



NOAA FISHERIES

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

NMFS Requests Nominations for the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel by December 6, 2013

November 6, 2013

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is soliciting nominations for the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP). NMFS consults with, and considers the comments and views of the HMS AP when preparing and implementing Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) or FMP amendments for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, billfish, and sharks. Nominations for the HMS AP will be accepted to allow representation from commercial and recreational fishing interests, the scientific community, and the environmental community who are knowledgeable about Atlantic HMS and/or Atlantic HMS fisheries. HMS AP members serve three-year terms, with approximately one-third of the total HMS AP members' terms expiring on December 31 of each year.

Individuals with definable interests in recreational and commercial fishing and related industries, and environmental/non-government organizations will be considered for membership in the HMS AP. Academic interests are also represented, but no positions are vacant this year. Nominations are invited from all individuals and constituent groups. Nomination packages should include:

1. The name of the nominee and a description of his/her interest or expertise in HMS or in particular species of sharks, swordfish, tunas, or billfish and specifically describe how the nominee meets the criteria below;
2. Contact information including mailing address, phone, and email of the nominee;
3. A statement of background and/or qualifications;
4. A written commitment that the nominee shall actively participate in good faith in the meetings and tasks of the HMS AP; and
5. A list of outreach resources that the nominee has at his/her disposal to communicate HMS issues to various interest groups.

NMFS seeks to fill 5 commercial, 4 recreational, and 2 environmental/non-governmental organization vacancies by December 31, 2013 (Table 1). Each sector must be adequately represented, and the intent is to have a group that, as a whole, reflects an appropriate and equitable balance and mix of interests given the responsibilities of the HMS AP. Therefore, NMFS will seek to fill vacancies based primarily on maintaining the current representation from each of the sectors, and secondarily by species expertise and/or representation from different regions. The species expertise listed in the Table indicates the current makeup on the HMS AP and does not necessarily indicate a requirement for expertise in that particular species.

Criteria for membership include one or more of the following: (1) experience in HMS recreational fisheries; (2) experience in HMS commercial fisheries; (3) experience in fishery-related industries (e.g., marinas, bait and tackle shops); (4) experience in the scientific community working with HMS; and/or (5) representation of a private; non-governmental; regional, national, or international organization representing marine fisheries; environmental, governmental, or academic interests dealing with HMS.

This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic HMS fisheries interested parties to keep you informed about the fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information, contact Jenni Wallace (301) 427-8503.

Table 1. Current Representation on the HMS AP by Sector, Region, and Species. (Terms that are expiring are in bold. NMFS tries to maintain diversity and balance in representation among fishing regions and species.)

Sector	Fishing Region	Species	Date Appointed	Date Term Expires
Academic	All	Swordfish/Tuna	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
Academic	All	Tuna	1/1/2013	12/31/2015
Academic	Southeast/Gulf of Mexico	Shark	1/1/2013	12/31/2015
Academic	Southeast	Swordfish/HMS	1/1/2013	12/31/2015
Commercial	Northeast	HMS	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
Commercial	Northeast	Tuna	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
Commercial	Gulf of Mexico	Tuna/Swordfish	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
Commercial	Northeast	Tuna	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
Commercial	Northeast	Tuna	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
Commercial	Southeast	Shark	1/1/2013	12/31/2015
Commercial	Southeast	Swordfish/Tuna	1/1/2013	12/31/2015
Commercial	Northeast	Tuna	1/1/2011	12/31/2013
Commercial	Mid-Atlantic	HMS/Shark	1/1/2011	12/31/2013
Commercial	Southeast	Swordfish	1/1/2011	12/31/2013
Commercial	Gulf of Mexico	Shark	1/1/2011	12/31/2013
Commercial	Gulf of Mexico	Shark	1/1/2011	12/31/2013
Environmental	All	Shark	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
Environmental	Gulf of Mexico	HMS	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
Environmental	All	Tuna	1/1/2011	12/31/2013
Environmental	All	Tuna	1/1/2011	12/31/2013
Recreational	Gulf of Mexico/Southeast	Billfish/Tuna	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
Recreational	Mid-Atlantic	HMS	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
Recreational	Mid-Atlantic	Tuna	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
Recreational	Northeast	Tuna/Shark	1/1/2013	12/31/2015
Recreational	Southeast	Swordfish	1/1/2013	12/31/2015
Recreational	Northeast	Tuna	1/1/2013	12/31/2015
Recreational	Southeast	HMS	1/1/2013	12/31/2015
Recreational	Northeast	HMS	1/1/2013	12/31/2015
Recreational	Southeast	HMS	1/1/2011	12/31/2013
Recreational	Mid-Atlantic	HMS	1/1/2011	12/31/2013
Recreational	Southeast	Billfish	1/1/2011	12/31/2013
Recreational	Gulf of Mexico	HMS	1/1/2011	12/31/2013

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