



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Amendment 6: Commercial management measures for Atlantic shark fisheries

Presented to the
Atlantic HMS Advisory Panel
September 11, 2014

Outline

- Introduction
- Potential management measures
 - Small Coastal Shark (SCS) total allowable catches (TACs) and non-blacknose SCS commercial quotas
 - Permit stacking
 - Commercial retention limits
 - Regional and sub-regional quotas in Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico (GOM)
 - Caribbean retention limits
 - Upgrading restrictions
- Next steps

Current Issues Facing the Atlantic Shark Fisheries

- Commercial landings that exceed the quotas
- Declining numbers of fishing permits since limited access was implemented
- Complex regulations
- Derby fishing conditions due to small quotas and short seasons
- Increasing numbers of regulatory discards
- Declining market prices



Major Objectives

- Continuing to rebuild overfished shark stocks
- Preventing overfishing of shark stocks
- Increasing the efficiency in the Large Coastal Shark (LCS) and SCS fisheries
- Maintaining or increasing equity across all shark fishermen and regions
- Promoting economic viability for the shark fishery participants
- Obtaining optimum yield from the LCS and SCS fisheries
- Maintaining or increasing management flexibility for the shark fisheries
- Decreasing dead discards of sharks

SEDAR 34 Stock Assessment: Small Coastal Sharks



Species	SEDAR 13 (2007)	SEDAR 34 (2013)
Bonnethead Shark	Not overfished and no overfishing occurring	<u>Atlantic</u> : Unknown
		<u>Gulf of Mexico</u> : Unknown
Atlantic Sharpnose Shark	Not overfished and no overfishing occurring	<u>Atlantic</u> : Not overfished and no overfishing occurring
		<u>Gulf of Mexico</u> : Not overfished and no overfishing occurring

- Based on the results of SEDAR 34, NMFS is considering establishing SCS TACs and modifying the commercial non-blacknose SCS quotas

Potential Management Topics

1. SCS TACs and Quotas
2. Permit Stacking
3. Commercial Shark Retention Limits
4. Regional and Sub-Regional Quotas
 - a. Atlantic Regions
 - b. Atlantic Quotas and Linkages
 - c. Gulf Regions
 - d. Gulf Quotas and Linkages
5. Retention limits in the Caribbean
6. Modifying Upgrading Restrictions

1. Potential Options: Atlantic SCS TAC and non-blacknose SCS Quotas

- Current Atlantic non-blacknose SCS base quota = 176.1 mt dw
(388,22 lb dw)
- We are considering the following TAC and commercial quota options, based on the 2013 assessment results:
 1. TAC = 177.3 mt dw ↔ decrease current commercial base quota to 128 mt dw (282,238 lb dw)
 2. TAC = 401.3 mt dw ↔ maintain the current commercial base quota of 176.1 mt dw (388,222 lb dw)
 3. TAC = 489.3 mt dw ↔ increase the current commercial base quota to 264.1 mt dw (582,333 lb dw)

1. Potential Options: GOM SCS TAC and non-blacknose SCS Quotas

- Current GOM non-blacknose SCS base quota = 45.5 mt dw
(100,317 lb dw)
- We are considering the following TAC and commercial quota options, based on the 2013 assessment results:
 1. TAC = 931.9 mt dw ↔ maintain the current commercial base quota of 45.5 mt dw (100,317 lb dw)
 2. TAC = 954.7 mt dw ↔ increase the current commercial base quota to the 2014 adjusted annual quota of 68.3 mt dw (150,476 lb dw)
 3. TAC = 1,064.9 mt dw ↔ increase the current commercial base quota to 178.5 mt dw (393,566 lb dw)

Potential Management Topics

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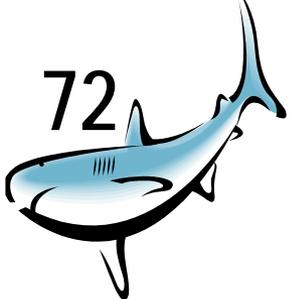
2. Permit Stacking

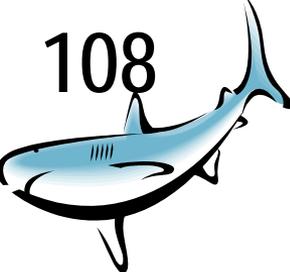
Objective and Rationale

- NMFS received comments stating that increased trip limits would provide more efficiency and improve market conditions.
- If NMFS were to implement permit stacking, fishermen with multiple limited access permits could use them concurrently on one vessel which could result in aggregated and thus higher, trip limits.
- Permit stacking could provide additional opportunities and more efficient use of resources for fishermen with access to more than one permit.
- Permit stacking could also result in quotas being harvested more quickly due to higher trip limits.

Potential Options: Permit Stacking

- Implementing permit stacking for directed shark permit holders where:

➤ 2 directed permits +  = 

➤ 3 directed permits +  = 

Potential Management Topics

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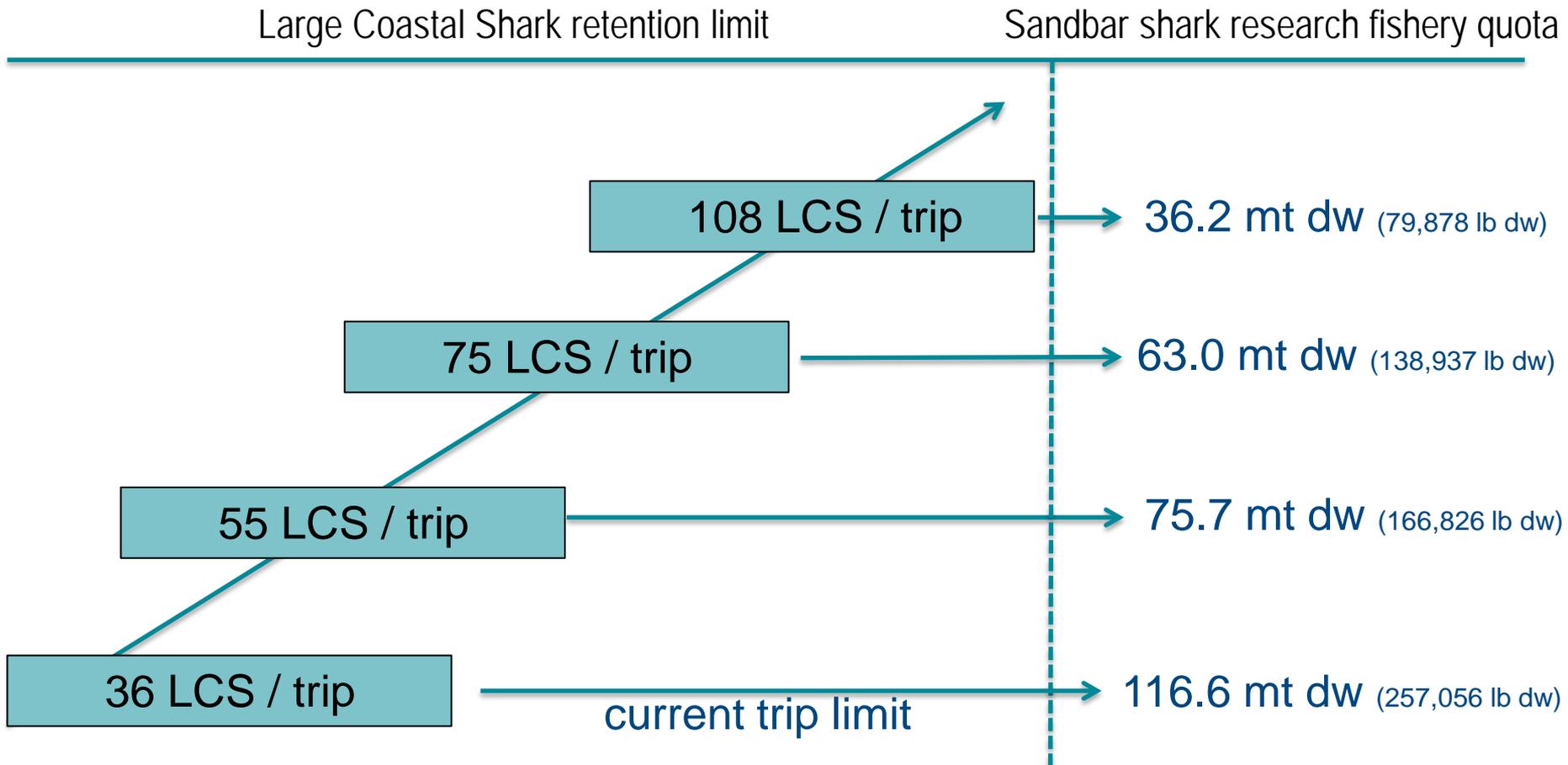
3. Commercial Retention Limits

Objective and Rationale

- NMFS received comments requesting an increase in the commercial retention limit as an alternative to permit stacking
- In Amendment 2, the current retention limit for LCS was based in part on how many sandbar sharks would be discarded dead from the number of shark trips that were expected to interact with sandbar sharks
- Over the past few years, the shark research fishery has not been catching the full sandbar quota (on average only 64% or 76,332 lb dw of quota caught)
- A portion of remaining sandbar research quota could be used to account for discards if aggregated LCS retention limit is increased

Potential Options: Commercial Retention Limits

- Consider increasing the LCS (other than sandbar sharks) retention limit for directed permit holders to a maximum of:



Potential Management Topics

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4. Regional and Sub-regional Quotas

Objective and Rationale

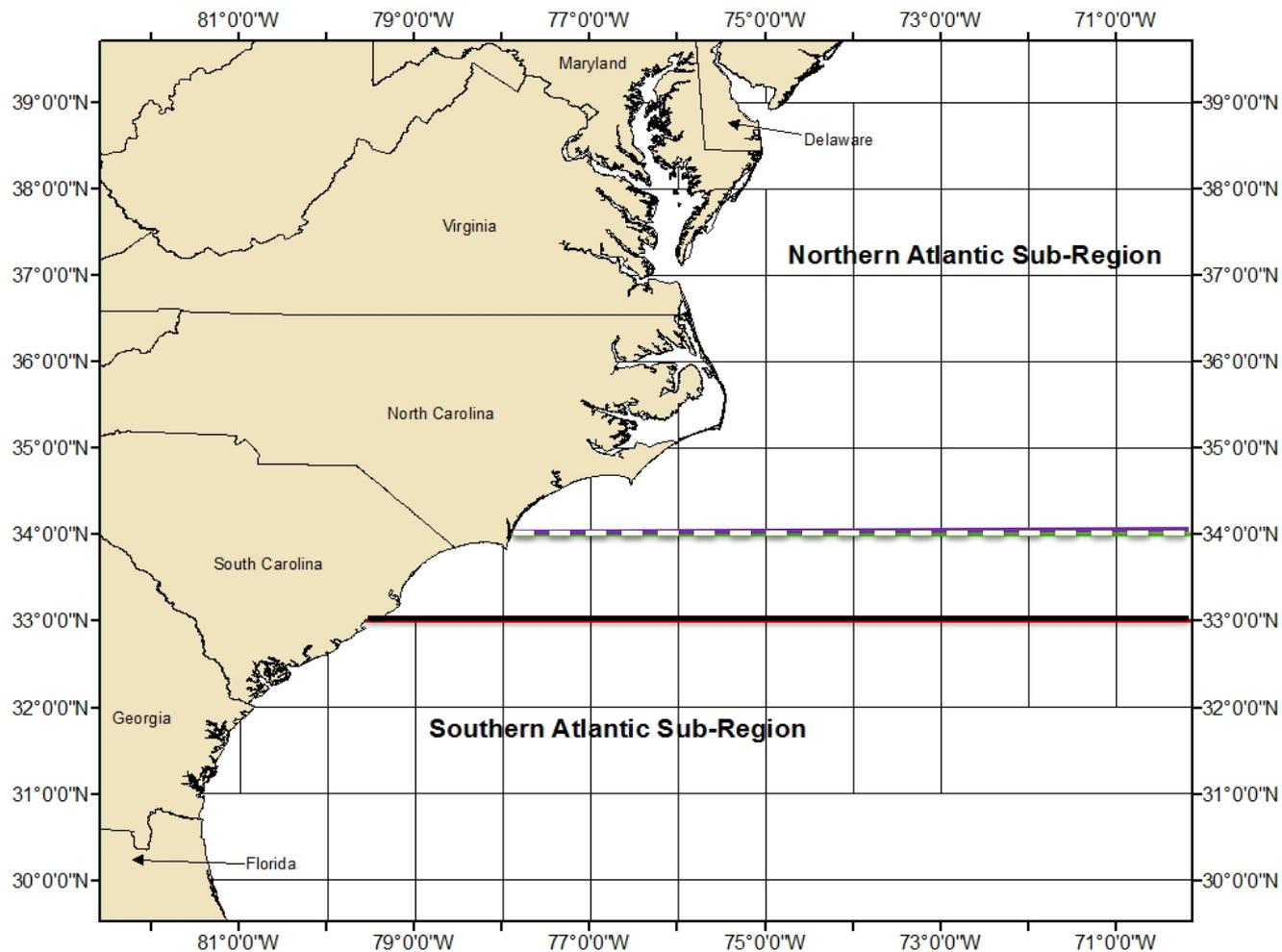
- Commenters have requested different shark season opening dates based on sub-regional differences in the shark fisheries.
- Comments raised on Predraft:
 - Sub-regional quotas could account for regional differences by allowing for different season opening dates.
 - There is a potential for unequal distribution of sub-regional quotas if historical landings are used.
 - The location of the split between the sub-regions would impact potential quotas.
 - There needs to be flexibility to move quotas between sub-regions.
- Based on these comments, we are considering a number of options in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions.

Potential Options: Atlantic Sub-regional Quotas and Quota Linkages

- Establishing sub-regional quotas in the Atlantic region
- Modifying the quota linkages in the Atlantic sub-regions
- Prohibiting the harvest of blacknose sharks in the Atlantic region or any portion of the Atlantic sub-regions

Potential Options: Atlantic Sub-Regions

- Apportion the Atlantic commercial quotas for LCS and SCS along 33° 00' N. Lat. or 34 ° 00'N. Lat. into northern and southern sub-regional quotas.



Atlantic Sub-Regional Quota Calculations

- Several factors need to be considered when-calculating sub-regional quotas
- **Example 1: Closures**
 - SCS and blacknose fisheries closed on 11/2/10 and 9/30/13, reducing fishing opportunities to fishermen in the North Atlantic area
 - Atlantic aggregated LCS fishery generally opens July 15th, reducing fishing opportunities for fishermen in the South Atlantic area

Atlantic Sub-Regional Quota Calculations

- **Example 2: Differences in Landing Condition**
 - ACCSP dealer reports indicate differences in how fishermen land sharks (e.g., head on vs. head off)
 - Observer data and port agents indicate sharks are landed with their heads off everywhere
 - Dealers cannot indicate “heads on” in eDealer reporting forms
- **What to do?**
 - Use average landings in each sub-region, OR
 - Use a different method

Potential Options: Atlantic Aggregated LCS Quotas

Potential Options	Region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Quota	Potential Sub-Regional Quotas		Potential Quota Linkages
				lb dw	mt dw	
33° 00' N. Lat.	Northern Atlantic	500,647	24.5	91,275	41.4	Maintain
	Southern Atlantic	1,539,943	75.5	281,277	127.5	Maintain
34° 00' N. Lat.	Northern Atlantic	402,858	19.7	73,393	33.3	Maintain
	Southern Atlantic	1,637,724	80.3	299,159	135.6	Maintain

Potential Options: Atlantic Hammerhead Quotas

Potential Options	Region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Quota	Potential Sub-Regional Quotas		Potential Quota Linkages
				lb dw	mt dw	
33° 00' N. Lat.	Northern Atlantic	64,661	34.1	20,370	9.2	Maintain
	Southern Atlantic	124,786	65.9	39,366	17.9	Maintain
34° 00' N. Lat.	Northern Atlantic	64,661	34.1	20,370	9.2	Maintain
	Southern Atlantic	124,786	65.9	39,366	17.9	Maintain

Potential Options: Atlantic Blacknose Quotas

Potential Options	Region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Quota	Potential Sub-Regional Quotas		Potential Quota Linkages
				lb dw	mt dw	
33° 00' N. Lat.	Northern Atlantic	6,607	5.1	1,971	0.9	Remove*
	Southern Atlantic	122,102	94.9	36,667	16.6	Maintain
34° 00' N. Lat.	Northern Atlantic	6,392	5.0	1,932	0.9	Remove*
	Southern Atlantic	122,317	95.0	36,706	16.6	Maintain

* Prohibit harvest and landings within sub-region due to the small blacknose shark quota.

Potential Options: Atlantic Non-Blacknose SCS Quotas

1. TAC = 177.3 mt dw, decrease commercial quota to 128 mt dw

Potential Options	Region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Quota	Potential Sub-Regional Quotas		Potential Quota Linkage
				lb dw	mt dw	
33° 00' N. Lat.	Northern Atlantic	376,973	32.3	91,163	41.4	Remove*
	Southern Atlantic	791,542	67.7	191,075	86.6	Maintain
34° 00' N. Lat.	Northern Atlantic	350,372	30.0	84,671	38.4	Remove*
	Southern Atlantic	818,142	70.0	197,567	89.6	Maintain

* We are considering removing quota linkages in northern region due to small blacknose quota.

Potential Options: Atlantic Non-Blacknose SCS Quotas

2. TAC = 401.3 mt dw and maintain commercial base quota of 176.1 mt dw

Potential Options	Region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Quota	Potential Sub-Regional Quotas		Potential Quota Linkage
				lb dw	mt dw	
33° 00' N. Lat.	Northern Atlantic	376,973	32.3	125,396	56.9	Remove*
	Southern Atlantic	791,542	67.7	262,826	119.2	Maintain
34° 00' N. Lat.	Northern Atlantic	350,372	30.0	116,467	52.8	Remove*
	Southern Atlantic	818,142	70.0	271,755	123.3	Maintain

* We are considering removing quota linkages in northern region due to small blacknose quota.

Potential Options: Atlantic Non-Blacknose SCS Quotas

3. TAC = 489.3 mt dw and increase commercial quota to 264.1 mt dw

Potential Options	Region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Quota	Potential Sub-Regional Quotas		Potential Quota Linkage
				lb dw	mt dw	
33° 00' N. Lat.	Northern Atlantic	376,973	32.3	188,094	85.3	Remove*
	Southern Atlantic	791,542	67.7	394,239	178.8	Maintain
34° 00' N. Lat.	Northern Atlantic	350,372	30.0	174,670	79.2	Remove*
	Southern Atlantic	818,142	70.0	407,633	184.9	Maintain

* We are considering removing quota linkages in northern region due to small blacknose quota.

Potential Management Topics

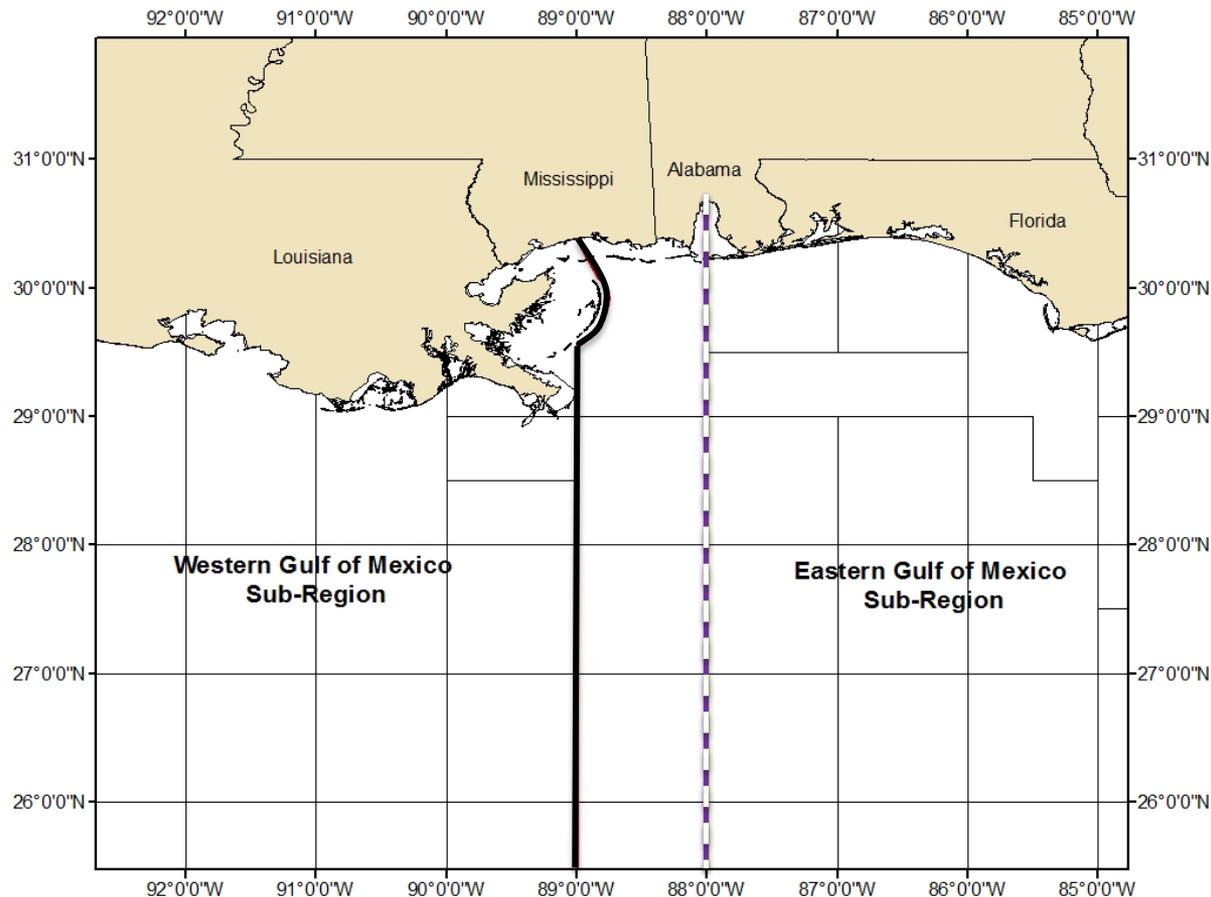
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Potential Options: GOM Regional and Sub-regional Quotas and Linkages

- Implementing sub-regional quotas in the GOM region
- Adjusting the quota linkages in the GOM region
- Prohibiting the harvest of hammerhead sharks in the Gulf of Mexico region or any portion of the Gulf of Mexico sub-regions

Potential Options: GOM Sub-Regions

- Apportion the Gulf of Mexico commercial quotas for aggregated LCS, blacktip, and hammerhead sharks along $88^{\circ} 00' W$ Long. or $89^{\circ} 00' W$ Long. into western and eastern sub-regional quotas



Potential Options: GOM Aggregated LCS Quotas

Potential Options	Sub-region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Quota	Potential Sub-Regional Quotas		Potential Quota Linkages
				lb dw	mt dw	
89° 00' W. Lat.	Eastern Gulf of Mexico	1,537,298	57.5	191,951	87.0	Maintain
	Western Gulf of Mexico	1,133,965	42.5	141,877	64.2	Remove*
88° 00' W. Lat.	Eastern Gulf of Mexico	1,419,926	53.2	177,596	80.4	Maintain
	Western Gulf of Mexico	1,251,336	46.8	156,232	70.8	Remove*

* We are considering removing quota linkages due to small hammerhead quota.

Potential Options: GOM Hammerhead Shark Quotas

Potential Options	Sub-region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Quota	Potential Sub-Regional Quotas		Potential Quota Linkages
				lb dw	mt dw	
89° 00' W. Lat.	Eastern Gulf of Mexico	286,634	99.4	55,388	25.2	Maintain
	Western Gulf of Mexico	1,740	0.6	334	0.1	Remove*
88° 00' W. Lat.	Eastern Gulf of Mexico	286,634	99.4	55,388	25.2	Maintain
	Western Gulf of Mexico	1,740	0.6	334	0.1	Remove*

* Prohibit harvest and landings within sub-region due to the small hammerhead shark quota.

Potential Options: GOM Blacktip Shark Quotas

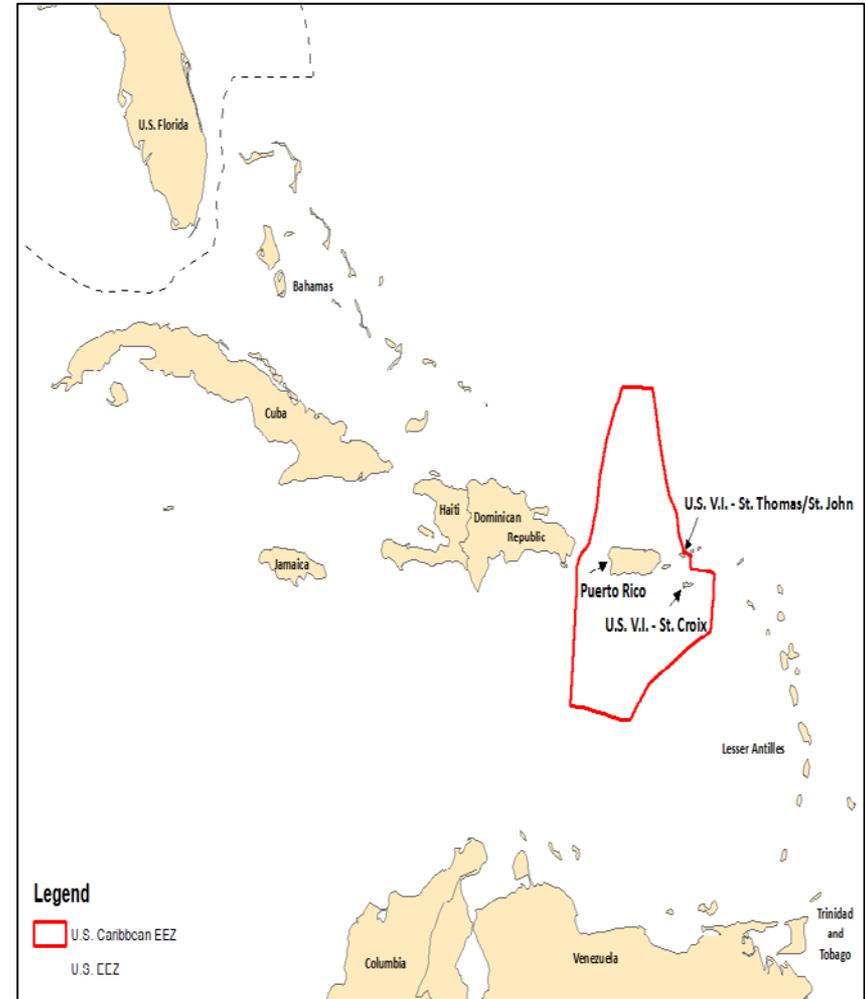
Potential Options	Sub-region	Total Landings (lb dw)	Percentage of Quota	Potential Sub-Regional Quotas	
				lb dw	mt dw
89° 00' W. Lat.	Eastern Gulf of Mexico	1,257,104	34.3	207,387	94.1
	Western Gulf of Mexico	2,409,960	65.7	397,239	180.2
88° 00' W. Lat.	Eastern Gulf of Mexico	1,144,115	31.2	188,643	85.6
	Western Gulf of Mexico	2,522,949	68.8	415,983	188.7

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5. Potential Options: Caribbean Retention Limits

- We are considering applying the current Commercial Caribbean Small Boat permit shark retention limit of zero to all commercial shark permit holders in the Caribbean:
 - No current shark directed or incidental permit holders in the Caribbean
 - Less than 2 mt dw reported landings
 - Current ESA listing of scalloped hammerhead in the U.S. Caribbean
- Recent questions indicating interest in landing sharks in the Caribbean region



Potential Management Topics

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6. Potential Options: Upgrading Restrictions

- The current upgrading restrictions for shark limited access permits (LAP) are:
 - Increases cannot exceed 20 percent of the horsepower of the permit's baseline vessel
 - Increases cannot exceed 10 percent of the size (length overall, gross tonnage, and net tonnage) of the permit's baseline vessel
- We are considering removing current upgrading restrictions for shark LAP holders to:
 - Maintain consistency with Northeast multispecies permits
 - Increase flexibility for shark LAP holders since retention limits already restrict these permit holders

Comments Requested from Advisory Panel on everything, but particularly on

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- Use of historical average landings to determine sub-regional quotas
- Regional differences in landing conditions of sharks
- Appropriate latitude and longitude lines to use for defining sub-regional splits
- Retention limit of zero for commercial shark permit holders in the Caribbean Region

Next Steps

- 1) Consider Advisory Panel input on potential management measures
- 2) Develop the Draft FMP Amendment and proposed rule
- 3) Proposed rule hearings in winter 2015
- 4) Consult with the Advisory Panel at the Spring meeting
Final EA and Final rule available 2015
- 5) Target effective date summer 2015

Additional Questions or Comments?

Please share them with us!

Karyl Brewster-Geisz, LeAnn Hogan, Guý DuBeck,
Delisse Ortiz or Alexis Jackson

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