



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

Highly  
Migratory  
Species

# HMS Advisory Panel: Priorities and Next Steps

September 21, 2012

Bethesda, Maryland

# Draft Amendment 5: Atlantic Shark Rebuilding and Ending Overfishing

- Interest in holding smaller meeting before next AP
  - Webinar and in-person blend
  - Include interested shark stakeholders
- Do/Don't rush on rulemaking; must meet Magnuson deadline
- Hammerhead sharks
  - Consider/don't consider scalloped hammerhead prohibition
  - Do/Don't prohibit and do/don't group all hammerheads together
  - Time/area closures, hook and gear restrictions
  - Use hook timers to determine post-release mortality; soak times
- Give blacktip sharks their own quota
- Define where and how dusky shark interactions are occurring

# Electronic Dealer Reporting System

- More outreach is needed to cover the entire universe of dealers
- Bluefin tuna dealers already reporting
  - Consider having bluefin tuna dealers report through the eDealer system

# Bluefin Tuna Fishery Update (YTD in Review)

- The bluefin tuna trophy closures need to be better publicized
- Adjust the General category limit so that U.S. quota is met (maximize landings)

# PreDraft Amendment 7: Bluefin Tuna Management

\*Accountability\*Transparency\*Responsibility\*Flexibility\*

- Need to assess number of active PLL vessels, target species, observer coverage, and location (Gulf of Mexico vs. Atlantic), as well as comparison between years
- Must have real-time reporting
  - VMS EMTU units need to be better utilized
- Would like flexibility of time/area closures, quota transfer (between individuals/categories)
- Maximize landings within U.S. quota (BFT & SWO)
- Consider effectiveness of buoy gear and product quality of greenstick
- Be careful of unintended impacts to directed longline fisheries

# PreDraft Amendment 7: Bluefin Tuna Management

\*Accountability\*Transparency\*Responsibility\*Flexibility\*

- Mixed views on need for allocation changes
- Support for catch cap with industry sorting details amongst themselves; robust monitoring key
  - Have small group discussion of catch cap implementation
- Mixed views on DD accounting from all categories
- Mixed views on GoM closure(s)
- Support for mandatory retention, drop in min. size to ICCAT minimum, and elimination of target catch requirements
- Remove NED allocation from analyses
- Mixed views on support for year-round General category fishery – could be useful for identification of hotspots

# Draft Amendment 4: Caribbean HMS Mgmt

- Final rule will publish early next week
- Permits available from SERO permits office in late 2012
- Permits effective January 2, 2013
- Concern expressed about seafood product safety

# Draft Amendment 8 on Swordfish Commercial Access

## Vessel Permitting

- Proceed cautiously due to concerns about available quotas.
- Should be a commercial permit.
- Permit should be available to CHB.
- Permit should be open access.
- Permit should be limited access with historical qualification criteria.

## Retention Limits

- General support for regional management (retention limit, tags, in-season adjustment)
  - SE Florida retention limit = 0
  - SE Florida retention limit > 0
- Good opportunities in this area.
- Add a Mid-Atlantic Bight region.
- Use ICCAT statistical areas as regions.

# Draft Amendment 8 on Swordfish Commercial Access

## Commercial Catch Reporting and Tag Program

- Tag program should be done only in areas of concern.
  - Support for South FL tagging region
- Tag program may not improve enforcement.
- Issue tags to vessels.
- People may harvest and land in different areas to avoid tagging requirements.
- There may be marketing benefits to a tag program

# Draft Amendment 8 on Swordfish Commercial Access

## Other Take-Away Messages

- U.S. must land more swordfish to protect its ICCAT quota.
  - less urgency if U.S. exceeds 80% of baseline ICCAT quota
- Permit considerations:
  - quickly implement permit / don't implement permit (focus on improving efficiency and sustainability of PLL fishery instead)
  - consider regional differences
- Implement a tag program and reporting requirements to ensure robust data collection.
- Implement permit as a pilot project with a sunset provision.

# Reminders to AP Members

Travel Forms and Receipts are due  
**Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**

Please return your  
**name tags and table tents**  
to the registration table

Please fill out an **evaluation form** and  
return to the registration table



\*Future AP Meeting dates under consideration