



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Highly
Migratory
Species

HMS Advisory Panel: Priorities and Next Steps



September 12, 2013

Silver Spring, Maryland

eDealer Reporting

- We continue to collect price, vessel and species-specific, and catch area information to informed stock assessment and monitor ACLs.
- AP would like to see how eDealer data feeds into stock assessments

Amendment 8: Swordfish Commercial Permit

- Zero-fish retention limit in South Florida is counter to the purpose of the rule. This is the primary area where landings can occur in an economically feasible way.
- Fishermen in the NE and GOM need a retention limit >3 to make trips cost effective.
- Monitor the trajectory of SWO landings because they are increasing under existing regulations. We do not want to exceed the available quota.

Amendment 7: Some Take-home Points

- General support for overall direction
- Significant concerns: scope, details, timing

Amendment 7: IBQ

- Concerns about the ability of vessels to make it work (e.g., amount of IBQ and potential shut-down, complexity)
- Flexibility will be essential during transition
- Implementation will take time
- Initial allocations are very important (new entrant concerns; equal shares instead?)

Amendment 7: IBQ continued

- Concerns about leasing (price, availability, inequity between pelagic Longline and Purse Seine categories)
- Carryover should be allowed (or there could be an incentive to use it up)
- Methods to decrease interactions with bluefin exist (e.g., test sets, baits, release techniques, gear)
- Concern about unavoidable interactions which occur (disaster sets)

Amendment 7: Area-Based Measures

Gear Restricted Areas (GRA)

- Expand scope of Gulf of Mexico GRA
- Sunset the requirements
- Concerns about drift in relation to Cape Hatteras GRA

Access to Current Closed Areas

- Need bycatch limits/thresholds defined (billfish, turtles, etc.)

Amendment 7: Quota Reallocation

- Support for alternative that would use inactive Purse Seine quota (instead of 68-mt reallocation)
- Acknowledgment that reallocation may be necessary, but divergent views on how to best achieve
- Concern that Purse Seine fishing would increase to protect quota (under proposed annual reallocation)
- Support for additional flexibility in criteria/considerations used by NMFS for inseason quota management

Amendment 7: Other Measures & Suggestions/Comments

- Mixed views on General category inseason flexibility
 - Combine current General category December allocation with January?
- Non-Longline categories also should account for dead discards
- Non-Longline categories also should have electronic monitoring

Amendment 5a and 5b

- Support for increased outreach about dusky shark identification and more effective dissemination methods (e.g., online, social media)
- Questions about how an ESA listing of dusky sharks would affect management
- Concerns regarding stock assessment, international range of dusky sharks, and international impacts on the population
- Need for more survey data (dusky shark population is increasing, but not necessarily throughout its historical range)
- No!
- Continue moving forward with A5b ideas (e.g., prohibiting ridgeback sharks, soak times)
- Consider timing of A5b/A6

Amendment 6

- Update the control date from the 2011 NOI (Sept 16, 2011)
- Eliminate the blacknose linkage from the SCS complex
- Increase the Gulf of Mexico blacktip quota
- Allow commercial landing of sandbar sharks from outside the shark research fishery
- Consider permit stacking
- Mixed views on ITQs/catch shares

Recreational Action Agenda

- Support for collection of socioeconomic data
 - An expenditure study is needed in the SE and GOM.
- Request for more outreach and education for anglers
- An analysis of the effects of regulations over time is needed.

Billfish Management

- More funding is needed for billfish research
 - Age and growth, GoM and Caribbean socio-econ studies
- Fishermen are catching more white marlin and blue marlin thanks to many different management measures
- Education and enforcement of release regulations are needed
 - Don't remove fish from the water
- Don't ignore benefits to billfish that occurred with the existing time/area closures
- Consider possible predator/prey relationships when considering billfish population trends - dolphin preying on juvenile billfish
- Be cognizant of recent changes in billfish catch on PLL fishing for tunas
 - There has been more daytime fishing

VMS Proposed Rule

- Concern over increased costs associated with 24/7 reporting
- Support for documented exemptions for turning VMS units off
- Support for proposed changes to hail-out / hail-in declarations
- Concerns regarding the reliability of VMS units (i.e., Skymate)
- Agency needs to better vet VMS technology



Regulatory Comment Periods/Contacts

- Shark Specs Comment Period ends September 23rd
- VMS Comment Period ends September 30th
 - Webinar: September 23rd, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
(888) 997-8509 Participant Code: 3166031
 - VMS complaints: Kelly Spalding (301) 427-8269

Reminders to AP Members

Travel Forms and Receipts are due
Wednesday, September 18th*

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

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



*New: Envelopes provided for receipts and travel voucher signature page