

**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management

Amendments 5a and 5b to the 2006  
Consolidated Highly Migratory Species  
Fishery Management Plan

HMS Advisory Panel Meeting  
September 11, 2013

# Amendment 5 Timeline: Recap

Status Determination for Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks (Apr.2011)



HMS Advisory Panel Consultation (Sept. 2011)



Status Determination for Sandbar, Dusky and Blacknose Sharks and Scoping (Sept.-Dec. 2011)



HMS Advisory Panel Consultation and Predraft (Mar. 2012)



Gulf of Mexico Blacktip Shark Stock Assessment (Sept. 2012)



Amendment 5 Proposed Rule (Nov. 2012)



HMS Advisory Panel Consultation (Jan. 2013)



Proposed Rule Comment Period Ended (Feb. 12, 2013)

# Stock Assessments and A5 Proposed Rule

Shark Species	Overfished	Overfishing	Rebuild by	Proposed Actions
Scalloped Hammerhead	Yes*	Yes*	2023	Rebuild stock, end overfishing, establish total allowable catch (TAC) and commercial and recreational measures
Dusky	Yes	Yes	2099	Rebuild stock and end overfishing
Sandbar	Yes	No+	2070	Continue stock rebuilding
Blacknose: Atlantic	Yes*	Yes*	2043	Rebuild stock, end overfishing, establish TAC and commercial and recreational measures
Blacknose: Gulf of Mexico	Unknown*	Unknown*	NA	Establish TAC and commercial and recreational measures
Blacktip: Gulf of Mexico	No	No	NA	Establish TAC and commercial and recreational measures

\*New stock status    +Improved stock status from previous assessment

# Amendment 5 Comments

- During the comment period on the Proposed Rule for Amendment 5, we received numerous comments on the proposed dusky shark measures regarding the data sources used and the analyses of these data.
- We also received many comments requesting consideration of approaches to dusky shark fishery management that were significantly different from those we analyzed in the proposed rule such as:
  - exemptions to a recreational minimum size increase to allow landings of other sharks such as blacktip sharks or “blue” colored sharks such as shortfin mako or thresher sharks
  - implementing gear restrictions instead of additional pelagic longline closures

# Amendment 5 Comments

- After reviewing the comments received, we decided not to proceed with the dusky shark management measures as proposed and instead split Amendment 5 into two rulemakings moving forward.
  - Amendment 5a: sandbar, scalloped hammerhead, blacknose and Gulf of Mexico blacktip sharks; measures based on A5 proposed rule
  - Amendment 5b: dusky sharks; new upcoming proposed rule to come

Amendment 5 – split into two rulemakings, Feb 20, 2013

Amendment 5a  
sandbar, scalloped hammerhead, blacknose  
and Gulf of Mexico blacktip sharks

Amendment 5a FEIS  
April 18, 2013

Final Rule - July 3, 2013  
Commercial measures effective: July 3, 2013  
Recreational measures effective: Aug. 2, 2013

Amendment 5b  
Dusky sharks

Proposed rule in development  
Expected Spring 2014

# Amendment 5 Comments

## Comments on Amendment 5 proposed rule and NMFS response in Amendment 5a final rule

### Don't link the Gulf of Mexico blacktip shark quota with the Gulf of Mexico LCS and hammerhead shark quotas

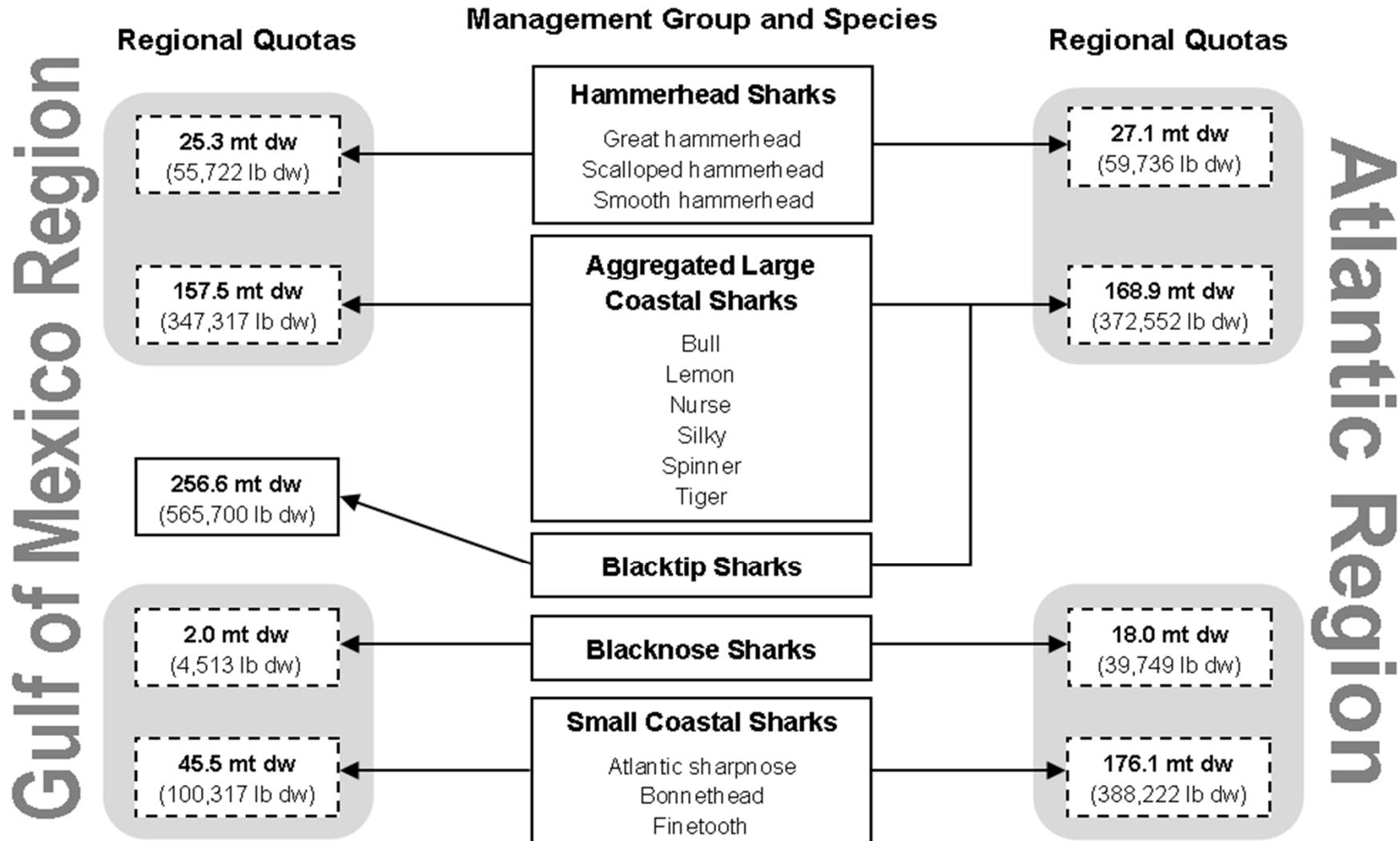
- Observer data shows low LCS and hammerhead catch on BLL sets targeting blacktip sharks in the Gulf of Mexico
- **Final Rule**: Gulf of Mexico blacktip shark quota not linked to other quotas; hybrid of alternatives in A5 proposed rule

### Increase recreational minimum size of hammerhead sharks to 78 inches fork length

- Age of 50% size at maturity for scalloped hammerhead; similar for smooth and great hammerheads
- **Final Rule**: Increased recreational minimum size for hammerhead sharks

# Amendment 5a Management Measures

New Commercial TACs, Quotas, and Management Groups



# Amendment 5a Management Measures

## Recreational Measures

- Established a minimum size of 78 inches fork length for scalloped, smooth, and great hammerhead sharks
- Additional public outreach and development of an updated shark identification and regulations placard for recreational fishermen



**SHARK IDENTIFICATION** *If you don't know, let it go*  
FOR THE RECREATIONAL FISHERY OF THE U.S. ATLANTIC AND GULF OF MEXICO  
*Prohibited species are underlined in red*

All ridgeback sharks are prohibited, except for oceanic whitetip, tiger, or smoothhound sharks  
Ridgeback sharks are sharks with an interdorsal ridge (a visible line of raised skin between dorsal fins)

Prohibited ridgeback sharks: bignose, Caribbean reef, dusky, Galapagos, night, sandbar, and silly sharks

Oceanic whitetip shark: young sharks have black mottling on most fins; does not always have interdorsal ridge; max. size 8 ft; offshore  
*Cannot be retained if tuna, swordfish, or billfish are onboard*

Tiger shark: snout length much shorter than mouth width; markings fade with age; max. size 15 feet; coastal and offshore

There is no Federal permit requirement, minimum size, or bag limit for smoothhound or spiny dogfish

Smoothhound: second dorsal fin slightly smaller than first dorsal fin and much larger than anal fin; max. size 5 ft; coastal and offshore

Spiny dogfish: max. size 4 ft; coastal and offshore

Scalloped hammerheads, great hammerheads, and smooth hammerheads *cannot be retained if tuna, swordfish or billfish are onboard*

Scalloped hammerhead: max. size 11 ft; coastal and offshore

Great hammerhead: max. size 15 ft; coastal and offshore

Smooth hammerhead: max. size 12 ft; coastal and offshore

There is no minimum size for Atlantic sharpnose sharks or bonnetheads

Atlantic sharpnose shark: max. size 3 ft; coastal and offshore; similar species: smalltail sharks have very reduced labial furrows and Caribbean sharpnose sharks lack white spots

Bonnethead: small, black spots on body; max. size 4 ft; mostly coastal

Authorized Species	Minimum Size (fork length)	Bag Limit (per trip)
Atlantic sharpnose shark	None	1 per person
Bonnethead	None	1 per person
Hammerheads (great, scalloped, and smooth)	78 inches	1 per vessel (hammerhead OR other shark)
Other sharks	54 inches	

**Anatomy of a Shark**

Labels: snout length, mouth width, very pointed, blunt, first dorsal fin, second dorsal fin, pectoral fins, pelvic fin, anal fin, head length, fork length, fin origin, caudal fin (tail), second dorsal fin, keel, tail, shovel-shaped head, pointed snout, white spots, usually, Labial furrow, pointed snout, white spots, usually, pointed snout, white spots, usually, shovel-shaped head.

All sharks within a species are not identical; however, these are common characteristics for the majority of individuals. Young sharks can vary in appearance from adults. Maximum sizes are approximate.  
Prepared by W.B. O'Graves II, E.R. Hoffmayer, J.I. Castro, K.S. Davis, M. Clark, and P. Cooper. National Marine Fisheries Service. <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sharks/>  
Photographs and/or illustrations provided by NMFS, J. Castro, W.B. O'Graves II, E.R. Hoffmayer, and S. Iglesias.  
Revised July 2013

# Development of A5b Management Measures

Will address SEDAR 21 stock assessment results for dusky sharks



- Prohibited from retention since 2000
  - Overfished with overfishing occurring
  - Stock assessment recommended approximate two-thirds reduction in fishing mortality to reduce rebuilding timeline from 400 years to 100 years (currently under a rebuilding plan)

# Development of A5b Management Measures

- We received many comments questioning the effectiveness of increasing the recreational minimum size to 96 inches fork length and commercial pelagic longline hotspot closure areas in ending overfishing and rebuilding the dusky shark stock.
- Common themes
  - Identification problems
  - Data issues
  - Measures wouldn't reduce mortality
    - **Recreational:** can't keep; hard to ID; recreational survey records show dusky sharks kept generally are under 96" FL
    - **Commercial:** can't keep; few vessels have majority of interactions; hard to ID; highly migratory/migratory patterns not well known

# Development of A5b Management Measures

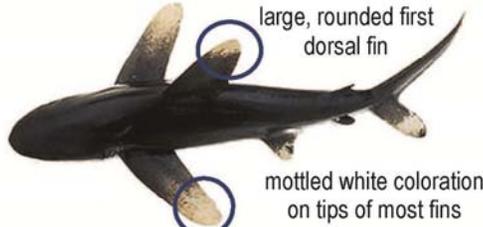
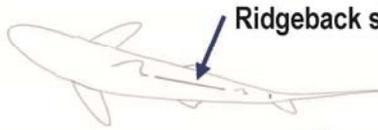
## Other changes that should reduce dusk shark mortality

- Cap on dusky shark interactions in the bottom longline Commercial Shark Research Fishery was implemented for 2013 (45 total; 5 for each region, buffer of 15 sharks)
- Emphasis on the recreational rules regarding ridgeback vs. non-ridgeback sharks in the updated recreational ID/regulations placard

**All ridgeback sharks are prohibited, except for oceanic whitetip, tiger, or smoothhound sharks**

Ridgeback sharks are sharks with an **interdorsal ridge** (a visible line of raised skin between dorsal fins)

Prohibited ridgeback sharks:  
**bignose, Caribbean reef, dusky, Galapagos, night, sandbar, and silky sharks**



**Oceanic whitetip shark:** young sharks have black mottling on most fins; does not always have interdorsal ridge; max. size 8 ft; offshore  
**Cannot be retained if tuna, swordfish, or billfish are onboard**

**Tiger shark:** snout length much shorter than mouth width; markings fade with age; max. size 15 feet; coastal and offshore

# Development of A5b Management Measures

What other measures could reduce dusky shark mortality?

## **IDEAS FOR AP DISCUSSION**

- Recreational
  - Require a shark endorsement on HMS Angling permit in order to retain sharks? Endorsement could require additional measures?
  - Prohibit ridgeback sharks from retention?
  - Gear requirements (e.g., circle hooks)?
  - Additional outreach and education?
  - Others?

# Development of A5b Management Measures

What other measures could reduce dusky shark mortality?

## **IDEAS FOR AP DISCUSSION**

- Commercial Pelagic Longline
  - Effort controls (e.g., soak time restrictions, hook limits)?
  - Gear restrictions (e.g., mono weight, weak hooks)?
  - Individual vessel accountability measures?
  - Additional outreach and education?
  - Others?
- Commercial Bottom Longline
  - Continue research fishery dusky shark restrictions?
  - Others?



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# Suggestions / Ideas / Comments / Questions