

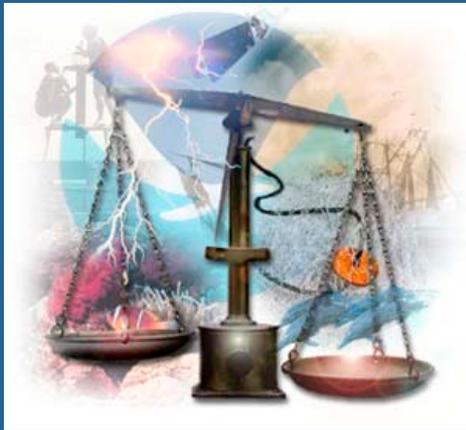


**NOAA
FISHERIES**



Office of Law Enforcement and

Office of the General Counsel – Enforcement Section



Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel Update

September 20, 2012

Northeast Division



- OLE special agents responded to numerous complaints from HMS staff regarding the reporting of prohibited shark species by federally permitted shark dealers.
- Enforcement personnel continue to assist HMS staff in facilitating the registration of HMS tournaments.
- Enforcement personnel conducted numerous outreach efforts to clarify authorized gear types – harpoons in the Charter Headboat category.

Northeast Division



- Special Agents responded to a report concerning the reported landing of a smooth hammerhead shark during a closed season by a trawl vessel that did not have a HMS permit.
- OLE confirmed that the vessel accidentally misreported or miscoded other catch as smooth hammerhead shark.

Northeast Division



- NED enforcement officers initiated an investigation concerning a seafood dealer for receiving swordfish without a valid HMS International Trade Permit.
- Special Agents participated in a joint operation targeting imports and exports of seafood across the US / Canada Border. Numerous HMS imports and exports were found to be noncompliant with NOAA import / export regulations.



Northeast Division

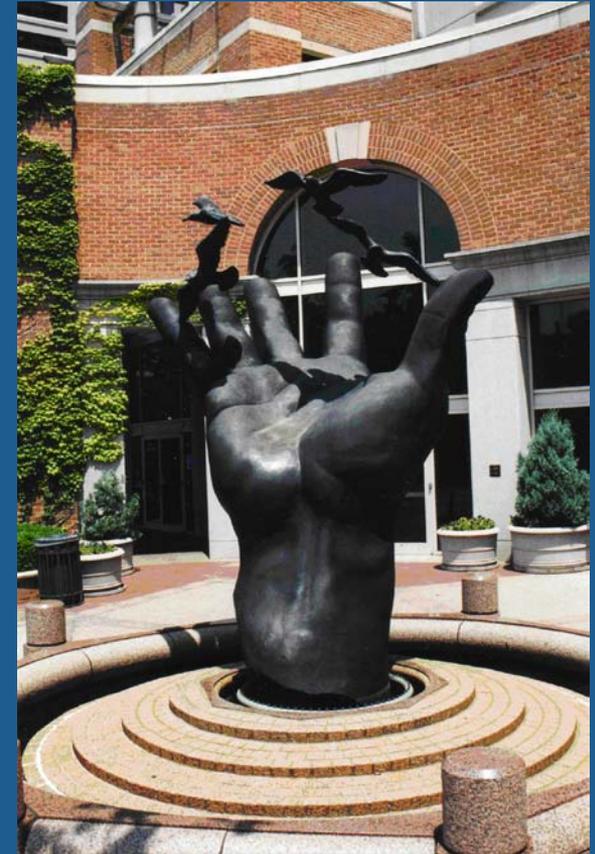


- OLE investigated a federally permitted charter boat for filleting Atlantic Bluefin Tuna at-sea. The vessel operator was issued a Summary Settlement citation.
- OLE and JEA partners investigated a General Category fisherman for filleting ABT at-sea. In this matter, the vessel operator was also issued a Summary Settlement citation.



Enforcement Headquarters

- International Trade Permit Compliance



Southeast Division





Office of the General Counsel – Enforcement Section

Trends in HMS cases referred to the Enforcement Section

- Swordfish – undersized
- Sharks – landing in other than permitted form and possession of prohibited shark species
- Bluefin Tuna – undersized, sale of recreationally-caught Bluefin tuna
- Yellowfin Tuna – undersized, live bait
- Vessel and dealer permit violations across all HMS fisheries often in combination with other HMS violations



Questions?

