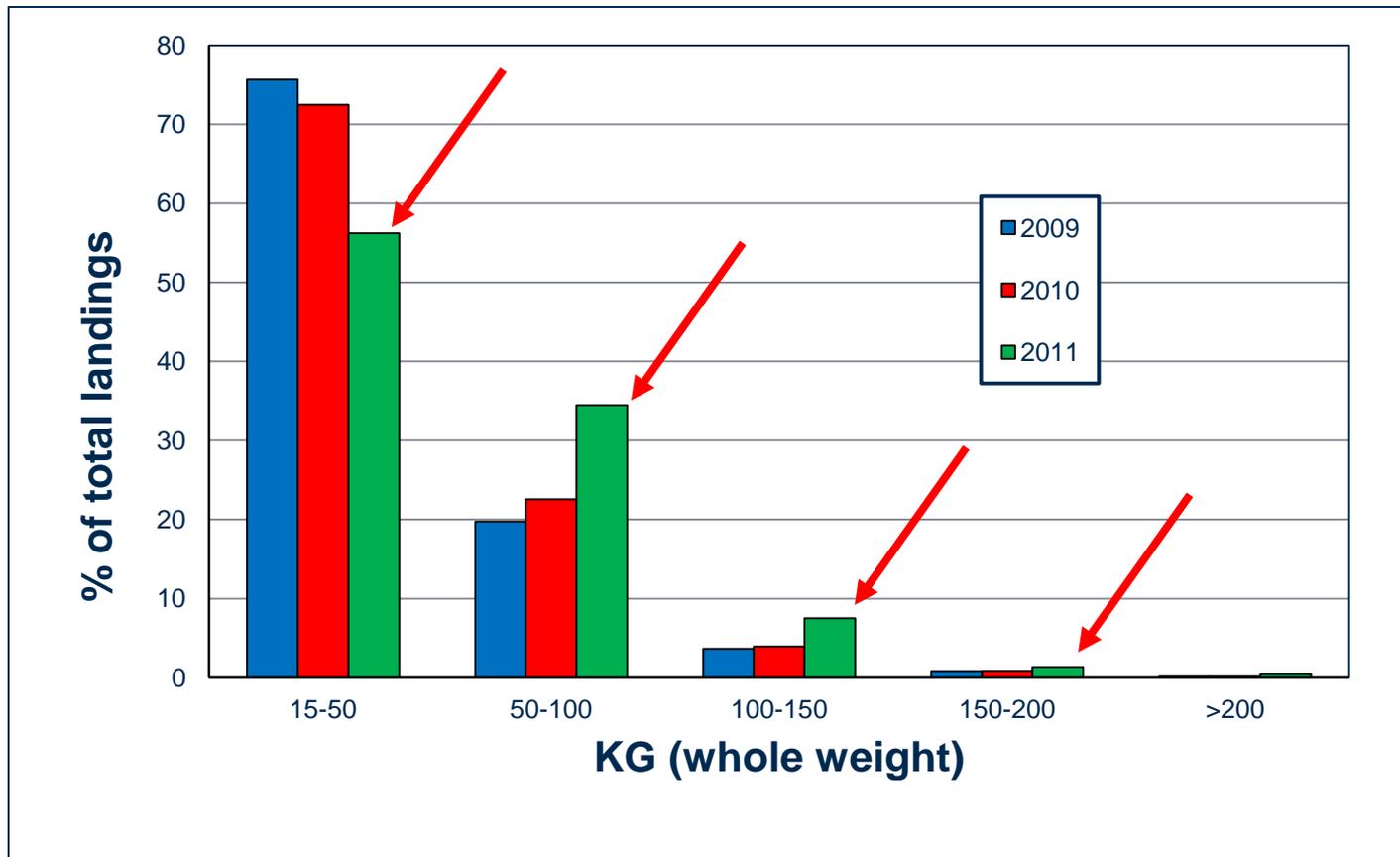
Preliminary GOM PLL Catch Rates (May – June) from Observers on Trips Targeting Yellowfin Tuna

CPUE (# fish per 1,000 hooks)	2005-2009 (May-June)	2011 (May-June)
Bluefin Tuna	0.468	0.264
Yellowfin Tuna	7.53	16.88

- Preliminary information shows reduction in bluefin tuna catch as expected
- Higher yellowfin tuna catch rate indicates a good season in the GOM

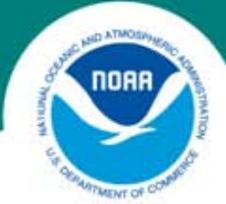


GOM SWO Dealer Landings Data





Questions?



BFT Weak Hook Rule

- Requires vessels with PLL gear onboard, at all times, in all areas of the GOM, to possess onboard and use only circle hooks meeting current size and offset restrictions as well as being constructed of only round wire stock that is no larger than 3.65 mm in diameter
- Examples of weak hook models:
 - **Mustad Model # 39988 D – 16/0**
 - **Eagle Claw Model # L2048ELM - 16/0**
- Other hook manufacturers may offer models that also meet the requirement, and NMFS does not endorse any particular make or model.



Weak Hook Research (2008-10)



Species	% Change in CPUE (# fish/1,000 hooks)
Bluefin tuna caught	-56.5
Wahoo caught	-26.6
Yellowfin tuna retained for sale	-7.0
Swordfish retained for sale	-41.2
White marlin/roundscale spearfish caught	52.7