

10.0 REFERENCES

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10.2 CONSULTATIONS

The action by the Secretary to develop the Shark FMP was requested by the five Councils. To ensure maximum impact into the FMP development process, the NMFS drafting team assigned to this task met with Council staffs on July 20, 1989, to discuss concepts, problems, objectives, and data availability. A second meeting was held on September 26, 1989, with Council staffs and their Council/Committee representatives to review a preliminary draft of the Shark FMP. This meeting resulted in numerous recommendations and suggestions for consideration by NMFS in finalizing the FMP. During the week of October 9-13, 1989, a Council representative assisted NMFS in the redrafting effort. The Intercouncil Shark Committee and NMFS officials met again on January 11, 1990, to discuss public response to the FMP. During the week of January 16-19, 1990 a Council representative assisted in the redrafting effort. The Intercouncil Shark Committee met on November 15, 1990, to review the new stock assessment and management measures. A Council representative worked with the task team in preparing the updated draft FMP. The NMFS task team also consulted with shark experts in academia, and a number of shark fishermen, processors, and dealers.

10.3 PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS

Twenty-two public hearings were held to obtain public comment on the initial draft of the Shark FMP (including the proposed regulations). The hearings were held between mid-November and the end of December 1989. The meetings were taped and copies can be obtained through NMFS, at cost. The locations of the meetings were: Portland, Maine; Eastham and Fairhaven, Massachusetts; Galilee, Rhode Island; Cape May and Wall, New Jersey; Ocean City, Maryland; Freeport and Riverhead, Long Island, New York; Hampton, Virginia; Beaufort, North Carolina; Charleston, South Carolina; Jacksonville, Ft. Pierce, Key West, Madeira Beach and Panama City, Florida; Mobile, Alabama; Thibodeaux, Louisiana; Port Aransas, Texas; La Parguera, Puerto Rico; and St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Approximately 100 written comments were received on the initial draft FMP. These have been compiled in book form and can be obtained through NMFS.

Based on public comments received on the initial draft and a new shark assessment undertaken by NMFS, a second draft FMP was prepared. This version, was released to the public on April 19, 1991, and was the subject of eight additional public hearings. The hearings were conducted in May 1991 at the following locations: Ronkoma, New York; Wall, New Jersey; Ocean City, Maryland; Morehead City, North Carolina; Fort Pierce, Florida; Madeira Beach, Florida; La Parguera, Puerto Rico; and Kenner, Louisiana. Approximately 70 comments were received on the plan. The major issues discussed at these hearings, and the resolutions thereto, were summarized in a forward section of the plan

entitled "Major Issues of Public Hearings."

NMFS prepared a third draft, dated October 1991, based on the comments received during the previous eight public hearings and public review process. NMFS released the third draft for public comment from January 8 through March 9, 1992, and the proposed implementing regulations for public comment July 23, 1992. These have been compiled and can be obtained through NMFS.

Based on comments received during the public review periods on the third draft and on the associated documents, and on the latest available scientific information, NMFS prepared the final FMP, dated December 10, 1992, that incorporated the resulting changes in the management measures for the fishing year, bag limits, commercial quotas, and permit conditions. This preliminarily approved FMP and Final Environmental Impact Statement were released on December 11, 1992, for a final public review and comment. Comments were received during this period from about 70 parties. These have been compiled and can be obtained from the Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA), 1335 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Telephone (301) 713-2334.

Following the 30-day cooling-off period for the Final Environmental Impact Statement, which began on December 18, 1992, and ended on January 18, 1993, the Assistant Administrator approved the FMP in final (approval date of February 25, 1993).