

*Science, Service, Stewardship*



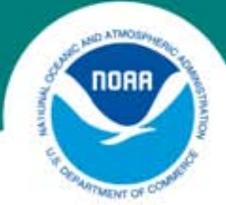
# HMS AP Summary

September 20-22, 2011

Silver Spring, MD

**NOAA  
FISHERIES  
SERVICE**

NOAA



## Caveats

- This is only a summary of what we heard during the topics covered
- If we missed a *significant priority* or *suggested action*, please let us know
- Final meeting summary and presentations will be available soon



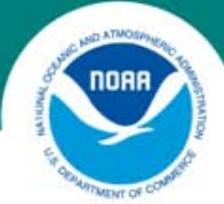
## VMS & eDealer

### **VMS:**

- Final rule expected to publish fall 2011
- Consider use of EMTU VMS for reporting landings or discards
- Consider alternative monitoring strategies (video, virtual observers)

### **eDealer:**

- NMFS should implement electronic reporting; this is a step in the right direction
- NMFS should continue consideration of data collection through territorial trip ticket reports in the Caribbean Amendment 4 initiative



## Weak Hook Implementation

- NMFS will continue to analyze GOM fishery data as it becomes available

### **Suggestions:**

- Monitor catch of species of interest (*e.g.*; YFT, SWO, BFT, WHM, RSP)
- Monitor the number of straightened hooks





# Recreational Fisheries

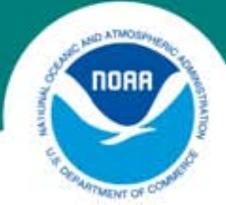
- HMS Recreational Fishery Action Plan release expected in October 2011
- MRIP pilots and updates are continuing and re-estimation is expected in early 2012
- Begin process of evaluating LPS design and estimation improvements in 2012
- MA recreational bluefin pilot under development for deployment in 2012



# Bluefin Tuna

## Pelagic Longline Incidental BFT Fishery Suggestions

- Consider a PLL BFT hard cap, implemented regionally rather than coastwide
- To reduce discards in Gulf of Mexico (largely fish in excess of current retention limits), consider changes to target catch requirements in that area
- Require retention of either all BFT or all dead BFT (above ICCAT minimum size), but do not allow economic incentive beyond current retention limit (under target catch requirements)
  - Allow dealers to sell w/proceeds for Research Set-Aside fund or observer prog
- Modify the target catch requirement tiers (e.g., ↓30,000-lb target to 10,000 lb)
- Employ a suite of measures rather than just one approach, including non-regulatory, industry-driven solutions (communications, bycatch avoidance)
- Modify time/area closures (add parts of Georges Bank, modify/extend Northeastern U.S. closure beyond June only; close Gulf of Mexico)
- Increase/expand observer coverage
- Promote alternative gears like bouy gear & greensticks, esp in Gulf of Mexico



# Bluefin Tuna

## Angling Category Suggestions

- Re: 2012 Angling category season:
  - Implement prohibition on small medium BFT effective January 1 in all areas until decisions regarding 2012 season can be made (based on available data)
  - Allow retention of small medium BFT both South and North, seasonally if needed
- Recalculate Angling category North-South allocations to reflect recent effort and catch
- Divide Angling category into more regions for allocation purposes



# Bluefin Tuna

## Other Suggestions

- Determine mortality rate of live-released BFT
- Allow/do not allow transfer or “sale” of PS quota to other categories
- Modify/do not modify FMP-based quota allocation percentages
- At ICCAT, renegotiate cap on the amount of unharvested BFT that can be carried forward
- Consider including “artisanal” in name of General & Harpoon categories



# Enforcement Suggestions

- Pursue illegal sales of Swordfish in South Florida



# Amendment 5 Scoping Suggestions

- Keep the sandbar research fishery; increase transparency within research fishery and observer reports
- Observed disconnect between science and fishermen's observations; consider more fishermen involvement in the SEDAR process
- SEDAR assessments are improvements from past assessments; do scalloped hammerhead assessment within SEDAR
- Need to better understand reasons for dusky shark overfishing; identify locales of dusky and blacknose recreational landings



# Additional Amendment 5 Scoping Suggestions

- Need more research on effects of circle hooks in shark fisheries; soak time research is ongoing
- Prohibit/do not prohibit hammerheads in all HMS fisheries; consider time/area closures; allow retention if an observer is on board
- Do not create regulatory dead discards; establish bycatch caps
- Separate blacknose quota from the non-blacknose SCS quota
- Present similar information regarding OFL, ABCs, and ACLs to the AP as provided to Councils/SSCs
- Work on bilateral talks with Mexico regarding shark catch



# Swordfish General Category Permit Concept

- Interest in pursuing this permit concept through a separate permit rather than adding swordfish to the Atlantic Tunas General Category permit
- Continuing concern about additional fishing effort in Florida Straits, which is considered a swordfish nursery
- Concern about overcapitalization in the fishery; consider a “sunset provision”
- Some support for open access permit; Some suggested eligibility requirements or lottery for permit issuance



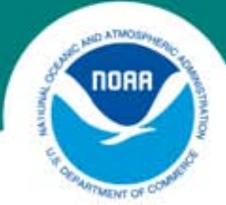
# AP Member Priorities/Suggestions

What did we miss?



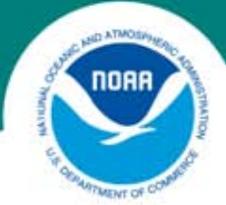
# Looking Ahead

- 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



# Future Meetings

- Spring 2012
  - Time frame considerations?
    - Avoid Council, SEDAR, and ASMFC meeting dates
  - Post materials for AP meetings in advance on website as available



# Travel Reimbursement Reminder!!!



Travel Forms & Receipts  
are due  
**September 29<sup>th</sup>**

Pick up a form at the registration  
desk if not in your folder



# Thank You!

**We value your comments and your time.**

**Have a safe trip home.**