



NOAA
FISHERIES

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

HMS Management Overview
September 9, 2015

Goal of Presentation

- Brief update of recent actions
- Defer issues to be discussed later in meeting:
 - Bluefin tuna management and Amendment 7 implementation
 - Atlantic shark management including Final Amendment 6, Proposed 2016 shark specifications, Amendment 5b, Amendment 9, smoothhound shark assessments, and future stock assessments
 - HMS Essential Fish Habitat 5-Year Review and Amendment 10
 - Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (eBCD) Program
 - HMS Recreational Fishing Policy Implementation Plan and tournament economics study

Rulemaking/Operations

Since the March 2015 AP meeting:

- Published two proposed rules: 2015 bluefin tuna quota rule and 2016 shark specifications
- Published three final rules: 2015 swordfish specifications, Amendment 6, and 2015 bluefin tuna quota rule
- Published the HMS EFH 5-Year Review, Notice of Intent on Amendment 10
- Published multiple inseason actions & oversaw 20 workshops

In 2015, so far:

- Issued 35 EFPs, SRPs, & LOAs
- Issued 7 shark research fishery permits; some changes this year due to Amendment 6
- Registered 248 HMS tournaments
- ~5,397 people receiving Atlantic HMS News

ICCAT MCS Rule

- Final rule published December 8, 2014 (79 FR 72557)
- Notified owners of commercial HMS vessels ≥ 20 m. (65' 7") of the need to obtain an International Maritime Organization (IMO) number by no later than January 1, 2016 (ICCAT Rec. 13-13)
- Additional analysis indicated this affects ~ 110 commercial HMS vessels
 - ~ 77 vessels already had IMO number
 - ~ 33 vessels did not have IMO number because < 100 GRT
- NMFS worked with IHS/Maritime to obtain "IMO-like" numbers for vessels
- Vessel owners notified of their "IMO-like" numbers on August 17, 2015
- Next steps include incorporating numbers in reports to ICCAT, and adding a data field to HMS permit applications

2015 Swordfish Specifications

Final rule on swordfish quotas published on May 5th

SWO Specs	2014	2015
North Atl SWO Base	2,937.6 mt dw	2,937.6 mt dw
North Atl SWO Adjusted	3,653.2 mt dw	3,359.4 mt dw*
South Atl SWO Base	75.2 mt dw	75.2 mt dw
South Atl SWO Adjusted	75.1 mt dw	75.1 mt dw

* The 2015 NSW0 adjusted quota reflects the change from 25% to 15% underharvest carry over.

Swordfish General Commercial Inseason Action

- Adjusted Swordfish General Commercial and HMS Charter/Headboat permit (only when on a non-for-hire trip) retention limits

Region	<u>Default</u> Retention Limit per Vessel per Trip	<u>Adjusted</u> Retention Limit per Vessel per Trip	Effective Period (2015)
Northwest Atlantic	3 SWO/Vessel/Trip	6 SWO/Vessel/Trip	July 30 - December 31
Gulf of Mexico	3 SWO/Vessel/Trip	6 SWO/Vessel/Trip	July 30 - December 31
U.S. Caribbean	2 SWO/Vessel/Trip	6 SWO/Vessel/Trip	July 30 - December 31
Florida Swordfish Management Area	0 SWO/Vessel/Trip	0 SWO/Vessel/Trip	January 1 – December 31

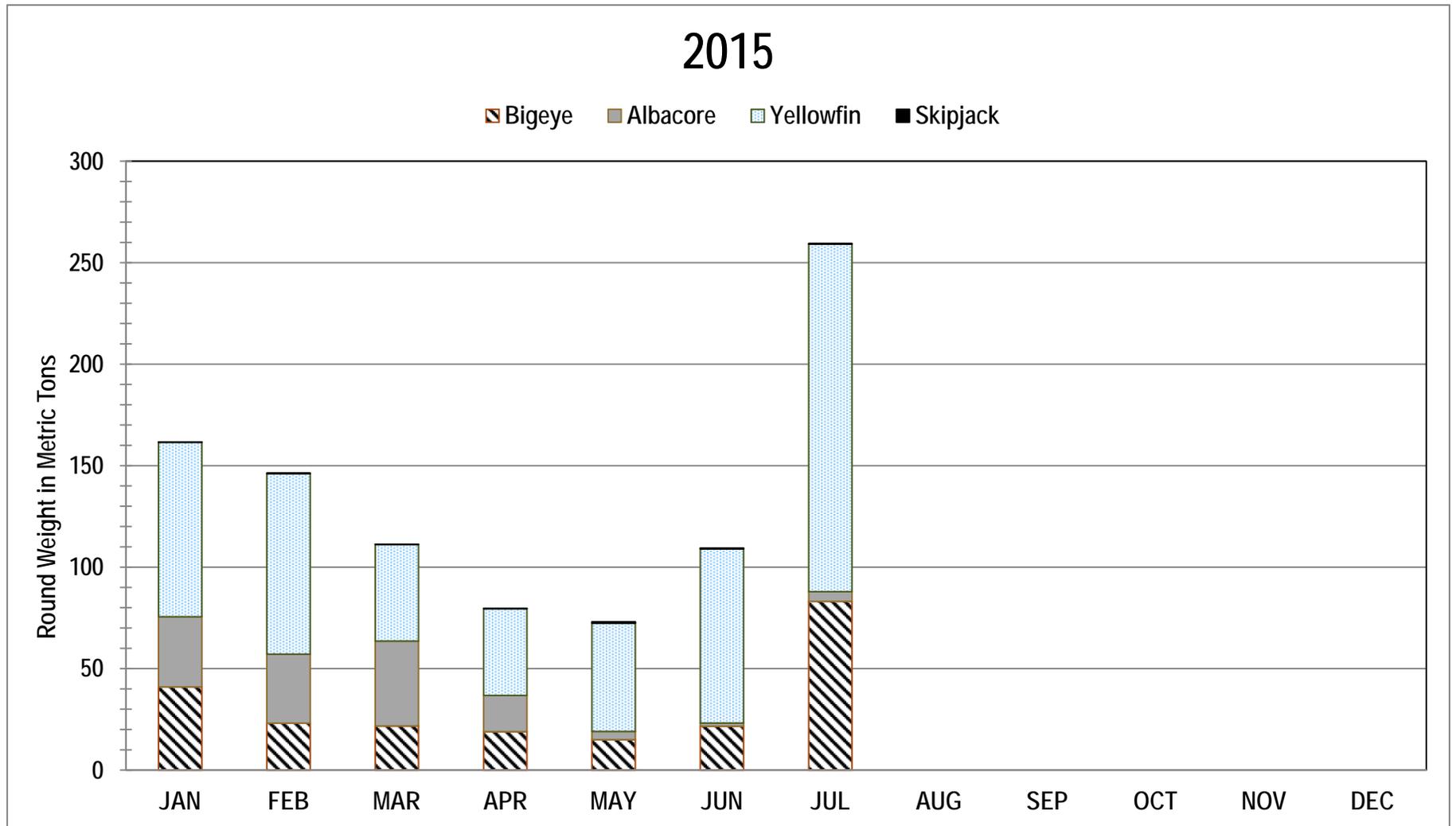


Shark Inseason Actions

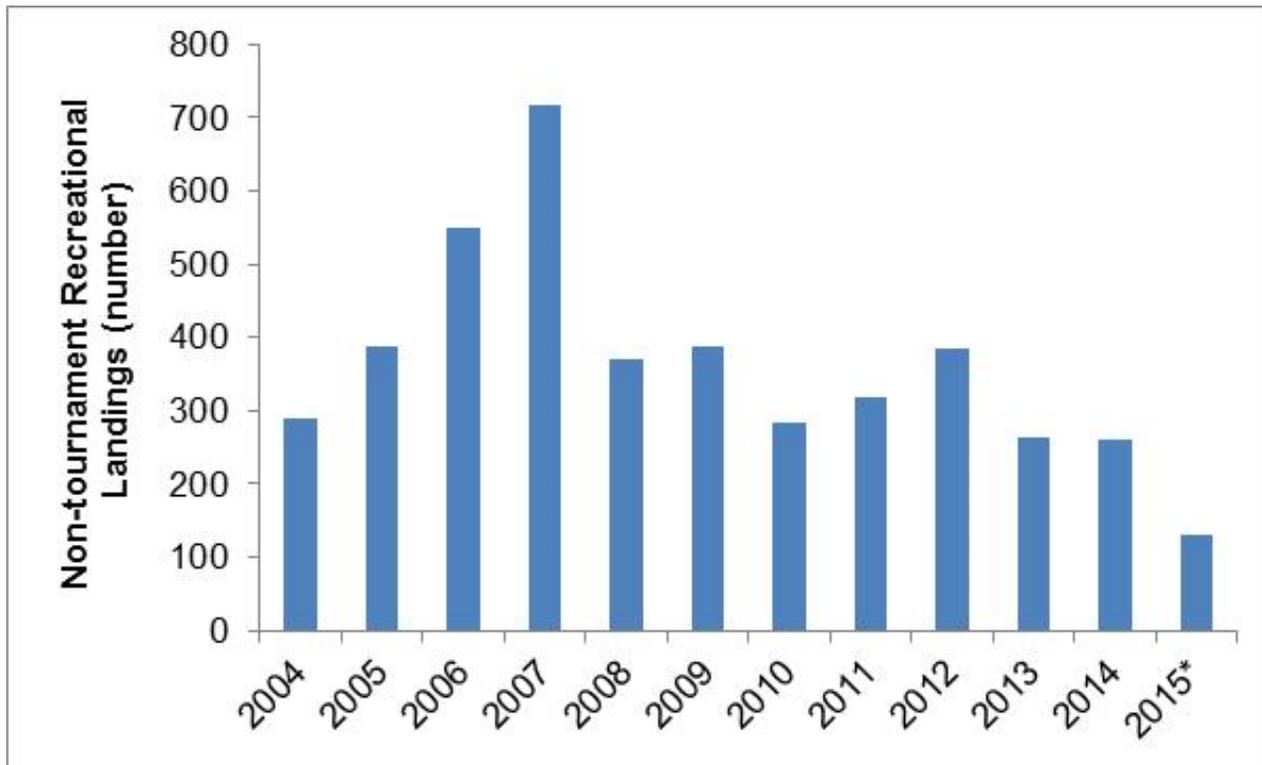
2015 Inseason Actions:

- Closed the Gulf of Mexico blacktip, aggregated LCS, and hammerhead shark fisheries on May 3 (80 FR 24836)
- Closed the Atlantic non-blacknose SCS and blacknose shark fisheries on June 7 (80 FR 32040)
- Closed the Gulf of Mexico non-blacknose SCS and blacknose shark fisheries on July 4 (80 FR 38016)

Bigeye, Albacore, Yellowfin, & Skipjack (BAYS) Tuna Landings



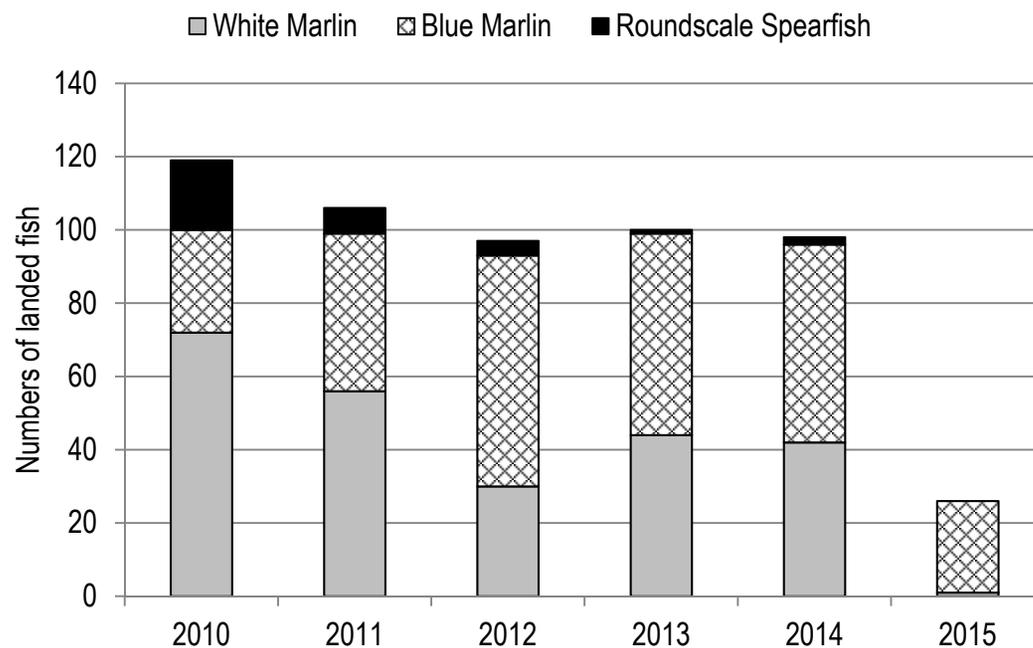
Recreational Swordfish Landings



Year	Non-tournament Landings (number)
2004	290
2005	388
2006	549
2007	716
2008	369
2009	389
2010	285
2011	318
2012	386
2013	264
2014	261
2015	131*

* January 1 – June 30, 2015

Recreational Billfish Landings

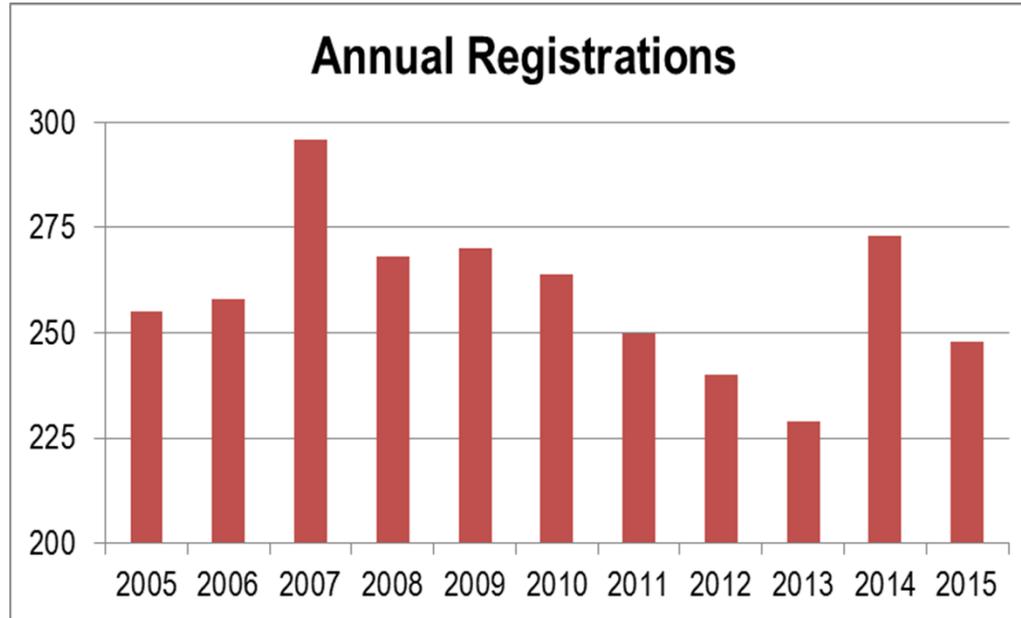


	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014*	2015*
Blue Marlin	28	43	63	55	54	25
White Marlin	72	56	30	44	42	1
Roundscale Spearfish	19	7	4	1	2	0
Sailfish	185	166	159	169	118	67

*HMS 2015 Q2 Landings Report

Source: Recreational (non-tournament) Database

Tournaments Update



Economics Study in 2016: HMS Tournament Site Visits

- Billfish Grand Championship - Orange Beach, AL
- Star Island Yacht Club Shark Tournament - Montauk, NY
- Mid-Atlantic - Cape May, NJ
- Sunburned Swordfish - Ft Lauderdale, FL
- Upcoming: International Billfish Tournament – San Juan, PR
- Upcoming: Green Harbor Tuna Club – Green Harbor, MA

ESA Updates

- On August 27, 2014, NMFS published a final rule to list 20 coral species as threatened under the ESA; 7 of these species are distributed in U.S. Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean waters
- NMFS reinitiated ESA consultation on these coral species, and the newly listed Western and Central Atlantic DPS of scalloped hammerhead for all HMS fisheries (including pelagic longline fishery for which consultation had already been reinitiated) on October 30, 2014
- Consultation ongoing now for all HMS fisheries

ESA Updates continued – Shark Petitions

- Porbeagle Sharks – Full range of populations
 - The original negative 90-day finding was remanded by the court; NMFS accepted two 2010 petitions to list the species in March 2015; results expected in Dec 2015
- Smooth Hammerhead and Bigeye Thresher Sharks
 - 90-day finding on a petition to list the species range-wide or any identified distinct population segments (DPSs) on Aug 11, 2015
 - Comments are due by Oct 13, 2015

Operations/Other

- Continued coordination with Councils & Commissions; ASMFC for sharks
- Louisiana greenstick gear study continuing in FY15
- ICCAT monthly submissions: BFT landings, 20m & BET/YFT vessel lists
- ICCAT e-BCD system in progress
- Caribbean Council closures – Council voted to discontinue this amendment
- Atlantic HMS Electronic Dealer Reporting system ~active 453 HMS dealers submit all landings data/negative reports weekly; weekly compliance monitoring; monthly shark & swordfish commercial landings reports
- Online Individual Bluefin Quota system has active accounts associated with 246 Atlantic Tuna Longline permits and 424 dealers with tuna permits.



Office of Sustainable Fisheries Strategic Plan

- Two goals with supporting objectives and strategies:
 1. Sustainable and Resilient Fisheries and Fishing Communities
 2. Organizational Excellence
- Sustainability of Atlantic HMS Fisheries is an objective within 1st goal
- There are other cross-cutting objectives, including partnerships and outreach
- Review and send any comments by September 22

National Rules

- National VMS final rule - Reminder
 - Type-approvals for all Skymate & CLS America Thorium TST units expire September 30 (June 5; 80 FR 32095)
 - Reimbursement funds available at this time (<http://www.psmfc.org/program/vessel-monitoring-system-reimbursement-program-vms?pid=17>)
- National Standards One, Three, and Seven
 - Proposed rule published January 20 (80 FR 2786); 6 month comment period
 - 106 individual/~100,000 campaign public comments received
- Billfish Conservation Act of 2012 Proposed Rule
 - To codify the prohibition of possessing billfish (marlins, spearfish, sailfish) for sale including exemptions for Hawaii or Pacific Insular Areas per the Act
- Shark Conservation Act of 2010
 - To implement national fins-attached requirement in all shark fisheries, with a limited exception for smooth dogfish to be implemented via Amendment 9 to the Consolidated HMS FMP

National Initiatives

- National Climate Policy and Regional Action Plans
- Illegal, Unregulated & Unreported Task Force
- National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Implementation Plan & Regional Plans
- Prioritizing Fish Stock Assessments
- Analysis of U.S. fishery management to FAO Ecolabeling Guidelines – *coming soon*
- National Bycatch Report – update of 2011 report, *underway*



Looking Ahead – 2015

- ICCAT support – Fall Advisory Committee meeting (October), Annual meeting (November)
 - Measures for bigeye tuna, blue sharks, eBCD, fins attached, MCS measures, others?
- Upcoming Proposed Rules/Actions:
 - eBCD implementation
 - Amendment 5b
- Upcoming Final Rules/Actions:
 - Amendment 9 shark/smoothhound management
 - 2016 Shark Specifications

Communication Goal: No Surprises

- Goals for All
 - Advisors/Public aware, informed, and engaged
 - Agency aware, informed, and engaged
- AP Member Role
 - Listen and Engage in Discussions
 - Share with Your Constituents
 - Bring Ideas to and Advise Agency
- Agency Role
 - Ensure compliance with all domestic & int'l requirements
 - Raise Issues and Inform AP and Public
 - Listen and Engage in Discussions
 - Make Decisions Considering Feedback

Conclusion/Looking Forward

In conclusion,

- We are covering a lot of ground at this meeting
- Operational activities require substantial agency resources

Looking forward,

- We value your input & want your input on priorities & potential solutions

Questions?

Thank you!