

*Science, Service, Stewardship*



# Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Recreational Fisheries Action Plan

Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel  
September 20-22, 2011

**NOAA  
FISHERIES  
SERVICE**

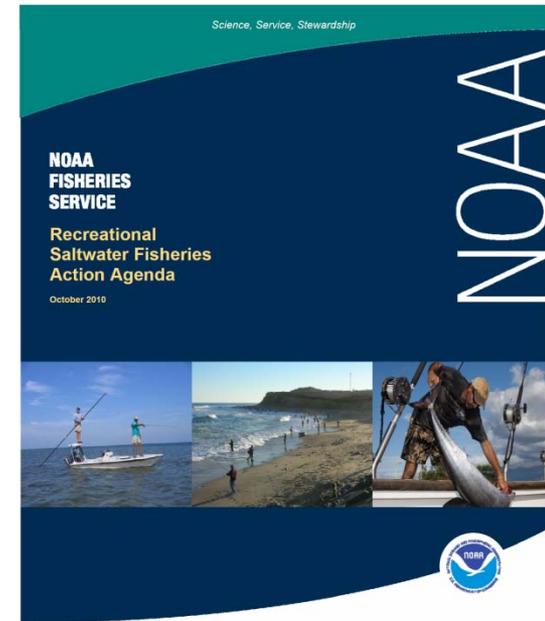
NOAA

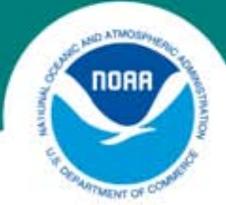


# Recreational Saltwater Fisheries Action Agenda

Five overarching goals w/tangible objectives:

- Improved recreational fishing opportunities
- Improved recreational catch, effort, and status data
- Improved social and economic data
- Improved communications
- Institutional orientation
  - Develop regional action agendas reflecting local priorities





## Where Do We Stand?

- HMS Recreational Action Plan and other regional plans are in review – expected release in October 2011
- HMS plan drafted based on input from HMS AP and MAFAC Rec. Working Group regional membership





## Goal 1 – Improved Recreational Fishing Opportunities

### General Objectives

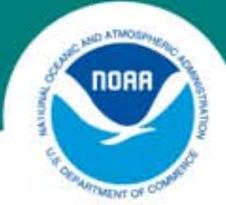
- Provide access to recreational Atlantic HMS fisheries consistent with the FMP
- Provide recreational opportunities to catch swordfish, billfish, tunas, and sharks
- Maintain the ICCAT established 250 fish limit for blue and white marlin



## Goal 2 – Improved Recreational Catch, Effort, and Status Data

### General Objectives

- Implement MRIP HMS actions and priorities
- Facilitate timely reporting of all HMS catch information and collection of biological data in tournament and non-tournament fishing
- Explore/capitalize on technologies to meet goal (e.g. Massachusetts bluefin tuna pilot)



## Goal 3 – Improved Social and Economic Data on Recreational Fisheries

### General Objectives

- Explore updating of benchmark socio-economic analyses
- Collect socio-economic data from charter/headboat owners and captains and from private anglers



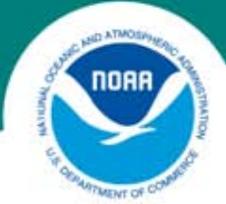


## Goal 4 – Improved Communication



### General Objectives

- Internet and e-mail outreach
- On-the-ground outreach
- Promote live release of shortfin mako and collect data online and via Android application  
(<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/shortfinmako/index.htm>)
- Improve communication regarding major NOAA initiatives



## Goal 5 – Institutional Orientation

### General Objectives

- Balance recreational and commercial representation on HMS AP
- Improve institutional awareness within NMFS about HMS Recreational Action Plan action items



Photo by J. Graves

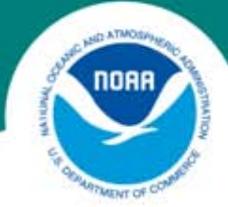


## Atlantic HMS Recreational Action Plan

Release of the plan will be announced on HMS News and other outlets (expected in October 2011)

NMFS will revisit the plan regularly at HMS AP meetings in order to get your input about future updates

Continued HMS AP discussion/input is integral to the continued development of the HMS plan to meet the fishery's needs...



The End



## Response to Request from Spring 2011 AP

### Blackfin Tuna and the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA)

- “Highly migratory species” defined as tuna species, marlin, oceanic sharks, sailfishes, and swordfish
- “Tuna species” defined as albacore, bigeye, bluefin, skipjack, and yellowfin



## Response to Request from Spring 2011 AP

### Blackfin Tuna and the MSA (con't)

- MSA § 304(f) provides that for “fisheries under authority of more than one council,” other than those addressed in 301(a)(3) and section 304(g), the following:
  - “If any fishery extends beyond the geographical area of...any one Council, the Secretary may—
  - (A) Designate which Council shall prepare the FMP...; or
  - (B) may require that the plan and amendment be prepared jointly by the Councils concerned...

Because MSA defines Atlantic tunas under Secretarial authority to the species level (which doesn't include blackfin tuna), the Council process provisions apply